

RIT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND  
NTID PERFORMING ARTS PRESENT

# I and you

Written by  
Lauren  
Gunderson

*I and this mystery  
here we stand.*



OCTOBER 25-27, 2019

10/25 7:30 PM

10/26 2:00 & 7:30 PM

10/27 2:00 PM

LOCATION : LBJ-1510, NTID

FREE ADMISSION. LIMITED SEATING. DETAILS AT [RIT.EDU/THEATREARTS](http://RIT.EDU/THEATREARTS).

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**RIT** College of  
Liberal Arts

**RIT** National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Performing Arts



*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.*

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

## COLA and NTID Performing Arts Staff

### Faculty

Erin Auble  
Joseph Bochner, Ph.D.  
Luane Davis-Haggerty, Ph.D.  
Sacha Glasser  
Andy Head  
Marc Holland  
Aaron Kelstone  
Jonathan Kruger, Ph.D.  
David Munnell  
Matthew Nicosia, Ph.D.  
Sharon Vandezande  
Thomas Warfield

### Stagecraft Manager

Joe Hamilton

### Technical Theatre Assistants

Cezanne N. Enriquez  
Nicole Hood Cruz

### Sunshine 2.0 – Theatre on Tour

Fred M. Beam (Outreach Coordinator)  
Zain Ahmed (Actor)  
Shiann Cook (Actor)  
Jerald Creer (Actor)  
Bianca Ware (Actor)

### Theatre and Tour Manager

Joseph Fox

### Department Support Staff

Michelle Childress  
Jeannette Giagios  
Ben Willmott

### Robert F. Panara

Teacher, author, poet... Robert F. Panara was RIT's first deaf faculty member: founder and first chairman of NTID's Department of English; and founder and director of NTID's Experimental Educational Theatre Program. Professor Panara's two decades of service to NTID at RIT and his firm belief in the talent and potential of young deaf people will always be remembered by those with whom he has shared his wisdom and vision.

## Upcoming Productions

### NTID Performing Arts

Nov 15-17

#### **People of the Third Eye**

Robert F. Panara Theatre, NTID

Nov 15: 7:30pm

Nov 16: 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Nov 17: 2:00pm

\$5 Students, Youth (12 and Under), Senior (+60)

\$10 Faculty, Staff, Alumni

\$12 General Admission

**For more information on these productions  
and other RIT Performing Arts events, please visit:**

[rit.edu/theatrearts](http://rit.edu/theatrearts)

[ntid.rit.edu/theatre](http://ntid.rit.edu/theatre)

### RIT Players

Nov 1-3

#### **The Theory of Relativity**

Ingle Auditorium

Nov 1: 8:00pm

Nov 2: 8:00pm

Nov 3: 2:00pm

Free for students, \$10 General Admission

Nov 22-24

#### **The Game's Afoot**

Ingle Auditorium

Nov 22: 8:00pm

Nov 23: 8:00pm

Nov 24: 2:00pm

Free for Students, \$10 General Admission

**For more information on these productions  
and to receive additional information about  
RIT Players, please visit:**

[facebook.com/RITPlayers](https://facebook.com/RITPlayers)

RIT College of Liberal Arts Theatre Arts Program  
& NTID Department of Performing Arts  
proudly present

# I and You

By Lauren Gunderson

### *I and You*

is produced by special arrangement with  
Playscripts, Inc.  
([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

**Director**  
Andy Head

**Stage Manager**  
Kimmie Sandberg

**Scenic Designer**  
Erin Auble

**Projection and Sound Designer**  
Dan Roach

**Costume Designer**  
Nicole Hood Cruz

**Lighting Designer**  
Clayton "Slim" Pruitt

**ASL Coach**  
Doug Baker

**Assistant Stage Manager**  
Sydney Lewandowski

*I and You* was first produced in a rolling world premiere by Marin Theatre Company (California), Olney Theatre (Maryland), and Phoenix Theatre (Indiana) as part of the National New Play Network's Continued Life program.

Originally commissioned and developed by South Coast Repertory.

## Director's Notes

Playwright Lauren Gunderson may not yet be a household name, but it's only a matter of time. Each year, the Theatre Communications Group polls its member theatres across the country and releases a list of the Top-20 Most Produced Playwrights of the Year. Since 2016, Gunderson has been either first or second on that list. Over the past decade, she has been one of the most produced, prolific, and popular American playwrights. Her play, *I and You*, had its Off-Broadway premiere in 2016.

As part of my research in preparing to direct this play, I first purchased a copy of "Song of Myself", the very long, very old Walt Whitman poem that is at the heart of the story. I sat in bed that night, sifting through the pages trying to understand it. It was my first true encounter with Whitman. Sure, I knew of him, but I didn't really know the significance of his artistry. My goal was to learn who he was, what this poem was about, and why the playwright chose it specifically. *I and this mystery, here we stand.*

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Walt Whitman's birth. In the time since his death, his reputation as one of America's greatest poets has only grown. Despite his lack of formal schooling, he pushed the boundaries of what poetry could be, and his works went on to inspire later generations of poets. His collection of poetry titled "Leaves of Grass", of which "Song of Myself" is included, was first published by Whitman himself in 1855. At the time, the work received little attention, even with the praise of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who called it, "the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom". Whitman self-published an extended version of the collection a year later, and then a third edition followed not long after. Over the next twenty years, while caring for the wounded during the Civil War or working as a clerk in the Department of the Interior, Whitman continued to edit and expand "Leaves of Grass".

In *I and You*, Anthony is haunted by a line from "Song of Myself". He wrestles to understand that mystery and does his best to share it with Caroline. In rehearsals, we also struggled to grasp the fullness and complexity of Whitman's "mystery". As human beings, we all encounter such mysteries: What happens when we die? What will tomorrow bring? What is the purpose of all of this? For this specific production, we encountered our own mysteries to solve: How best to blend interpretations of characters being played simultaneously by both Deaf and hearing actors? How best to utilize and integrate this concept of dual-staging? How best to make this production work for audience members, regardless of whether they are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or hearing? *I and this mystery, here we stand.*

It has been an absolute pleasure working on this show. From our outstanding production team, to our fantastic stage managers, to these wonderful actors, everyone has put so much time and energy into creating our unique version of *I and You*. My thanks go out to them and also to you, our audience, for being here. We very much appreciate your support of the performing arts at RIT/NTID and hope you enjoy the show. *I and this mystery, here we stand.*

- Andy

### Special Thanks:

President David Munson  
Dr. Gerard Buckley  
Dr. James Winebrake  
Dr. Jonathan Kruger  
Dr. Joseph Bochner  
Dr. Aaron Kelstone  
RIT/NTID's Department of Access Services  
Applied Audio  
Patti Lachance  
Cynthia Collward  
Cath. Richardson Kiwitt  
Emily Zaleski  
Susan Murad  
Patti Durr  
Allison Kunz  
Kyle Quevedo  
Katharyn and Hazel Head

## Stage Management Bios

### **Kimie Sandberg** (Stage Manager)

Kimie is a 4th-year New Media Marketing major. She has previously stage managed *Stupid F\*cking Bird* and *Cabaret*. Kimie is forever grateful for all the opportunities that the theatre community here at RIT/NTID has given her. She would like to give a huge thank you to the cast and crew and, most importantly, she would also like to thank her ASM, Sydney, and her director, Andy, for the endless support. Enjoy the show! #TeamYawp

### **Sydney Lewandowski** (Assistant Stage Manager)

Sydney is a 2nd-year Visual Media student! She is very excited to be working on another show here at RIT. Last year she was an Assistant Stage Manager for the NTID/COLA show *Cabaret* and for the RIT Players show *The Drowsy Chaperone*! She would like to thank the cast for being so incredible to work with, the crew for all of their hard work, and lastly Kimie and Andy for making yet another theatre experience so enjoyable!

## Director Bio

### **Andy Head** (Director)

Andy Head is an Assistant Professor working with both the COLA Theatre Arts Program and NTID Performing Arts. While at RIT/NTID, Andy has directed *Love's Fire: Seven Plays Inspired by Seven Shakespearean Sonnets*, *Stupid F\*cking Bird*, and *Cabaret*. Andy also leads the OFF-Stage Play Reading Series and creates "The Callboard" newsletter. As an actor, Andy has worked locally with Blackfriars Theatre (*The Undeniable Sound of Right Now*) and the Wallbyrd Theatre Company (*Macbeth*, *Bard Bending*, and *Romeo and Juliet*). Andy lives in Rochester with his wife Katharyn, and their amazing daughter, Hazel.

## Audience Survey for *I and You*

After the performance, please take a moment to complete this brief survey about your experience. Your opinion matters to us! Thank you.



## Setting

Now. In your city. Caroline's room.

## Running Time

Approximately 95 minutes with no intermission.

## Cast

Caroline (hearing) .....	<b>Kelsey Beers</b>
Anthony (Deaf) .....	<b>Kendell Charles</b>
Anthony (hearing) .....	<b>Dominic Cook</b>
Caroline (Deaf) .....	<b>Victoria Covell</b>

## Crew and Administration

Stagecraft Manager/Backstage Supervisor .....	<b>Joe Hamilton</b>
Technical Theatre Assistants .....	<b>Cezanne N. Enriquez, Nicole Hood Cruz</b>
Scenic Designer .....	<b>Erin Auble</b>
Costume Designer .....	<b>Nicole Hood Cruz</b>
Assistant Costume Designer .....	<b>Liam Bradley*</b>
Projection and Sound Designer .....	<b>Dan Roach</b>
Lighting Designer .....	<b>Clayton “Slim” Pruitt</b>
Lighting Design Mentor .....	<b>Cezanne N. Enriquez</b>
Properties Masters .....	<b>Izzy Edwards, Ryan Keeley</b>
Properties Mentor .....	<b>Nicole Hood Cruz</b>
House Manager .....	<b>Joseph Fox</b>
Program Layout .....	<b>Ben Willmott</b>
Stage Manager and Marketing Director .....	<b>Kimmie Sandberg*</b>
Marketing and Lobby Display .....	<b>Joseph Fox</b>
Production Interpreters .....	<b>Cynthia Collward, Cath. Richardson Kiwitt</b>
ASL Coach .....	<b>Doug Baker</b>
ASL Translation Team .....	<b>Eric Epstein, TJ Bartholomew, Emily Sidansky, Darla Guajardo</b>
Poster and Program Cover Design .....	<b>Allison Kunz</b>

\* Indicates that student is currently enrolled in Theatre Ensemble.

\*\* Indicates that student is currently enrolled in NTID Practicum

## Crew and Administration (cont'd)

Carpenters .....	<b>Ethan Adler*, Courtney Boyer, Joe Buck*, Carleen Christner, Curran Dillis*, Michael Hokanson, Joshua Meyers**, Michaela Mullin**, Maverick Obermiller**, Temilade Oyedeji**, Kathryn Richer, Mark Shepard, Jose Silva**, Patricia Tomanovich*, Prabhjot Toor, Nicholas Torres**, Danielle Worthington</b>
Electricians .....	<b>Mac Leong**, Crosby MacLean, Kellen McGrath*, Amy Parr**, Chandler Riehm**, Malcolm Zale**</b>
Set Painters .....	<b>Amanda Wolf (lead painter), Sophia Mastroserio**</b>
Costume Shop Worker .....	<b>Kyra Ayala</b>
Light Board Operator .....	<b>Kellen McGrath*</b>
Asst. Stage Manager and Projection/Sound Board Operator .....	<b>Sydney Lewandowski*</b>

## Cast Bios

### Kelsey Beers (Caroline)

Kelsey is a 2nd-year student in the ASL-English Interpretation program. Unfortunately, she has run out of synonyms for the word “excited” to tell the audience how happy she is to be in this production; doing a lot of theatre does that to a person. Her most recent production was another NTID/COLA show, *Cabaret*. Kelsey would like to thank everyone who traveled from her hometown to see this show, it’s a long drive just to see Kelsey behave in the exact same way that she normally does (minus the illness). Many thanks to her wonderful friends here in Rochester who have been cheering her on since day one, and her family who drove up to see the show. Special thanks to Dan for being her #1 fan (and being left in her apartment during his visit while she auditioned for this show). PS Enjoy the show! PPS Don’t look at Turtle.

### Kendell Charles (Anthony)

Kendell Charles is a 4th-year major in Management and Information System at the Saunders College of Business. He was born and raised in Opelousas, Louisiana. During his free time, he enjoys doing what he’s passionate about, which is dancing and acting. His past experiences with performing arts encouraged him to continue acting and dancing in college since 2015. Kendell is also known for his role as the main character, the Beast, in *Beauty and the Beast* as well as the Emcee in *Cabaret*. Kendell would like to thank his amazing people in his life and fans for their stupendous support.

### Dominic Cook (Anthony)

Dominic Cook is a 1st-year majoring in Game Design and Development trying his best. He is so excited to work with the NTID/COLA team for the first time and is even more thrilled to be in his first college production. Prior to this show, he has had notable roles as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*, The Jester in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and Asher in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He would like to thank his mother, Noelle, his father, Rahim, his two sisters Christina and Catrina, the D-Squad and the Guys Night crew back home.

### Victoria Covell (Caroline)

Victoria Covell is a 2nd-year majoring in Graphic Design. She is so excited to be a part of her second theatrical production. You might’ve seen her in *Cabaret* as Sally Bowles. She is from Jacksonville, Illinois. Her previous experience is dancing for about 19 years and becoming involved with theatre starting last year. Tori would like to thank her family and friends from RIT who are always so supportive of her performing arts career. She would also like to thank Andy for pushing her to be a better actor and person.