



by *Kat Sandler*

directed by **Danica Friss Wilson**

PLAYERS' THEATRE EXECUTIVE TEAM 2023-2024

On behalf of...

CAL TEES	- Executive Director
KRYSTIE NGUYEN	- Production Manager
SIYA PANDIT	- Publicity Director
CATHERINE CHEN	- Tech Director
POLINA VITROUK	- Tech Director
HARRIET FAUGHT	- Front of House Manager and Finance Director
ALEXIS MEZZAROBBA	- Event Director
DANICA FRISS WILSON	- MDF Co-ordinator

...we are happy to say:

WELCOME TO PLAYERS'!

Players' theatre is a non-profit theatre company that aims to bring affordable and accessible performances to members of the community. Founded in 1921, we are Montreal's oldest English-speaking black box theatre, and remain one of the city's only English theatre groups.

www.playerstheatre.ca | [@playerstheatremcgill](https://twitter.com/playerstheatremcgill)

♡ DIRECTOR'S NOTE ♡

Stand-up comedian Daniel Sloss said “laughter is not the opposite of sadness. Happiness is the opposite of sadness... Laughter is a reaction. It’s free to exist in both.” Which is a lesson I learned when I was at my worst last year. I tripped and fell into Players’ Theatre, suddenly directing a show and giggling hysterically the entire time. This year, I was ready to fight tooth and nail for Punch Up, because I have fallen so madly in love with laughter.

So, this show is a love letter. To theatre. To comedy. To the world’s best medicine and all the silly, stupid things we do for it. To laughing at sads. To laughing through sads. To the many things in this world to laugh at. To there being just as many things in this world to love.

While the show itself is a love letter, I have to give all my love and thanks to some amazing people who have helped make this show come true. My delightful cast who always put up with my shenanigans and always make me laugh. Alex, for continuously having a new way to make this show even more hilarious. Gabe, for introducing me to Punch Up, and being at his goofiest even in the dark times. Alexis, for following me on tangents through the hardest parts of this show and turning it into something beautiful. I don’t know who else could bring these characters to life, but I’m sure they wouldn’t be as spectacularly silly. Rashi, my stage manager, for holding everything together. And of course Players’, there are so many reasons that Punch Up couldn’t exist without this theatre but I’m so glad that it does.

PUNCH UP was first produced by Theatre Brouhaha at the Toronto Fringe

Festival in July, 2014.

PUNCH UP is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, GGA,

www.ggagency.ca



From left to right: Alex Pinter, Gabe Karasik, Danica Friss Wilson, Alexis Mezzarobba, and Rashi Lalan.

Cast

Gabe Karasik as Pat Wallace

Alex Pinter as Duncan

Alexis Mezzarobba as Brenda

Crew

Directed by Danica Friss Wilson

Stage Managed by Rashi Lalan

*****Content warnings:**

This show deals with mature themes including discussion of death and suicide, as well as brief mentions of sexual assault.

♥♥ MEET THE CAST ♥♥

Gabe Karasik (he/him) as Pat Wallace

Genius. Visionary. Sudoku Champion. What can we say about Gabe that hasn't already been said? The U3 Honours Comp Sci student shot to stardom in his debut role as Cory from the Tony Award-winning play *We Support You* at last year's McGill Drama Festival. Gabe enjoys stargazing, long walks on the beach, and humbly turning down the Norwegian Nobel Committee in their multiple attempts to give him the prize. He would like to thank his costars, Alex(is), for being the funniest people alive; his director and stage manager for putting up with his adorable, albeit wildly disruptive antics at every rehearsal; and the person reading this for being so pretty :).



Alexis Mezzarobba (she/her) as Brenda

Alexis is a U2 Anatomy and Cell Biology Major with a Minor in Cultural Studies. She is so grateful to have had this opportunity to work with such an amazing team of talented and wonderful people in the black box theatre once again. Huge shoutout to Danica for her genius directing and Rashi for sticking it out through our ridiculous rehearsals. She would like to specifically extend her ungratefulness to Alex and Gabe who consistently make it impossible for her to keep a straight face throughout the production. Enjoy Players' Theatre's production of *Punch Up!*



Alex Pinter (he/him) as Duncan

Alex is a second year Masters student in sociology. He has some experience acting, but this is his first full length comedy show. Last year, he performed as Ian in *Looking for Mothman*, which was presented in the McGill Drama Festival. Alex comes from London, Ontario and enjoys biking, movies, and reading.



♥️ A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CREW ♥️

LIGHTING OPERATOR

Maru Collins

SOUND OPERATOR

Galadriel Bond

RUN CREW

Nora Wang

Jerry Wang

Andi Bloom

PROPS DIRECTOR

Andi Bloom

Other Acknowledgments

Players' Theatre

Krystie Nguyen

Henry Kemeny-Wodlinger

Evan Nelles

Tech Crew

Erin Harvey

Grace Tunski

Anna Johnson

Serejane Walls

Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre

♡♡ MEET THE TEAM ♡♡



Danica Friss Wilson (she/her) - Director

Danica is a second-year Anthropology Honours student minoring in English Drama and Theatre. In theatre she's done just about every role; including stage management, playwriting, acting, directing, and technical operation. Before Punch Up, she directed *We Support You* as a part of the 2023 McGill Drama Festival and *The Grand Design* as a part of the PlayWorks one-act festival. Her other work with Players' Theatre includes *Stop Kiss* on the technical crew and *At Midnight*, which was her fourth written play to be produced. Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Danica's a dedicated cowboy enthusiast, soup fiend, and Jesse Eisenberg appreciator.

♥♥ MEET THE TEAM ♥♥



Rashi Lalan (she/her) - Stage Manager

Rashi Lalan is a third year student pursuing a major in economics and international development. She has been practising theatre for 4 years as an actor and director in various plays such as Blue Remembered Hills, Haroun and the Sea of Stories and more. Rashi has thoroughly enjoyed theatre rehearsal as a stage manager with the wonderful cast and supremely talented director! She hopes that you enjoy the performance and reflect on nuances of the play.

♡ Punch Up BTS ♡





DON'T MISS OUT...

SCAN ME



TO SEE OUR UPCOMING SHOWS!



Don't forget!

Use your Eventbrite ticket for
Gerts' beer/sangria discount!

