

CU ★ PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- Refrain from using electronic devices **during** the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at **any time prior to** the performance, **during intermission** or **after the performance ends**.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



Remarkable performances are the heart of **CU Boulder Theatre & Dance**.



CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

[Read full land acknowledgment.](#)

Anon(ymous)

A Play by Naomi Iizuka

Feb. 16-17 and 21-14, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18 and 25, 2 p.m.

Loft Theatre

Director

Cecilia J. Pang

Assistant Director

Julia Anderson

Scenic Designer

Bruce Bergner

Lighting Designer

Emily Maddox

Costume Designer

Markas Henry

Sound Designer

Adrian Knappertz

Props Coordinator

Emily Littlefield

Dramaturg

Heather Kelley

Assistant Scenic Designer

Sophie Willis

Technical Director

Stephen Balgooyen

Fight Director

Sean Scrutchins

Wardrobe Head

Sara David

Special Thanks

- Playwright Naomi Iizuka, Head of Graduate Playwriting at University of California San Diego
- Laurialan Reitzammer, Associate Professor of Classics at University of Colorado Boulder

Cast

Anon

Kenneth Varela-Amaya

This role will be played by Ian Von Pechmann on February 25 and March 1.

Naja

Julia Anderson

Nemasani

Crystal Sain

Mr. Yuri Mackus

Connor George

Senator Laius/Nice American Father

Jonny Bashford

Helen Laius/Nice American Mother

Casey Noell Walsh

Calista/Nice American Daughter

Siena Taylor

Nasreen/Sewing Person 4

Sarah Zimah

Ali/Lone Barfly

Manu Narasimha Moorthy

Ritu/Sewing Person 1/Chorus

Vianney Aguilar-Chavez

Pascal
Jovan Dotson

Mr. Zyclo
Aaron Klass

Belen/Sewing Person 6/Chorus
Brianna Meza-Sauzamedia

Strygal
Jackson Laughlin

Anon Understudy/Chorus
Ian von Pechmann
Ian will play Anon on February 25 and March 1.

Sewing Person 2/Chorus
Cosmo Wang

Sewing Person 3/Chorus
Dorri Ashrafi Soltanahamadi

Proteus/Sewing Person 5/Chorus
Ayush Ghosh

Mr. Zyclo's Pet Bird/Serza/Sewing Person 7/Chorus
Kate Thurlow

Ignacio/Chorus
Derek Hernandez

Dramaturg's Note

By Heather Kelley

The play you are about to see is both a very old story and a relatively new one. Commissioned in the early 2000s by the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Naomi Iizuka's *Anon(ymous)* is a modern retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*, a Greek epic poem dating to the late eighth or early seventh century BCE. In Iizuka's brilliant adaptation, Odysseus—a warrior, king and father who struggles for 10 years to travel home to his wife and son following the Trojan War—is transformed into Anon, an anonymous young refugee fleeing a violent conflict in his homeland, who is separated from his mother on their way to the United States. Anon, like Odysseus, travels many miles in search of his family, encountering a cast of fascinating characters (both mortal and immortal) along the way.

Iizuka's script reflects this constant movement and Anon's feelings of dislocation in its episodic structure, which director Cecilia Pang has further emphasized in her fluid and immersive staging. While the language you'll hear onstage is contemporary, Iizuka does incorporate a number of theatrical conventions from ancient Greece in her storytelling, including a chorus (imagined here as Anon's fellow migrants and refugees, each of whom has their own unique story to tell). As you watch the play today, we encourage you to pay attention to the Chorus's journey as well as Anon's, and to listen for what the play has to say about different understandings of "home."

Personnel

VIANNEY AGUILAR (Ritu/Sewing Person 1/Chorus) is pursuing a BA in theatre with a minor in multicultural leadership studies, and will be pursuing an accelerated master's degree starting her senior year with an emphasis on applied theatre. Previously acted at CU Boulder in *Yo Soy Una Mujer* (Grandmother Anselma), she also performs in various community theaters in the Colorado area. She is excited to share this story in an unorthodox way, fully immersive.

"Where I come from is roses and fabuloso. Telenovelas and menudo after church. Where I come from is cactus fruit and cacti. The love of my parents and grandparents."

JONNY BASHFORD (Senator Laius/Nice American Father) Is a second year EBio and BA theater double major. He has previously worked on CU Presents' production of *Company* (David) and CU Sandbox's production of *Dog Sees God* (Beethoven). He hopes you enjoy this journey.

"Where I come from is the smell of fried doughballs and the sound of morning doves at sunset."

CONNOR GEORGE (Mr. Yuri Mackus) Is a sophomore psychology major at CU Boulder. He has been performing for as long as he can remember. This is his first main stage show at CU Boulder and hopes he can move you with his performance tonight.

*"Where I come from is the land of angels
Where palm trees tower above your head
Where sand getting stuck in your toes is commonplace
Where I come from the sun never stops shining,"*

AYUSH GHOSH (Proteus/Sewing Person 5/Chorus) majors in physics and theatre at CU Boulder. This is their first mainstage play of their college career, but they have previously worked in CU Sandbox's *Red* (Ken - Understudy), *Dog Sees God* (Sound Board Operator), and several on-screen productions (*Comeback of the Year*; *Intruder*; *A Red Red Rose*; etc.). They are excited to be a part of the most diverse production put on by CU Boulder, and are hoping it will inspire change in the department's seemingly "separate but equal" casting choices.

"Where I come from is vibrant colors and heavenly sounds, is fresh flavors plucked straight out of the ground. Where I come from, the land and sea are a gift, not a privilege; and the beauty of life is a blessing, not a burden."

DEREK HERNANDEZ (Ignacio/Chorus) is a senior studying broadcast journalism with a minor in theatre. He has previously appeared in two other CU Presents shows: *Airness* and *Shakesfear*. He hopes you enjoy his performance at CU Boulder.

“Where I come from is where the granite monolith stands high over the city. Is where the Gods came to have tea in their garden. Is where the water heal those of any illness. Where America Gained its beauty”.

AARON KLASS (Mr. Zyclo) is a nontraditional theatre BA, playwright, and founding member and technical director of Blunt Force Drama Theatre Company in Boulder. He has previously appeared in CU Sandbox’s *Red* (Mark Rothko) and BFD’s *Betrayal* (Jerry). He wrote, directed and designed BFD’s *Ruin*. He also serves as a curator with The Merchant Tailor Museum based in Longmont. “One must imagine Sisyphus happy.”

“Where I come from is thin mountain air and dusty pines. Where I come from is latkes and chile rellenos.”

JACKSON LAUGHLIN (Strygal) is pursuing a BFA degree in acting at CU Boulder. This is his second mainstage show. He is also a singer-songwriter, rapper and producer. He is very excited for this show and hopes you come out of it with a new perspective.

“Where I come from, the world cycles from green to cold as much as the faces of the moon”

BRIANNA MEZA-SAUZAMEDA (Belen/Sewing Person 6/Chorus) is currently in her freshman year at CU Boulder, and is majoring in theatre and minoring in English. This is her first production here and she is very proud to be doing a show about something that is so important to her. She would like to thank her parents for everything they’ve sacrificed for her; it’ll be worth it. She’d also like to thank her siblings, friends and boyfriend, all for making her feel loved.

“Where I come from is salsa roja y verde served with the greatest food in the world and blasting Café Tacbva, Belanova and Maná in the car with my dad. Where I come from is bendiciones before things that scare us, and hugs once it’s over.”

MANU NARASIMHA MOORTHY (Ali/Lone Barfly) is a molecular, cellular and developmental and neuroscience biology major who is, unorthodoxly, pursuing a minor in theater. He has acted in many plays in high school including *Anon(ymous)* itself.

“Where I come from is the monsoon rains with thundering violence and the sun shines warm. Where I come from is bustling traffic and sky streaks with purple.”

DORRIN ASHRAFI SOLTANAHMADI (Sewing Person 3/Chorus) is a sophomore student majoring in computer science (BS) and minoring in data science. She wants to be a successful engineer at big tech companies but also pursue her dreams, such as theater, tennis and playing guitar.

“Where I come from there are mountains that pierce the sky, there is wind playing its instrument, there is fresh scent of every fruit you can ever imagine”

SIENA TAYLOR (Calista/Nice American Daughter) is a freshman at CU. Born and raised in New York with a switching major into BFA musical theatre and a minor in english and journalism. She has been doing musicals and been involved with theater since the young age of 7. This is one of the first straight plays she’s done in college! She’s a big soccer player and an even bigger musician. Her band’s EP is coming out this spring!

“Where I come from is the city that never sleeps.”

KATE THURLOW (Mr. Zyclo’s Pet Bird/Serza/Sewing Person 7/Chorus) majors in BFA acting and biochemistry. She is very excited to be cast in her first mainstage production and has previously worked on CU Sandbox’s *Streetcar Named Desire* (Nurse) and *Dog Sees God* (Female Swing). She hopes you enjoy this powerful show.

“Where I come from is the land of 10,000 lakes and fireflies.”

KENNETH VARELA-AMAYA (Anon) is a third year BFA acting and EBIO double major. He hopes you enjoy the show!

“Where I come from is the land of deserts and cacti. Where I come from is by the line that divides the United States and Mexico. Where I come from is also the name of a dog breed. Where I come from you can either be surrounded by deserts or bustling valleys full of greenery.”

IAN “YOONBAE” VON PECHMANN (Anon Understudy/Chorus) is a junior majoring in math. He has previous experience acting in a TV pilot production and wants to work as a screen actor professionally. This is his first play. *“Where I come from is hanboks, soju and abalone. Is vibrant cities and mountains that pierce the sky.”*

CASEY NOELL WALSH (Helen Laius/Nice American Mother) is a sixth year undergraduate in the BFA acting program. She’s graduating in May 2024. She was previously Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Climate Cabaret* (Ensemble). She is aiming to become a voice actress after graduation. *“Where I come from is redwood trees and morning fog. Is kielbasa on the holidays and cuddling dogs. Is the warm summer sun filtering through thousands of leaves.”*

COSMO WANG (Sewing Person 2/Chorus) is a fifth year neuroscience student minoring in theatre and CTD. Previously worked as a crew member, this is the first time for them to participate as an actor. They wish you to enjoy the show. *“Where I come from is winter nights illuminated by giant ice sculptures, and rivers covered with ice so thick you can hold an entire carnival on them.”*

SARAH ZIMAH (Nasreen/Sewing Person 4) is a sophomore double majoring in sociology and theatre. She worked on *Bi-Passing* this recent summer and will be auditioning for the BFA acting program in March. Her future dreams include acting, social work, and buying her mother a house. *“Where I come from is the smell of morning dew and LeAnn Rimes ‘You light up my Life’ playing in the kitchen.”*

LIV BLAKESLEE (Stage Manager) is a senior BA theater major. Previously worked on CU Presents’ *Airness*, *Catapult*, *Always/Already* and CU Sandbox’s *The Performers*.

GWEN BURKE (Light Board Operator) is a second year BFA student in the DTM program with a focus on scenic design and carpentry. Burke has previously worked on shows as assistant scenic designer for *Working: A Musical* and scenic designer for the Student Sandbox Series, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. This is her first time as a board operator, she hopes you enjoy all the lighting cues!

HAYLEY DELICH (Scenic Charge Artist) is a second year student in the BFA DTM program with a focus in scenic design. Delich has previously worked as a scenic designer on shows such as *The Revolutionists*, Sandbox's production of *Red*, and is currently designing *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Delich also served as the charge artist on *Working: A Musical*, *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *The Revolutionists*, as well as the scenic representative for the Sandbox Student Series.

LILIANA EURICH (Assistant Costume Designer) is pursuing a major in BFA Design, Technology, and Management with an emphasis on Costume Design and Production, and serves as the Costume Representative for CU's Sandbox. She has experience as the design assistant for *Working, A Musical*, and as the costume designer for *The Little Mermaid Jr.* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She works in CU Boulder's costume shop and will continue until she graduates. She hopes to someday be a full-time costume designer and have her own studio. She is very excited to be a part of the team behind *Anon(ymous)* and hopes that everyone will find the show intriguing and eye opening.

"Where I come from crisp purple mountains touch the clouds, and rivers and birds sing a melody."

HEATHER KELLEY (Dramaturg) is a PhD Candidate in theatre & performance studies at CU Boulder who has proudly taught this play in her theatre & society class. Previous CU Boulder credits include: *Appropriate* (Toni), *Kaidan+* (Assistant Director), *Airness* (Assistant Director), and *ShakesFEAR* (Co-Director).

ADRIAN KNAPPERTZ (Sound Designer) is a graduating senior getting a BA in theatre with a concentration in sound design. This is the second show they have designed at CU Boulder, the first being last year's production of *Antigone, as Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's* for which they earned a Certificate of Meritorious Achievement in Sound Design by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. They're incredibly grateful for everything they've learned throughout this process and their career at CU Boulder, and they hope you enjoy the show!

EMILY A. MADDOX (Lighting Designer): This is Emily A. Maddox's first production with the University of Colorado Boulder. Maddox attended the University of Oklahoma where she received her BFA in drama in 2014. She has had the privilege of working in 54 different theatres and performance spaces throughout Colorado in her time here. Her recent designs include *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years* and *The Odd Couple* (Firehouse Theater Company); *The Last Session* (Town Hall Arts Center); *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Headliners*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Cherry Creek Theatre); *Poe's Midnight Dreary* (Community College of Aurora); *Cabaret* and *In the Heights* (Vintage Theatre). Maddox was the recipient of a 2023 Henry Award for her work on *The Royale* (Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado) and a 2023 Onstage Colorado Award for her work on *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Cherry Creek Theatre).

KYRA MACGREGOR (Assistant Stage Manager) studies BFA acting and stage management. She wants to teach kids theatre focused on the human experience. She previously worked on CU Presents' *Working*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *ShakesFEAR* and *Kaidan+*.

"Where I come from is the land of rolling green hills, men in plaid skirts, Guinness and whiskey. Where I come from has the pipes blaring strong, swords that clash, and dancers who leap in the air."

SOPHIE WILLS (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a third year transfer student in the BFA in design, technology and management, focusing primarily on technical direction. This is her first mainstage show at CU Boulder and she hopes to be involved in many more. She has previously designed for Sandbox's production of *Dog Sees God*, and Texas A&M University's production of *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco.

Theatre & Dance Production Team

Stage Manager

Liv Blakeslee

Assistant Stage Manager

Kyra MacGregor

Run Crew

Sabiela Woldemichael

Ali Cox

Ashley Cazier

Gwen Burke

Alina Teh

Georgie Armatas

Light Board Programmer

Zoe Gidiere

Costume Shop

Production Assistants: Ali Cox, Sara David, Elena Diederich, Liliana Eurich, Koral Jackson, Kirra Lindauer, Joan McEnhill, Wulfgar Parmenter, Brooke Rawcliffe, Hailey Roller, Norah Schaefer, Emily Zhou
Practicum: Marisa Dinsmoor, Kees Nachbahr, Emma Quirk, Norah Schaefer, Libby Shull

Dance Production

Technical Crew: Sam Blagg, Devin Garza, Hoang Nguyen, Alessa Oltman, Kaia Schiff, Cadence Ryan, Edward Lee, Devon Beckum, Maya Walker, Sasha Trubitsyna, Katrina Chandrashekar Sonwane, Kate Gomez Moore, Harveen Gill, Alston Tyndall

Scenery and Electrics

Production Assistants: Madelyn Albright, Olivia Allen, Cheri Bauman, Lilly Bergen, Gwen Burke, Hayley Delich, Franco Devecchi, Adam Garb, Xan Gardner, Isabella Jones, Aspen Kimlicko, Adrian Knappertz, Emily Littlefield, Kyra MacGregor, Alessa Oltman, Maggie Schneider, Kai Symons, Kevin White, Sophie Wills, Rachel Zwerenz

Lighting Practicum Students: Mikayla Jassem

The Students of 2050: Roan Cochrane, Zoe Cooper, James Corness, Diego Gelpcke, Maddy Goldberg, Gideon Harris, Koral Jackson, Adrian Knappertz, Jackson Laughlin, Elliott Lewis, Sophie Lisle, Emily Littlefield, Dakota Makinen, Declan Manion, Layla Middleton, Thylyn Moore, Alesa Moskal, Manu Narasimha Moorthy, Tai Ngo, Sam Nicastro, Jenna Rose, Leon Spiess, Jude Stivers, Oliver Szabo, Jacob Turner, Ellison Wavra, Sam Weingart, Ellen Wyatt

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap below to explore your options.



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