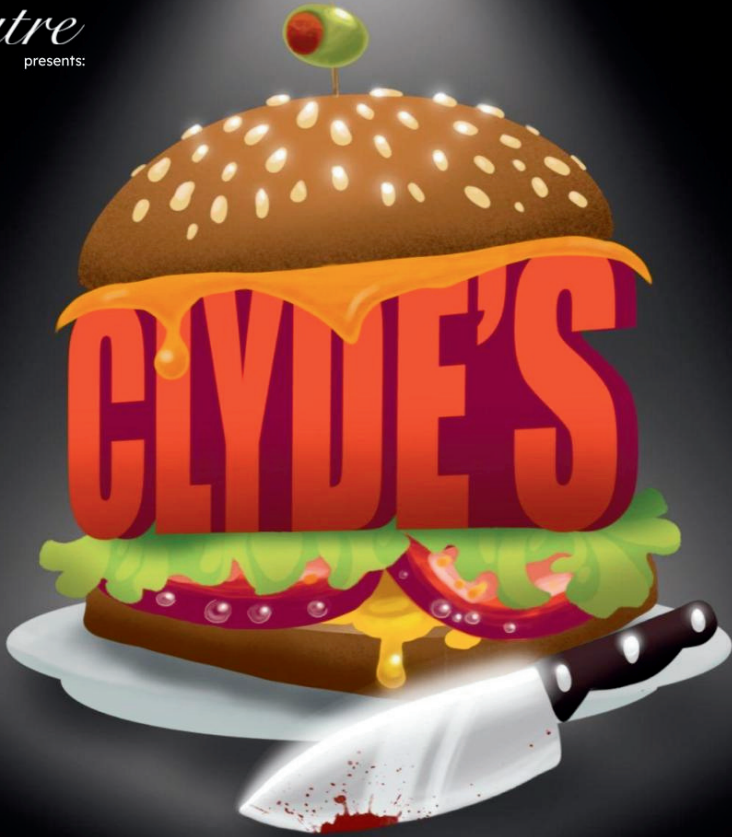


Knox College

*theatre*

presents:



Written by

**Lynn Nottage**

Directed by

**Deana Nichols**

A comedy about power. And hope. And sandwiches

Harbach Theatre, CFA

Feb. 22-23, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Feb. 24, 2024 @ 2pm & 7:30pm

All performances will be followed by a post-show discussion.

## Welcome to the second faculty-directed production of the Department of Theatre 2023-24 Season.

We are thrilled to once again be able to celebrate with you the power of the stage. Our current season on the Harbach Theatre stage consists of plays from the contemporary theatre. All three of the faculty-directed plays are in conversation with critical social and political issues currently facing our nation and our world: inclusion, accountability of the powerful, and damage to the vulnerable. Our fall production of Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky*, directed by Liz Carlin Metz, shared the stories of three representatives of "The Harvard Computers," women that classified, cataloged, and documented the star photographs taken by Harvard astronomers (men) from all of the world and whose work led directly to our modern understanding of the universe. Deana Nichols directs our current production, *Clyde's*, by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage. In *Clyde's* we drop in on a truck stop sandwich shop that offers its formerly incarcerated kitchen staff a shot at redemption. Even as the shop's callous owner tries to keep them down, the staff members learn to reclaim their lives, find purpose, and become inspired to dream by their shared quest to create the perfect sandwich. In spring term, Jeff Grace will direct the moving and ethereal *The Coast Starlight*, in which a young man boards a long-distance train that runs from Los Angeles to Seattle. He's got a secret that can land him in terrible trouble, and he has roughly one thousand miles to enlist the help of his fellow travelers – all of whom are reckoning with their own choices in search of a way forward. Keith Bunin's new play is a smart, funny, and compassionate story about our capacity for invention and reinvention when life goes off the rails. All aboard – come celebrate with us!

-- Liz Carlin Metz, Chair

## THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Smith V. Brand Distinguished Prof. of Theatre.....Liz Carlin Metz  
Associate Professor of Theatre.....Craig Choma  
Associate Professor of Theatre.....Jeff Grace  
Assistant Professor of Theatre.....Deana Nichols  
Director of Costume & Makeup.....Allison Smith Hahn  
Professor of Practice.....Sherwood Kiraly

Knox College Theatre  
presents

# CLYDE'S

by Lynn Nottage

Directed by Deana Nichols

Scenic Design by Craig Choma

Costume Design by Allison Smith Hahn

Sound Design by Mei Zuch

Props Design by Grace Dinges  
and Susan Gibbs

Please: No photographs, video, texting, or recording. Turn off all cell phones, notification alerts, or anything else that may emit light or sound.

Content Information:



World Premiere by the Guthrie Theater. Originally commissioned by Joe Dowling and produced by Joseph Haj, Artistic Directors.  
Broadway Premiere produced by Second Stage Theater, New York, 2021 (Carole Rothman, Artistic Director; Khady Kamara, Executive Director).

## CAST

CLYDE.....Addison Anderson  
MONTRELOUS.....Kwintyn Essex  
RAFAEL.....Esteban Lopez  
LETITIA.....Keyera Williams  
JASON.....Zion Clarke

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Deana Nichols  
Assistant Director.....Kamana'okekai Lattig  
Technical Director.....Craig Choma  
Stage Managers.....Bria Gilliam, Cole Songster  
Scenic Designer.....Craig Choma  
Assistant Scenic Designer.....Hadley Mollman  
Lead Carpenter.....Gwen Heidank  
Scenic Artist.....Hadley Mollman  
Scenery & Lighting T.A.s.....Nida Baig, Leah Binzel, Grace  
Dinges, Gwen Heidank, Tara Irani,  
Andreas McDonald, Hadley Mollman,  
Nicole Ruby, Mei Zuch  
Scene Shop Volunteer.....Alan Plascencia  
Costume Designer.....Allison Smith Hahn  
Costume Studio Technical Artists.....Daisy Buchanan,  
Amanda Jens, JoJo Ludington,  
Carissa Medlock, Zo Peterson,  
Soran Rubio, Audra Steinbrugge  
Lighting Designer.....Craig Choma  
Lead Electrician.....Tara Irani  
Lighting Board Operator.....Bria Gilliam  
Sound Designer.....Mei Zuch  
Assistant Sound Designer.....Cole Songster  
Sound Board Operator.....Cole Songster  
Props Designers.....Grace Dinges, Susan Gibbs  
Assistant Props Designer.....Siena Adwere-Boamah  
Deck Supervisor.....Siena Adwere-Boamah

Deck Crew.....Delaney Edsall, Aswini Venkatesh  
Facilities Management Assistant.....Gwen Heidank  
Production Consultant.....T.Y. Stone  
Dramaturgy Team.....Nyah Brown, Daisy Buchanan,  
Zion Clarke, Jonas Dodge, Bruno  
Freitas, Susan Gibbs, Gwen Heidank,  
Nathan Hill, Kamana’okekai Lattig,  
J. Porter, Cole Songster, Casey  
Stark, Mei Zuch

## Lynn Nottage

by Susan Gibbs

Lynn Nottage is a world-renowned playwright from Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.A. from Brown University (1986) and MFA from Yale School of Drama (1989), and returned to Brown University to receive her DFA (2011). Nottage has also received Honorary degrees from Albright College and Julliard.



Nottage is known for writing plays based on the experiences of the working classes, particularly working-class African Americans. Some of her most famous plays include *Intimate Apparel* (2003), *Ruined* (2008), *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (2011), *Sweat* (2015), and *Clyde’s* (2021). She has won over 50 awards for her many works including (but not limited to): Tony Awards for Best Play (*Sweat* and *Clyde’s*), Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Play (*Ruined*, *Sweat*, and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*), Obie Awards for Best New American Play (*Sweat*, *Ruined*, and *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine*), and most notably two Pulitzer Prizes for her plays *Sweat* and *Ruined*.

She has collaborated with others on many projects as well. She wrote the book for *MJ the Musical* and *The Secret Life of Bees*. She wrote the librettos for the operas *Intimate Apparel* (based on her play of the same name), *This House*, and *The Highlands*. She co-conceived and co-created two multimedia installations, *This is Reading* and *The Watering Hole*. Nottage also co-founded a film company with her husband, Tony Gerber, called Market Road Films, where she developed original content ideas for several television companies, including HBO and Showtime.

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**ADDISON ANDERSON** (Clyde) graduated in Fall 2023 with a BA in Elementary Education and minors in French and Theatre. She is currently working in Galesburg as a middle school reading interventionist. At Knox, she has appeared on stage in shows such as *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You*, *Machinal*, *We are Pussy Riot or Everything is P.R.*, and most recently as Vicky in *Bright Half Life*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and her friends and family for always being there. Addison loves a spicy fried chicken sandwich with pickles, and is from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**ZION CLARKE** (Jason) is a junior. Zion intends to double major in Theatre and Arts Administration, and his passion in life is acting. Favorite roles include Prairie Players' production of *Harvey* (Sanderson), Ajax/Clete in his high school's production of *You Have The Right To Remain Dead*, and Christopher in Knox's production of *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*. Zion would like to say thank you to all who come out and support this show, as well as to all of his friends that have supported him in his endeavors! Zion is from San Antonio, Texas.

**KWINTYN ESSEX** (Montrellous) is a senior majoring in Biology and minoring in Theatre. At their high school they performed in *West Side Story* (Juano), *The Sound of Music* (Franz), *Our Town* (Ensemble), and *Curious Savage* (Jeffrey). At Knox, he has appeared in plays such as *The Language Archive* (Resten), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Roger), and a New Play called *Cirque de Verre* (Michael). He has met wonderful people during these productions and enjoys every moment of time spent with them. Kwintyn is from Alsip, Illinois.

**ESTEBAN LOPEZ** (Rafael) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Environmental Studies. He has acted in *The Lindworm* (Sasha), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Ensemble), *We Are Pussy Riot or Everything is P.R.* (Patriarch, Professor Mihailgor, Ensemble), *Dear Elizabeth* (Robert Lowell #1), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Ed), various plays for New Plays Workshop and New Plays Festival, and the devised play, *Laundromat* (Avery). His goal is to act on a Broadway stage in order to put on shows at community theatres around the country. He would like to thank friends and family for being a constant support along the bumpy road less traveled, Knox's theatre department for helping him to develop his love for the stage, and you for coming to support Knox's production of *Clyde's*. Esteban is from Chicago, Illinois.

**KEYERA WILLIAMS** (Letitia) is a freshman majoring in Music and otherwise undecided. Some of her favorite roles include Peoria Players' *Aladdin* (Manal/Genie Dancer) and Group Interpretation's *Matilda* (Mr. Wormwood/ Ensemble). This is her first show at Knox and first big role in theater. She would like to thank her director for this opportunity, the cast for being encouraging and such nice people to work with, and friends and family for always supporting her dream and being there. Keyera is from Peoria, Illinois.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**DEANA NICHOLS** (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre. She received both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Theatre History, Theory, and Literature from Indiana University. At Knox she has directed Julia Cho's *The Language Archive*, Larissa FastHorse's *The Thanksgiving Play*, and Sarah Treem's *The How and the Why*; previous to Knox, her work has included *Theatre Uncut*, *Knives in Hens*, *Independence*, and new work *Catalina*. Deana is a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

**KAMANA'OKEKAI LATTIG** (Assistant Director) is a third-year student at Knox College. She was the resident stage manager of Canby Community College from 2018-2020 and stage manager for Canby High School from 2017-2020. At Knox, Kamana was the stage manager for three faculty directed plays – including two other productions with Deana – and assistant director for *Bright Half Life*. Kamana made her directorial debut with NR Ivan's *The Kassandriad* this past fall. She has also been one of the Production Managers of Knox's Theatre Advisory Board for two years. Kamana is originally from Canby, Oregon.

**CRAIG CHOMA** (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer) is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Knox Theatre's resident designer and technical director. Favorite Knox designs include *Silent Sky*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The How and the Why*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Drowning Girls*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, *The Caffè Cino Project*, *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*, *The Green Bird*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Under Construction*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *Euripides' Medea*, *Angels in America*, *Intimate Apparel*, *The Skriker*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *War and Peace*, and *Macbeth*. Craig has designed both sets and/or lights professionally in Chicago, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Ohio, Toronto, Canada, and Avignon, France. Craig designs for both theatre and dance, and he enjoys each equally. He has designed in proscenium, thrust, and arena spaces, small storefront theaters, converted churches and libraries, and site-specific locations. He has been the production designer for a number of fundraising events, and he

has collaborated on court cases, creating forensic models to be used in the presentation of evidence. Craig holds a B.A. in Theatre and Philosophy from Knox College (1993), and MFA's in both Scenic and Lighting Design from Carnegie Mellon University (1996). Craig is originally from Chicago, Illinois.

**HADLEY MOLLMAN** (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior at Knox majoring in Theatre. Recently they have been seen in *The Kassandriad* (Kassandra), *The Wolves* (#14), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander) at Knox, and in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Jerome) and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Pirelli) at Village Theatre. Scenic design credits include *Laundromat* and *The Kassandriad* at Knox. When they're not in the theatre, Hadley can be found in the Knox College Choir and Chamber Singers, or playing guitar and fiddle with their folk band. They also work as Publicity Coordinator for Theatre Advisory Board and Tour Manager for Choir Board, in addition to working in the scene shop. They would like to thank their family and friends for the support and the adventures. Hadley is from Seattle, Washington.

**ALLISON SMITH HAHN** (Costume Designer) is an instructor, resident costume designer, and costume studio manager. She received her BA from Knox, studying under the mentorship of Margo Shively and serving as a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow in the Costume Studio. Chicagoland costume designs include *Multitudes* and *pool (no water)* (Vitalist Theatre); *Good People*, *The American Clock*, *Red, I and You*, and *Another Bone* (Redtwist, resident designer); *Rhinoceros* (Theatre Heist); *Miles Away*, *Mike and Seth*, *Hello Failure*, *Through the Leaves*, and *Request Concert* (Side Project Theatre); *How to Succeed in Business [...] and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Wilmette Center for the Arts); and *Next Fall* (AstonRep). Allison holds an MLIS (University of Illinois) and is most recently from Chicago, Illinois.

**MEI ZUCH** (Sound Designer) is a junior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Music. Mei has been a part of multiple productions in the Knox Theatre Department, including *Silent Sky* (Henrietta), *The Kassandriad* (Sound Designer), *The Wolves* (#8, Sound Designer), *Antigonick* (Stage Manager, Sound Designer), and *The Language Archive* (Emma), and also co-organizes New Plays Workshop for the Theatre Advisory Board. Outside of theatre, Mei is a member of the Knox College Choir and Knox Chamber Singers, a singer for the pop band Chicxulub, and a member of the Club Water Polo team. Mei is thrilled to be able to work on *Clyde's* and is grateful and for the support of friends and family throughout the process. Mei is from Portland, Oregon.



**GRACE DINGES** (Co-Props Designer) is a sophomore at Knox majoring in Theatre. They have been involved in theatre both onstage and off since 2013. Previous Knox credits in prop design include *Laundromat*, *The Language Archive*, *The Aliens*, and *Kassandriad*. They have also been involved with stage management (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), lighting design (Terpsichore Dance Collective Winter 2023, Fall 2023, *Aetherius Veritas*), video production and projections (*Les Miserables Medley*), directing (New Plays Workshop Fall 2022, *Les Miserables Medley*), and scenic art (*The Wolves*). Grace is from Pullman, Washington.

**SUSAN GIBBS** (Co-Props Designer) is a 5th-year Theatre major and Music minor. Previous Knox design credits include *Dear Elizabeth* (Props Designer), *We Are Pussy Riot or Everything is P.R.* (Props Designer), *The Laundromat* (Props Designer), *The Language Archive* (Co-Props Designer), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Props Designer), *Les Miserables Medley* (Costume Designer), and *Silent Sky* (Props Designer). She is the lead singer in Knox's funk-fusion band, Strawberry M.I.L.F. ("Man I Love Funk"), and is currently applying to graduate school. Susan wishes for the whole company to break a leg, and would like to thank her parents, professors, friends, and partner for supporting her through all of her theatrical endeavors. Susan is from St. Louis, Missouri.

**SIENA ADWERE-BOAMAH** (Assistant Props Designer) is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Anthropology & Sociology, and she is new to the theatre department! She is currently an admissions ambassador, psychology/psych stats tutor, and member of Roleplay Club, and spends much of her time making prop weapons and costuming. She is super excited to be a part of *Clyde's* and gives thanks to Kamana for giving her the opportunity! Siena is from Palo Alto, California.

**COLE SONGSTER** (Co-Stage Manager) is a junior majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing. His involvement in Knox Theatre includes *Silent Sky* (Peter), *The Aliens* (KJ), *Antigonick* (Nick), *Play* (Director/Writer), *The Language Archive* (Old Men), and *Sure Thing* (Bill). He is currently a Production Manager for the Theatre Advisory Board, Playwriting Editor for *Quiver*, and sings with the Knox College Choir and Chamber Singers. Cole is from Portland, Oregon.

**BRIA GILLAM** (Co-Stage Manager) is a first-year student planning to major in Computer Science. *Clyde's* is Bria's first production with Knox Theatre. Before Knox, she was involved with Lighting Design and Board Operation in high school productions. Outside of the theater, Bria is an Admission Ambassador. She is from San Diego, California.

# The Origins of *Clyde's*: Reading, Pennsylvania and *Sweat*

by Kamana'okekai Lattig and Cole Songster

Lynn Nottage wrote *Clyde's* to help amplify the voices of incarcerated people and teach the audience that the issue of incarceration is not as polarized as society teaches us to believe. The characters find hope and acceptance in the form of sandwiches. However, *Clyde's* is the result of research that Nottage conducted for a different play called *Sweat*, which is set near the same city and addresses the overarching economic concerns that plague *Clyde's*.

In 2011, Lynn Nottage read an article from the New York Times called "Reading, Pa., Knew It Was Poor. Now It Knows Just How Poor." This article inspired her to document the people of Reading, Pennsylvania through a series of interviews with residents. She took extra care to learn about the stories of her interviewees and their relationship to the economic tension that stemmed from hyper-urbanization. She noticed that residents were "incredibly nostalgic for this glorious imagined past." An eventual winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Sweat* was a result of more than two years of research in Reading. It captures the long-term ramifications of Reading's mass urbanization, emphasizing its damaging effects on the working-class community.

The economic condition of Reading, Pennsylvania in the early 21st century was one of rapid worsening. Between 2001–2011, the state saw the loss of 258,000 middle income factory jobs. These jobs had, over the years, been built up as reliable and common jobs by the unions that represented them – and through their loss, the community of Reading suffered greatly. The percentage of Reading's population in poverty increased from 19% to 40% between 1990 and 2014. This issue was being mirrored on the national stage, as 40% of the increase in joblessness between 2000–2011 was due to the decline of manufacturing jobs. Workers were therefore left with nowhere to transfer their skills to, as the jobs they had built their lives on were simply vanishing from the country. Unions also saw rapid decline—with union membership going from 20% of the country in 1983 to only 10% in 2022. This left workers without the power to bargain, and as a result we have seen a 90% decrease in the use of strikes in the last four decades, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor.

However, just as *Clyde's* celebrates the humanity and community these characters find, it is worth celebrating the spirits of solidarity that linger in Reading. One such example was on May 1st, 2017, when an organization called Make the Road Pennsylvania organized a group strike that shut down around 75% of the business in Reading. This was organized by the working class Latinx community and was in protest to the county sheriff's plan to allow his deputies to work as immigration agents. This action demonstrated that even as conditions have worsened, the community can provide a way to fight back — in Montrellous's words in *Clyde's*, there is "always a way out."

Selected sources:

Crompton, Sarah. "Playwright Lynn Nottage: 'We Are a Country That Has Lost Our Narrative.'" *The Observer*, 2 Dec. 2018.

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Rubinkam, Michael. "Income Gap Widens as U.S. Factories Shut Down." *USA Today*, 15 June 2014.

Tavernise, Sabrina. "Reading, Pa., Knew It Was Poor. Now It Knows Just How Poor." *The New York Times*, 27 Sept. 2011.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Chairperson.....Liz Carlin Metz  
House Management.....Student Volunteers  
Box Office.....Student Volunteers  
Tickets.....Jeff Grace, Deana Nichols  
Ushers.....Student Volunteers  
Contract Licensing.....Jennifer Lazarz  
Publicity.....Cast & Crew  
Poster Design.....Eli Mueller  
Programs.....Deana Nichols

# THANKS

Abolition for All Time Humanities Lab (knoxabolitionlab.org)

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Rudy Martinez

Liz Carlin Metz

Michael Schneider

Leanne Trapedo-Sims



Brn Wrthy was founded by T.Y. Stone, the Production Consultant for *Clyde's*. Brn Worthy has the commitment to empower our future leaders and provide them with essential resources. This will be achieved by allocating 5% of sales towards purchasing and renovating available infrastructure needed to create safe spaces and offer crucial support services. Services to include, but not limited to, clothing, meals, vocational training, mental health support, and general healthcare. By supporting Brn Wrthy, you support our commitment to young individuals and help us get closer to the goals of providing the tools necessary to overcome adversity and succeed in life.

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