PACE UNIVERSITY

Sands College of Performing Arts

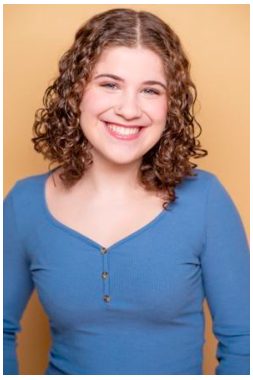
International Performance Ensemble (IPE) New Ensemble Work 2026

Meet the Cast of *Welcome to Waardem*



Greta Brown (They/Them) – Miss Andrews

Greta Brown is an actor who has been in at least one play. They have had an incredible time devising this show and can't wait for the audience to see it!



Summer Gertz

Summer Gertz is a Brooklyn born and raised, NYC-based performer currently pursuing a BFA in Performance Making with a concentration in Acting from Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts. She has experience putting on work as an actor, deviser, director, playwright and lighting designer, but this is her first large-scale devised piece. Summer's favorite part of the devising process is working out the intricate details, and she is so grateful to have shared this experience with her ensemble. Summer would like to thank her family, specifically her parents, friends, and local community for the support. Follow Summer on Instagram.



Javian Harrell – Valland Hollister

Enjoy.



Addi Helms – Aimee Wilson

Addi Helms is an aspiring actor-director-writer originally from Colorado. She is currently obtaining a BFA for Performance Creation with a concentration in Acting, a minor in Women and Gender Studies and a minor in Creative Writing at Pace University. Addi is excited to be a part of her first full length, devised production with a wonderfully talented and interesting group of artists who have brought this collective vision to life with passion. She looks forward to furthering her career by remaining curious, listening hard, and speaking out. Addi thanks everyone who helped her get to this stage!



Isabella Hernandez (She/Her) – Rebecca

Isabella Hernandez is thrilled to make her Pace MainStage debut in N.E.W. *Welcome to Waardem*. A Miami-born, NYC-based artist, she is pursuing a dual degree in BFA Performance Making and BA Film and Screen Studies at Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts. As a Puerto Rican and Cuban woman, she is passionate about creating space for stories and voices like her own, both on stage and on screen. An actor at heart, her past roles include Ismene in *Antigone*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Thea in *Spring Awakening*. Her work also spans singing, devising, writing, directing, and producing. She recently wrote, directed, and produced her first short film, *Echoes of You*. Isabella thanks her family, friends, and mentors for rooting for her to shoot for the stars! Follow Isabella on Instagram.



Brock Jones (He/Him) – Doug/Rodger

Brock Jones is thrilled to be a part of *Welcome to Waardem*! Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Brock is an NYC-based performer and sophomore at Pace University, where he is pursuing a BFA in Performance-Making with a concentration in Acting. He is a proud graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Brock loves creating work that is weird, thought-provoking, collaborative, and just a little bit unexpected. He is incredibly excited to be making theater in New York and even more excited to be doing it alongside this wonderfully talented group of people. He would like to thank his family, friends, directors, and professors for their unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in him throughout his artistic journey. Follow Brock on Instagram.



Brady Myers (He/Him/His) – Actor/Production Representative

Brady Myers is an NYC-based theatre artist from New Orleans earning his BFA in Performance Making at Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts and Pforzheimer Honors College. His creative experience spans acting, devising, directing, vocal performance, playwriting, and theatre education. Most recently, Brady served as Assistant Director for *Steel Magnolias* at the University of Southern Mississippi (June 2026.) This summer, he was also selected for the Stella Adler Studio of Acting's Self-Generated Theater Lab in NYC; there, he devised original performance work under the mentorship of John Gould Rubin, Nilaja Sun, and other acclaimed theatre-makers. He is grateful for his parents, grandparents, mentors, and chosen family's unwavering support. Follow Brady on Instagram.



Shaia Snyder – Farah Hollister

Shaia Snyder is a NYC-based actress currently pursuing a BA in Acting from Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts. She has experience putting on work as an actor, playwright and costume designer and she is excited to broaden her repertoire by performing her first ever devised piece. Shaia would like to thank her family, professors, her director, Micheal, and especially her ensemble, as without them this work wouldn't be possible!



Melinda Thompson (She/Her)– Delilah/Ensemble/Dance Captain

Melinda Thompson grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, and is now based in NYC, pursuing a BFA in Performance Making with a concentration in Acting at Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts. She is a multi-hyphenate artist with several years of regional and competitive dance and dance teaching experience, vocal performance, acting for stage and film, playwriting, and songwriting, and within the past year, devising. Her favorite role she has played is Adelaide from *Guys and Dolls*. Regarding devised theater, she particularly enjoys the multifaceted, actor-director creation process, as well as the exploration of movement in storytelling.

Meet the Cast of *KMTN-FM: Mount Umbra Radio*



Kyra Baily – Cast/Radio Show Host

Kyra Baily (Beth Miller) is overjoyed to be a part of such an incredible show and talented ensemble. She would like to thank the tech team, her director, Katie Kay Chelena, and her peers for creating such a beautiful show. The IPE N.E.W. ensemble work process has been a privilege for Kyra during her short time in the BFA in Performance Making program at Pace. When she is not on stage, she enjoys yoga, hiking, and spoiling her cats. She hopes that you enjoy *KMTN-FM Mt. Umbra Radio!*



Emilie Brydge (She/Her) – Ensemble

Emilie is thrilled to be working with this group of people and to officially make her NYC debut. She is so excited this show has made it to fruition and is grateful for all it has taught her.



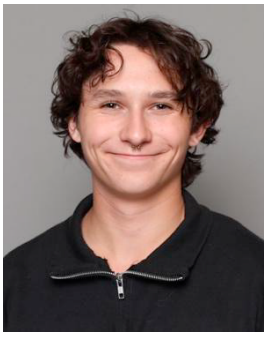
Sally Fortuna Calvo – Abigail

Sally Fortuna Calvo is endlessly grateful to be making their Sands debut. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Sally has always been extremely passionate about the collaborative aspects of the theater making process. During their time in the 206, they worked extensively with Union Art Center's (previously ACT Theatre) Young Core Company as well as various youth-led organizations as an actor, administrator, and personality hire. Sally owes their creative journey thus far to their late Grandfather Melvyn Poll who showed them what it means to be a true artist from an extremely young age. Meow and enjoy the show!



Oliver Nelson Jones (He/Him) – Mark Palmer

Oliver Jones is a sophomore actor in IPE. He was featured last year in IPE NOW, and has had an incredible experience thus far at Pace. Originally from Washington State, Oliver is a dedicated artist who thrives on making emotional work that dives into raw relationships. He would like to give a huge shoutout to his parents for supporting his dreams and flying all the way from the west coast to see this production. Please enjoy the show!



Leo Perry (They/Them) – Actor/Penny

Leo Perry is thrilled to present the hard work that their ensemble has created. They want to thank their family for their inspiration, support, and love.



Albert Jack Peterson – Peter

Pace Directing credits include: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Assist. Dir.), *Judgment at Nuremberg* (Dir. intern). Other directing credits include: Regional: *Phantom* (Assist to Dir, The Gateway), *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Assist. Dir, The Gateway), *Spongebob the Musical* (Assist. Dir, The Gateway). Acting credits include: *Ain't Too Proud, Beauty and the Beast, The Sound of Music* (Frederick), *A Christmas Story.* Albert would like to thank Adrianne, Ianthe, Katie along with the entire staff at Pace.. He would also like to thank his Mom, Maddie, Lukas, and Chachi for all their love and support. Follow Albert on Instagram.



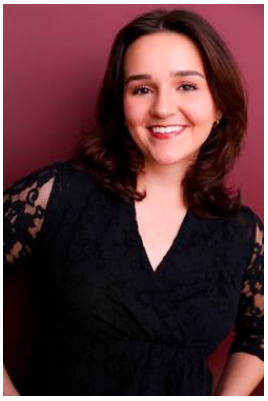
Mariel Ricks (She/Her/Hers) – Lorna Davis

Hey y'all! Mariel Ricks (Lorna) is so grateful to be a part of her first main stage production here at Pace. In her free time, Mariel loves to hang out with friends and discover new parts of the city. She would like to thank her parents, her sister, and her friends near and far for all of the support along the way. She's send a special thank you to her cast mates for embarking this journey with her as well as her director, Katie Kay Chelena, for leading and teaching our ensemble. Tune into *KMTN-FM Radio*!



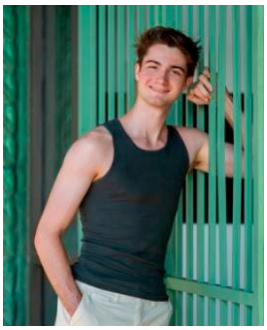
Abby Schmude (She/Her) – Ensemble

Abby is a 19-year-old sophomore from Irvine, California. This is her first time participating in a fully devised show, and she is so grateful to get to perform alongside such a talented ensemble! She'd like to thank her family for their endless support.



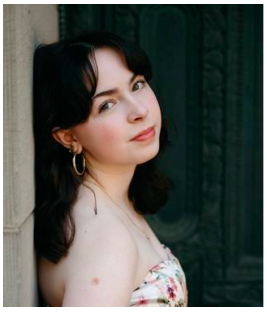
Maria Stowell (She/Her) – Actor

Maria, BA Acting class of 2029, is an artist and performer from the greater Philadelphia/Jersey area. She has been acting for eight years and is thrilled to be in NYC, creating meaningful art with her wonderful friends and collaborators. Some favorite past roles include: Jack (*Newsies*), Wadsworth (*Clue*), and Flute (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). She is incredibly grateful to Katie Kay Chelena for guiding the cast throughout this journey and for creating such a supportive and inspiring process. Maria wishes both ensembles many broken legs and hopes you enjoy the show!



Sean Claude Summers (He/Him) – Actor

Sean Claude Summers is making his devising debut! As a multi-hyphenated Actor-Writer- Professional Dungeon Master, the process of creating this show has provided Sean with the opportunity to take his knowledge of devising theory and put it into practice. Sean would like to thank his family, his friends, and all of his classmates and colleagues who made this experience truly special.



Gray Wagner (She/Her) – Actor

Gray Wagner is a sophomore director, actor, and writer. She is passionate about making theatre that is weird, feminine, and challenging. She thanks her friends and family for their unwavering support and congratulates her peers on their hard work.



Gabe Warner (They/Them) – Ensemble/James

Pace Credits: *Fun Home* (Director), *NEW Spring 2026 Showing* (Ensemble). Outside Credits: *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Oberon), *Cardboard Piano* (Director), *Sister Act* (Monsignor O'hara), *Kinky Boots, The Triangle Factory Fire Project* (Stage Manager), *The Lehman Trilogy* (Henry Lehman), and more. Gabe has been performing in drag for 8 years under the name Regina Roars. They have performed all over, including the Main Stage at Denver Pride for the last 6 years and a feature on the show Generation Drag. Gabe would like to thank their professors, mentors, and friends, for always showing up with kindness and inspiration. And they would like to thank their amazing family+puppy's for the constant love and late night calls.

Meet the Creatives

Michael T. Williams – Director of *Welcome to Waardem*

Michael T. Williams is a theatre director, performer, and educator. Driven by visual storytelling, his work explores hybrid performance forms, unreliable first person narratives, and theatricalization of non-dramatic and autobiographical texts. MFA in Devised Performance, Pig Iron Theatre Company. BA in Theatre Arts, Education Studies, Brown University. Visit Michael T. Williams's website.

Katie Kay Chelena (She/Her) – Director of *KMTN: Mount Umbra Radio*

Katie is a Brooklyn based, Appalachia-grown theater artist, writer, and educator. Her interdisciplinary work invites you to rage, kiss, party, and riot. Her plays, performances, and poems have stomped around Asylum NYC, HERE Arts Center, the Kraine Theater, the New Ohio, Queens Museum, Caveat, Fresh Ground Pepper, Mercury Store, and more. She is an alumni member of the experimental theater collective the New York Neo-Futurists. In her educational work, she is the theater instructor at North Carolina Governor's School West, a teaching artist with Pink Fang, and a creative writing teacher at Hunts Point Alliance for Children. MA in Arts Politics, NYU Tisch; BA in Dramatic Art, UNC Chapel Hill. She's learned just as much from comrades + the dance floor + walking into the woods.

Shawn Young – Lighting Designer

Shawn is a senior in the Production and Design program and is excited to share this show with you. He has previously worked on shows at Pace such as *Dance Out Loud* and *Seven Guitars*. Outside of Pace, he also works on small theater productions including *Eurydice, Romeo and Juliet* (Lucien Theater Co.), and *Body Unredacted* (Blessed Unrest). He would like to thank his family and friends for their support no matter what. To his design team thank you for everything. Follow Shawn on Instagram.

Thomas Baia – Production Stage Manager of *Welcome to Waardem*

Thomas is a junior Stag Management Major. Through his time at Pace he has had the fortune to work on both devised theater and dance, along with musicals and plays. Some of his most recent credits include interning at the Colonial Theater, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Oliver*.

Abby Brogan (She/They/He) – Production Stage Manager of *KMTN: Mount Umbra Radio*

Abby Brogan is a 3rd year stage management major and is excited to be working on new work! Previous credits include: *Aladdin Jr.* (First Congregational Church of Princeton) *Dance out Loud* (Pace University), *Sweet Charity* (Pace University), and *Fun Home* (New Origins Workspace).

Lauren White – Production Assistant of *Welcome to Waardem*

Lauren is so excited to start her freshman year at Pace with Ensemble #2! She would like to thank Thomas, Claire, and Abby for all their help and advice.

Molly Mackenzie (She/Her) – Deck Stage Manager of *KMTN: Mount Umbra Radio*

Molly Mackenzie is extremely excited to be stage managing IPE NEW! As a senior IPE Directing major, she is so grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this process a second time from a new perspective. Other stage management credits include *Seussical* (Vangaurd Theatre Company), *Pleasure87* (TOWNN NYC), and *The Rose Tattoo* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). Congratulations to this fabulous ensemble!

Emma Londoño (She/Her) – Light Board Operator

Emma is a first year Stage Management student and is excited to be working on her first Pace production! She's very grateful for the opportunity to be in a space to learn with so many amazing artists and is thankful for all the support she's received from family, friends, and Pace University!