The background is a collage of various travel-related stamps and documents. Visible stamps include 'USA PRO', '30 SEP 20', 'TORONTO', 'ARRIVED IN 2016', 'BERLIN', 'SÃO PAULO', '20 AUG 2016', 'BRASIL', 'ARRIVAL', '20:12:2010', 'HONG KONG', '0123', '09 MAY 2012', 'PORT OF LISEDA', and 'ARRIVAL'. A silhouette of a person is standing in the center, facing the stamps.

Anon(ymous)

...a modern retelling of **The Odyssey**

Written by Naomi Iizuka

Directed by Ricardo Vila-Roger

April 16 - 25, 2021

www.play.pitt.edu

Before we begin this stream of *Anon(ymous)*, Pitt Stages and the Department of Theatre Arts joins the call for all artists, cultural workers, public officials, educators, administrators, community leaders, organizers, and engaged community members to open all public events and gatherings with acknowledgment of the traditional Native inhabitants of the land.

We want to recognize that this production was recorded on the traditional, ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (also known as the Iroquois Confederacy), particularly the Seneca who were one of the 5 (and later 6) Iroquois-language speaking tribes in the Confederacy, the Lenape (also known as the Delaware), the Shawnee, the Mingo, and earlier, the Osage, the Monongahela, the Hopewell, and others.

We are mindful that our lives here are possible because the land and lives of people native to this place were stolen. Colonialism and white supremacy have continually tried to erase Indigenous people of this land in the past and present. At this time there are no federally recognized Indigenous tribes in Pennsylvania due to colonialism displacement. Our lives here are also possible because generation upon generation (past, present, and future) of indigenous people in this nation and all over the world are respectful stewards of the earth and its resources.

More information about this call, practice, and additional learning can be found at <https://usdac.us/nativeland>.

Thank you for gathering with us today.



Pitt's **Year of Engagement** is a celebration of the work that's central to our mission: collaborating to confront the world's biggest challenges and mobilize toward a better, more equitable and just society for all.

Anon(ymous)

Written by **Naomi Iizuka**

Directed by **Ricardo Vila-Roger**

Production Team

Assistant Director
Co-Sound Designer
Parag S. Gohel

Assistant Director
Keeley Thomas

Assistant Director
Mikki Monfalcone

Stage Manager
Anabel Blackford

Costume Designer
KJ Gilmer

Scenic Designer
Kami Beckford

Co-Sound Designer/Video Editor
Kyle Cameron

Lighting Designer
Michael Russo

Dramaturg(s)
Caroline Waters
Jennifer Amerman

ANON(YMOUS)
is approximately 70 minutes long

WARNING:

There are some depictions of violence and anti-immigrant behavior that may be triggering to some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

ANON(YMOUS) is presented by special arrangement
with Playscripts, Inc., (www.playscripts.com)

Note from the director:

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.” -from All God’s Children Need Travelling Shoes by Maya Angelou

In this odyssey, Anon is a refugee who makes the decision to find his true home despite the consequences. He encounters people that seek to distract, derail, and even destroy him during his search. Even though he doesn’t know if what he seeks even exists anymore, he continues on faith. That is how essential “home” really is for him and, really, for all of us..

What is home to you? Is it a physical place? Is it a feeling? Is it a person or group of people? Is it all of these or none of these? Have you ever taken the time to define it?

Now imagine how a refugee who had to flee their home to escape violence might answer that question. Imagine that feeling of safety being so absent from your daily life that your only choice is to leave. Imagine after the displacement, and violence, and upheaval, ending up in a place that makes it clear that you are not wanted. What is home when your birthplace is too dangerous and your current location is hostile?

Home in many ways defines your identity. How does your sense of self change when you’re faced with violence and hatred at every turn? Do you change yourself in order to fit in? Do you try to hold on to the parts you love? Do you ditch it all to find a new family? What do you do when holding on to the parts of home that you treasure further distances you from your new residence?

We hope that this odyssey is different. We want to show you a voyage of self-discovery that is rooted in love of home and of self. We center our story on someone who discovers his new identity without sacrificing his ethnicity or his connection to his past. Our story is, we hope, one of hope, love, and family.

Thank you for watching.

Ricardo Vila-Roger

Special Thanks

Johannes DeYoung,
Gianni Downs, Annmarie Duggan
Ashley Martin, Eben Alguire



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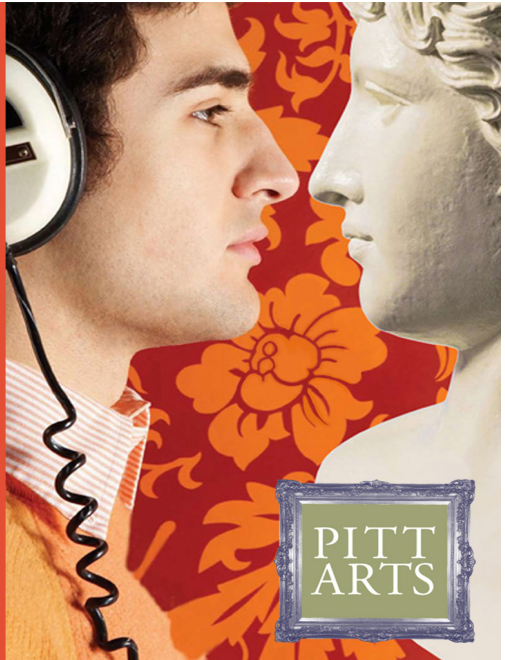
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The Cast

Anon	Vinit Joshi
Nemasani.....	Maríe José Hurtado
Naja/Ritu/Sewing Lady #2.....	Ria Chadha
Ali/Ignacio/Bar Fly	Abhay Bhatt
Nasreen/Belen/Sewing Lady #1.....	Philipa Thambirajah
Calista.....	Katelyn Kruszewski
Yuri Mackus/ Mr. Zyclo	Jacob Aluise
Senator Laius/Strygal/Bar Fly	Martin Kovalik Haas
Helen Laius/Serza	Savannah Miscik
Pascal.....	Sean Hale
Pet Bird (Voice).....	Parag S. Gohel

The Company

Jacob Aluise (Yuri Mackus/Mr. Zyclo) is ecstatic to make his Pitt Stages mainstage debut. He is a junior English literature & English writing double major with a theater arts minor. He previously preformed in *Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights* (Dr. Faustus)

Abhay Bhatt (Ali/Ignacio/Bar Fly) is a new face to the Pitt campus and stage. He is a freshman majoring in biology with a minor in theater arts. Despite a scientific background, acting has been a skill and passion he loves to cultivate and share with others. With this first role, Abhay hopes to learn the ropes and build his repertoire for future performances to come. His previous credits include *All My Sons* (Frank), *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Dr. Metz), and *The Tempest* (Caliban).

Ria Chadha (Naja/Ritu/Sewing Lady #2)) is looking forward to making her debut in her first Pitt Stages mainstage production *Anon(ymous)*. As someone who has always enjoyed working with cameras, she plans to continue filming and learning dance while pursuing a computer science and digital narrative and interactive design double major.

Sean Hale (Pascal) is junior theatre arts and linguistics double major with a minor in music. He is thrilled to return for another production through Pitt Stages. Past credits include *Flyin' West*

(Wil Parrish), *Dr Faustus Lights the Lights* (Little Boy), *Head Over Heels* (Dametas) and *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Miles). He hopes to continue working in theatre well after graduation.

Maríe José Hurtado (Nemasani) is excited to be part of *Anon(ymous)*. María is a junior theatre arts and Spanish major. She previously attended AMDA as a music theatre major. Previous shows include Pitt Stages productions of *Miss You Like Hell* (Olivia) and *The Verge* (Elizabeth). María just finished working on shows for Netflix and Showtime that premiere early 2022.

Martin Kovalik Haas (Senator Laius/Strygal/Bar Fly) is thrilled to make his second appearance in a Pitt Stages mainstage production following his contribution to “The Author’s Voice.” He is a senior English writing major.

Vinit Joshi (Anon) is very excited to make his Pitt Stages debut in *Anon(ymous)*. He is a sophomore pursuing a B.S. in neuroscience with a minor in chemistry. He is the producer and assistant music director for Pitch Please, Pitt’s all-male acapella group. Vinit is eager to get more involved in the theatre community at Pitt as he continues to pursue drama and music in the years to come.

Katelyn Kruszewski (Calista) is thrilled to be a part of her first Pitt Stages mainstage production. She is a freshman media communications/theatre arts double major with a music minor. Katelyn takes jazz voice, musical theatre voice, and piano lessons. She also writes her own songs and is in the process of working on an extended play.

Savannah Miscik (Helen Laius/Serza) is excited to make her Pitt Stages performing debut. She is a sophomore theatre major. Some of Savannah’s past roles include *Pippin* (Berthe), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella’s Mother/Granny/Giant), *Footloose* (Vi Moore), and *Mary Poppins* (Winifred Banks). She is also a work study student at Broadway Artists Alliance of New York City.

Parag S. Gohel (Pet Bird Voice) is a freelance artist, performer, and educator who has worked in various Teaching Artist roles with regional organizations including: City Theatre, Bricolage, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Quantum Theatre, and Pittsburgh Public Theater for which he played Bob Acres in *PlayTime: The Rivals* and

was recently named their Director of Education & Community Engagement. His other previous acting credits include: *Othello* (Othello), *Midnight Radio: Frankenstein* (Henry Clerval), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedick), *The Crucible* (Thomas Putnam), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus/Oberon) and *Big Love* (Constantine). Currently an adjunct instructor at Pitt teaching Intro to Performance, Parag has also had his work showcased in Philadelphia, New York, and internationally. To learn more about Parag: <https://trustarts.org/blog/artist-to-watch-parag-s-gohel>

Philipa Thambirajah (Nasreen/Belen) is elated to make her debut in her first Pitt Stages mainstage production. She is a freshman psychology major with a love for acting and storytelling. She is excited to take part in Pitt Stages productions as a continuation of the passions she has had for performance throughout her high school career.

DONATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Please consider donating to our department. It is only with your help that we are able to showcase our students and faculty while sharing the future of theatre within our regional community.

Your generous support helps to fund much of our programming throughout the year. This includes the production branch of our department, outreach programs that benefit various community organizations, teaching artists and guest artists, residencies and workshops, and other educational theatre events we provide throughout the year.

We need your help more than ever to support these programs. There are many students on campus whose first experience with the theatre and the cultural community overall starts at Pitt.

Click [here](#) to make an online donation to the department.

Production Crew

Pitt Stages Production Staff

Costume Shop Manager (Interim)..... Ricky Campbell
Technical Director..... Eben Alguire
Head Electrician/Shop Foreperson..... Kyle Cameron
Prop Shop Manager..... M.K. Hughes

Director Ricardo Vila-Roger
Assistant Director Parag S. Gohel
Assistant Director Keeley Thomas
Assistant Director Mikki Monfalcone
Dramaturg..... Caroline Waters
Dramaturg..... Jennifer Amerman
Stage Manager Anabel Blackford
Assistant Stage Manager Megan Franco
Assistant Stage Manager Dylan Irgang
Costume Designer..... KJ Gilmer
Assistant Costume Designer..... Grace Ruble
Scenic Designer..... Kami Beckford
Sound Designer/Video Editor Kyle Cameron
Co-Sound Designer Parag S. Gohel
Assistant Sound Designer..... Elizabeth Amstutz
Lighting Designer..... Michael Russo
Production Advisor Bria Walker
Dramaturgy Faculty Mentor..... Patrick McKelvey

Animators Ilan Elovitz, Ean Grady, Evelyn Pandos,
Michael Poirier, Vic Naumov, Rain Du, Elan Suder,
Magda Gourinchas, Vivi Nguyen, Justin Lee,
Michelle (Runbo) Guo, Vivian Noh, Khushi Nandgaonkar



The Production Team

Jennifer Amerman (Dramaturg) is excited to work on their first Pitt Stages production. They are a transfer student from Northampton Community College who will continue their studies as a film major. Jennifer has acted in a variety of shows and stages from *Picnic* at NCC to *Pinocchio* with Allentown Public Theater and hopes to continue to pursue their passion for storytelling here at Pitt.

Elizabeth Amstutz (Assistant Sound Designer) is a freshman and has enjoyed exploring the land of sound design on her quest through the Pitt Stages wilderness. Previously, she's traveled through scenic design for "Bastille Day," and currently wanders across the acting realm in *Appalachian Paris* (Ensemble). Her other adventures include speaking for extended periods of time on the WPTS radio station and looking at screens extensively for UPTV. As she treks deeper still, Elizabeth eagerly awaits her next adventure!

Kami Beckford (Scenic Designer) an architecture and scenic design student, is happy for the opportunity to work with everyone on last time in her last production at Pitt. Kami was grateful for the opportunity to design *The Verge* in 2020.

Anabel Blackford (Stage Manager) is honored to be stage managing their first Pitt Stages mainstage. In the past, she has stage managed Pitt Dance Ensemble and *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*. Other past credits include *next to normal*, Pitt Dance Ensemble, *Oblivion*, *Head over Heels*, and *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties*.

Megan Franco (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to take part in her third virtual production at Pitt! She is a sophomore theater/psychology double major and is pursuing a history minor and REEES certificate. Last year, she was the assistant stage manager of Pitts MTC production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. Other virtual productions include "Inside the Zoom: Two Online One Acts" (assistant stage manager) , and *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* (assistant scenic designer).

Parag S. Gohel (Assistant Director/Co-Sound Designer) has worn various production team hats across many organizations for over a decade, including: Director and Lead Deviser for The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Poetry Project: *Master of the Macabre, Edgar Allan Poe*, Artistic Director of *The Voyage of Seasoar* and *Bellmouth Crossing* for Pittsburgh's annual First Night 2016 and 2019, Director of Point Park University's *Writing for the Screen & Stage M.F.A. Program Showcase*, and former Education Director for Quantum Theatre, where he produced their first-ever online Education Day for *Wild*. Parag was a resident sound designer for Prime Stage Theatre, sound assistant at City Theatre and Bricolage Production Company, and was most recently Co-Sound Designer & Foley Director for *The Verge* through Pitt Stages. To learn more about Parag: <https://trustarts.org/blog/artist-to-watch-parag-s-gohel>

KJ Gilmer (Costume Designer) is the Costume Design Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts. She designs costumes for departmental productions, and teaches Costume Design I, Introduction to Theatrical Design, Stage Makeup I, and Intro to Performance.

Her national and regional costume design credits include Pittsburgh Opera, City Theatre Company, St. Michael's Playhouse of Vermont, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia's University of the Arts, Arden Theatre Company, Everyman Theatre Company of Baltimore. Previously, she has directed for Pitt Stages productions of *Spark* by Tom Arvetis, Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* and Pearl Cleage's *Flyin' West*.

Currently, Ms. Gilmer is researching, developing, and training in the field of theatrical intimacy education. Her studies include best practices and collaboration when staging scenes of theatrical intimacy. This practice aids in making classrooms, rehearsals, and all areas of production safe, brave and creative spaces, especially for BIPOC students.

Dylan Irgang (Assisatant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be working as an assistant stage manager for a Pitt Stages show for the first time! He is a sophomore majoring in theatre arts who previously stage managed the lab production *Ordinary Days*. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Mikki Monfalcone (Assistant Director) is very excited to be working on her third Pitt Stages production. She is a sophomore theatre major and has previously worked on *The Verge* (assistant director) and *Miss You Like Hell* (assistant stage manager).

Grace Ruble (Assistant Costumer Designer) is so excited to be working on *Anon(ymous)*. She is a senior theatre and film and media studies double major. She previously appeared onstage in *Spark* (Storyteller/Keeper) and worked on the student lab “Carrie & Francine” (editor).

Michael Russo (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre arts and classical civilizations double major. Michael is excited to work on another mainstage production in his final undergraduate semester with Pitt Stages. Previous credits include, *The Verge* (lighting designer), *She Kills Monsters:Virtual Realms* (streaming team), *Flyin’ West* (master electrician), and *The Wolves* (assistant master electrician).

Keeley Thomas (Assistant Director) is so excited to be a part of her first Pitt Stages show as a member of the directing team. She is a freshman economics major.

Ricardo Vila-Roger (Director) is a lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts. Recent credits include *Indecent* (Mendel) at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, *next to normal* (Dan) at Pitt Stages, and *Romeo & Juliet* (Montague & Apothecary) and *Tartuffe* (Orgon) for Pittsburgh Public Theater’s PlayTime series. Directing credits include *She Kills Monsters:Virtual Realms*, *Our Town*, and *Water by the Spoonful* at Pitt Stages and *In the Time of Butterflies* at Prime Stage Theater.

Caroline Waters (Dramaturg) is a first-year student studying English literature and film studies at the University of Pittsburgh. In high school, she presided over Thespian Society roupe 3035. Her favorite role ever was in *Pride and Prejudice* (Elizabeth Bennet). *Anon(ymous)* is her first-ever Pitt Stages production as a dramaturg, but hopefully not her last.

Collaborating with Carnegie Mellon University Animators

Our work with the 2D Animation class at CMU came about thanks to Kelly Trumbull. Kelly was working on a project with the CMU opera department that involved animation. She put Ricardo (the director of this show) and Johannes (the CMU animation instructor) in touch because she thought that *Anon(ymous)* would be the perfect project for a collaboration. It turns out she was correct and our work together has been joyful and quite fruitful. We want to thank Johannes DeYoung and his class for sharing their talent and skill with us and Kelly Trumbull for bringing us all together. We hope this is the first of many collaborations.

2D Animators

Ilan Elovitz is an undergraduate art student at Carnegie Mellon. His interests range from 2D animation to interactive installation, hatmaking, and hammer and chisel engraving.

Ean Grady is from Hong Kong, is an undergraduate Technical Writing student at Carnegie Mellon with minors in Game Design and Animation

Evelyn Pandos

Michael Poirier was born in New Jersey and started his passion for art in Highschool. Due to his social anxiety, he spent a long time creating characters and writing stories for these characters. By high school he no longer needed this crutch and started working on game design with friends and independently as a means to make these characters real. He keeps a dream journal as another means of inspiration for his work. His career goal is to be a game designer, digital animator, or technical artist in the entertainment/edutainment industry, so he can gain more experience in creating games.

Vic Naumov, hailing from Maryland, now studies animation at Carnegie Mellon University focusing on 2D and 3D animation and storyboarding.

Rain Du, originally from southwest China, is now an art and computer science student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Elan Suder is an HCI and art student at Carnegie Mellon University with an interest in video game art and animation.

Magda Gourinchas is from Berkeley, California and is currently a sophomore studying animation, painting, & business administration at Carnegie Mellon University.

Vivi Nguyen, based in BayArea California, is an art student studying Time Based Media and Human Computer Interaction.

Justin Lee (legally Jin Hyuk Lee) was born and raised in Korea, and he developed an interest in art, especially in animation. He came to the United States to study fine arts and decided to focus on both animation and film in Carnegie Mellon University. His artistic practice mainly focuses on 2D and 3D Animation, narrative storyboarding and screenwriting for film.

Michelle (Runbo) Guo is a senior in computer science with an interest in graphics, including but not limited to animation, 3D modeling/simulation and audio design/engineering.

Vivian Noh, born in South Korea and raised in California, is an undergraduate student in the Carnegie Mellon University School of Art's Bachelor of Fine Arts program with a major in art and a minor in animation and special effects.

Khushi Nandgaonkar, born and raised in India, is an undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon studying art and film.

Pitt Stages
2020-2021



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ABOUT

The Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and offers BA, MFA, and PhD degrees in Theatre Arts. The Department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

FACULTY

Department Chair	Annmarie Duggan
Director of Graduate Studies	Michelle Granshaw
Director of Undergraduate Studies	Gianni Downs
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy	Bria Walker
Co-Heads of Design Technology	Gianni Downs and Annmarie Duggan
Head of History/Literature/Criticism	Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance	Cynthia Croot
Additional Faculty	Kathy George, Karen Gilmer, Patrick McKelvey, Becki Toth, and Ricardo Vila-Roger
Visiting Faculty	Delilah Picart
Teaching Artists-in-Residence	M.K. Hughes, Chosky Teaching Artist Kelly Trumbull, Richard E. Rauh Teaching Artist
Professor Emeriti	W. Stephen Coleman, Buck Favorini Don Mangone and Bruce McConachie

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Department Administrator	Maggie Bupp
Operations Manager	Ashley Martin
Graduate Student Services Administration	Josh Oliver
Marketing Coordinator	Connie Anne Markiw

PRODUCTION STAFF

Costume Shop Manager (Interim)	Ricky Campbell
Technical Director	Eben Alguire
Head Electrician/Shop Foreperson	Kyle Cameron
Prop Shop Manager	M.K. Hughes

APPALACHIAN PARIS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
CYNTHIA CROOT

COMING SOON!