

PORTLAND STAGE

MAINSTAGE | NEW WORK | EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Press Room Photos (coming March 30): <https://bit.ly/3iLZwfH>

PORTLAND STAGE PRODUCTION / *AND YOU* BY LAUREN GUNDERSON, OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Reviewers are invited to attend the opening performance of *I and You* Friday, April 1 at 7:30 pm.

Portland, Maine— With a 2021-22 season lineup consisting of mostly New Work, Portland Stage offers a tried and true theatrical work, Lauren Gunderson's *I and You*, March 30 through April 17 on its Mainstage, and streaming on-demand April 13 through May 5, 2022. Gunderson was named the most produced playwright in America by *American Theatre Magazine* in 2017 and 2019, and *I and You* is one of her most-produced plays.

The heartwarming play centers on two teenagers who start as near-strangers and develop a strange and transcendent connection over Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* during a shared homework assignment, in a story that ends with an unexpected twist.

The director, Cait Robinson, is a Maine-based Drama League New York Directing Fellow who previously directed *The Clean House* for Portland Stage in 2019.

I and You is a two-person play. Pascal Arquimedes (member Actors' Equity Association) plays Anthony, an athletic and sensitive character. Arquimedes made his professional acting debut in 2017, leading the feature-length psychological thriller *The Skin of the Teeth* as the character Josef King. In 2021, he made his Broadway debut understudying the role of Rafael in Lynn Nottage's *Clyde's*. Sarah Lord (AEA) plays the quick and sardonic Caroline with health problems. Lord grew up acting in Portland, Maine, and has been in several productions at Portland Stage, including *Hidden Tennessee*, *The Loman Family Picnic*, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, and *A Christmas Carol*. She has Off-Broadway and other regional theater credits as well as film and TV credits, including *State of Play* with Russell Crowe, *Nurse Jackie*, *Back Seat*, *Arranged*, and *Hope & Faith*.

Writer Daniel Pollack-Pelzner described the script's ending. "By the close, Gunderson has guided

us toward a sublime transfiguration that encompasses 'Leaves of Grass,' John Coltrane, Jerry Lee Lewis, space and time, bodies and spirits, death and rebirth." (*The New Yorker*, October 16, 2017)

In the Artistic Talkback video produced by Portland Stage, Literary Manager Todd Brian Backus had this to say when describing the play, "I think it's beautifully sweet without ever being saccharine. It doesn't patronize its characters or its audience. These are young people with big feelings, but those big feelings are real, and we all go through them." Artistic and Executive Director Anita Stewart expressed her appreciation for the work, "I love that as much as they can go at each other at times, we see the deep caring they develop for one another. There is love. And I think our world can be short on that. It's a beautiful thing to witness, to have that reminder."

CAST & ARTISTS

ANTHONY Pascal Arquimedes*

CAROLINE Sarah Lord*

DIRECTOR Cait Robinson

SCENIC DESIGN Riw Rakkulchon**

COSTUME DESIGN Fabian Fidel Aguilar**

LIGHTING DESIGN Molly Tiede**

SOUND DESIGN Kathy Ruvuna

STAGE MANAGER Meg Lydon*

**member Actors Equity Association*

***member United Scenic Artists*

QUICK INFO

Live In-Theater Dates: March 2 – March 20, 2022

Digital Streaming Dates: March 16 – April 3, 2022

Video onversation to enhance your experience: [FREE ONLINE HERE](#)

Run Time: 2 Hours, 15 minutes with intermission

Box Office Hours: Tuesday through Saturday • Noon to 5 pm and 2 hours before performance time

Box Office Phone: 207.774.0465

Box Office Email: boxoffice@portlandstage.org

Tickets Online: <https://www.portlandstage.org/show/last-ship-to-proxima-centauri-2022/>

PRICES In-Person: \$20-\$63. Discounts for seniors 65+ and students.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN TICKETS AVAILABLE: Find rules and restrictions on the website. Digital

Streaming: \$25 online, or call the box office for Pay-What-You-Can.

RUSH35 Tickets: \$15 at the door for registered participants ages 35 and under.

ABOUT PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

48th season

Portland Stage offers Mainstage performances, New Works, and Education programs. The 2021-22 Mainstage season is trying to maintain its regular schedule as safety and artists' unions permit, including one co-production musical with Maine State Music Theatre, six Mainstage productions, staged readings of its commissions, and Studio Series productions. PS promotes and celebrates

the creation of new plays with an environment that supports the region's playwrights, builds bridges between its theater and national writers, and develops awareness of theater with three exciting initiatives: the Clauder Competition, the Little Festival of the Unexpected, and From Away, a festival in collaboration with the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. This year, Portland Stage also celebrates its 12th season of the Susie Konkel Theater for Kids and the 100,000 student experiences it has provided in the last decade through its education programs. Subscriptions to Portland Stage are available. More than just a seat in the house, subscribers gain insider access, significant savings, and flexibility. Visit portlandstage.org to learn more.