

Rutka

May 22 | 7:00 PM | 14Y Theater

Performers:

Lana Schwartz



Lana Schwartz is a rising sophomore at Harvard University. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Nxt Generation Theatrics, a theater company run entirely by teens, where she has produced & directed NYC productions of *Next to Normal*, *Violet* and the upcoming *Fun Home*. She played the role of Rutka last year at Lincoln Center concert presentations of *Rutka*, and in the show's initial developmental presentations at the Professional Performing Arts School, and is thrilled to be a part of this meaningful project.

Zoe Siegel



A native New Yorker, Zoe Siegel was born on Long Island and graduated from NYU Tisch Drama this past spring. She recently made her Off-Broadway debut last year in the musical *In Corpore*. She played the role of Micka last year at Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium's concert presentations of *Rutka*. Zoe is so grateful to be a part of *Rutka* and the important messages it holds.

Sammy Dell



Sammy Dell is an actor based in NYC. Credits include: Theater - *Trevor, the Musical* (Pinky), *School of Rock* First National Tour (Billy u/s Freddie) TV/Film - CBS's *Bull* (Patrick Miller), "Law and Order SVU" (Tyler).

Hajime Yoshida



Originally hailing from Ichikawa, Japan, Jazz Guitarist, Hajime Yoshida is one of the most sophisticated guitarists, accompanists and composers in New York City. Since he relocated to New York, Hajime has been playing in venues in the city as a bandleader and a sideman. His most recent album, *Myriorama 2* was released in 2023. As a sideman, he has been working with award winning musicians including Cory Henry, Keita Ogawa, Philip Lassiter, Michael R. Jackson and many more. Hajime is a band member of a new age guitar trio, Knew Roy. Their single, "Weekender" has earned over ten thousand plays on the Spotify as of 2024.

Creative Team:

Jocelyn Mackenzie

Jocelyn Mackenzie (Music and Lyrics) is a Brooklyn-based musician, maker, and medium. A singer, songwriter, songwriting coach, artist, stylist, and psychic, she released her debut solo album *Push* on Righteous Babe Records in early 2021. Originally the singing drummer from indie-pop trio Pearl and the Beard, alongside *Rutka* co-composer Jeremy Lloyd-Styles and cellist Emily Hope Price, the group released six studio albums in their tenure and boasted an extensive touring history across the US, UK and Canada with noteworthy artists such as Ani DiFranco, Neko Case, Iron & Wine, Ingrid Michaelson, Lucius, Dar Williams, and Lady Lamb. On stage, she has been involved in The Bengson's *Hundred Days* and as a performer and devising member of Trusty Sidekick Theater Company's *Mendelssohn Electric*. Mackenzie holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (2005) and is skilled in makeup, costume making, knitting, crochet, graphic design and fabrication.

Jeremy Lloyd-Styles

Jeremy Lloyd-Styles (Music and Lyrics) is a Brooklyn-based songwriter/producer. He is best known for his work writing, performing, and touring with the folk trio Pearl and the Beard, sharing the stage with such acts as Ani DiFranco, Neko Case, Iron & Wine, Ingrid Michaelson, Bastille, Dar Williams, Lady Lamb, The Drums, Matt + Kim, Sharon Van Etten, Laura Marling, and more. He's had his music featured in national commercials, the films *Hello, My Name Is Doris*, *Spoiler Alert*, and *Unicorn City*, the television shows "Lucifer," "The Royals," and the Hannah Gadsby Special "Douglas." In addition to these works, he records solo material under his name and provides vocals for the 80s darkwave synth-pop band NoNight on Lost Future Records.

Neena Beber

Neena Beber (Book) is a playwright, screenwriter, and lyricist who was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Current plays: *Kate Suspended*, workshoped at The O'Neill Center's National Playwright's Conference, and *A Mother*, co-conceived with Jessica Hecht and slated to be presented next year at Hartford Stage and the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Other plays include the Obie Award-winning *Jump/Cut*, as well as *The Dew Point*, *Tomorrowland*, *A Common Vision*, and *Misreadings*, all published by Samuel French. Neena is a recipient of a Lilly Award, the L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award, and Sloan and Amblin Commissions, and was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is the author of librettos for the operettas *Ulysses*, *Home*, *Kassandra*, and most recently *Iphigenia* (composer Anthony Brandt). She most recently received an Emmy nomination for writing on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (co-EP). Other TV credits include episodes of "Ballers," "Imposters," and adapting "Little Bear" for TV with Maurice Sendak. Neena holds a B.A from Harvard University and an M.F.A from N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a Paulette Goddard Fellow. An alumna of New Dramatists, Neena has taught at Columbia University and mentors for Reel Works.

Wendy C. Goldberg

Wendy C. Goldberg (Director) has spent over 25 years leading the foremost programs in the development, direction, and the production of works for the American theater. She also works as a director and executive producer in television, video games, and alternative media. As Artistic Director of the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center from 2005-2022, under Goldberg's tenure the O'Neill was awarded the 2010 Regional Tony Award, the first play development and education organization to receive this honor, as well as the 2016 National Medal of Arts from the White House. Goldberg has overseen the development of more than 200 projects for the stage. Wendy created The National Directors Fellowship at The O'Neill for the development of directors, a collaboration with the Kennedy Center, SDC,F and the National New Play Network funded by the Doris Duke Foundation. Wendy has twice served as the Chair of the Jury for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama at the School of Journalism of Columbia University, a historic milestone, and helped aid the Pulitzer Board to award and recognize theater created digitally during the pandemic shut down. Wendy is the recipient of the Zelda Fichandler Finalist Award, given to a director who is "transforming the region through theater" by the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation. She is an honors graduate of the University of Michigan (BA) and holds a MFA in Directing from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television where she received the distinguished alumni award in 2014.

THINK SYSTEM PRODUCTIONS

THINK SYSTEM PRODUCTIONS (Producer). TSP's mission is to create bold and innovative works for all entertainment platforms, including film, TV, theater, and publishing. TSP was formed by producers Amy Langer and David Schwartz. David is a 25+ year veteran of the entertainment industry, including 17 years at The Walt Disney Company, where he was Assistant General Counsel, and 3 years at MGM, where he was Senior Vice President. Amy spent many years as a professional performer, touring the world in national and international productions of shows like *West Side Story* and *A Chorus Line*, before launching into producing. Her experience as a performer has provided her with a keen dramaturgical sense and understanding of the creative process. She has produced shows and large-scale events both domestically and internationally. They are proud to have the opportunity to help bring Rutka Laskier's powerful and important story to audiences across the country and around the world.

14th Street Y

The 14th Street Y (14Y) is a vibrant community center grounded in the belief that 21st century Jewish values can be a source of inspiration, connection, and learning for the individuals and families we serve throughout Downtown Manhattan. 14Y Theater focuses on social awareness and change through big picture narrative, placing artists at the heart of our community and seeking to create an inclusive cultural experience for all.

This event is part of 14Y's Spring Season of Jewish Culture.

Visit www.14streety.org/Jewish-Life to learn more.

ASL interpretation will be provided by Inclusive Communication Services.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.