

# BURN/THIS

A PLAY BY LANFORD WILSON



**JANUARY 25-27 & FEBRUARY 1-3, 2024 • 7:30PM, DOORS AT 7:00**  
**JANUARY 28 & FEBRUARY 4, 2024 • 3PM, DOORS AT 2:30**

**Ujima Company, Inc. Theatre**  
**429 Plymouth Ave Suite #2, Buffalo, NY 14213**

**Tickets: General Admission: \$30**

**Industry: \$20 at the door • Student: \$20 at the door with ID**

**Viewer Discretion Advised**



**BellissimaProductions.com • bellissimaproductions1@gmail.com • 716-218-8530**

# **CONTENT WARNING:**

**SEXUAL THEMES AND SIMULATED SEXUAL ACTS, STRONG LANGUAGE, SIMULATED USE OF DRUGS AND DRINKING**

**ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

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A PLAY BY LANFORD WILSON

**January 25-28 and February 1-4, 2024**

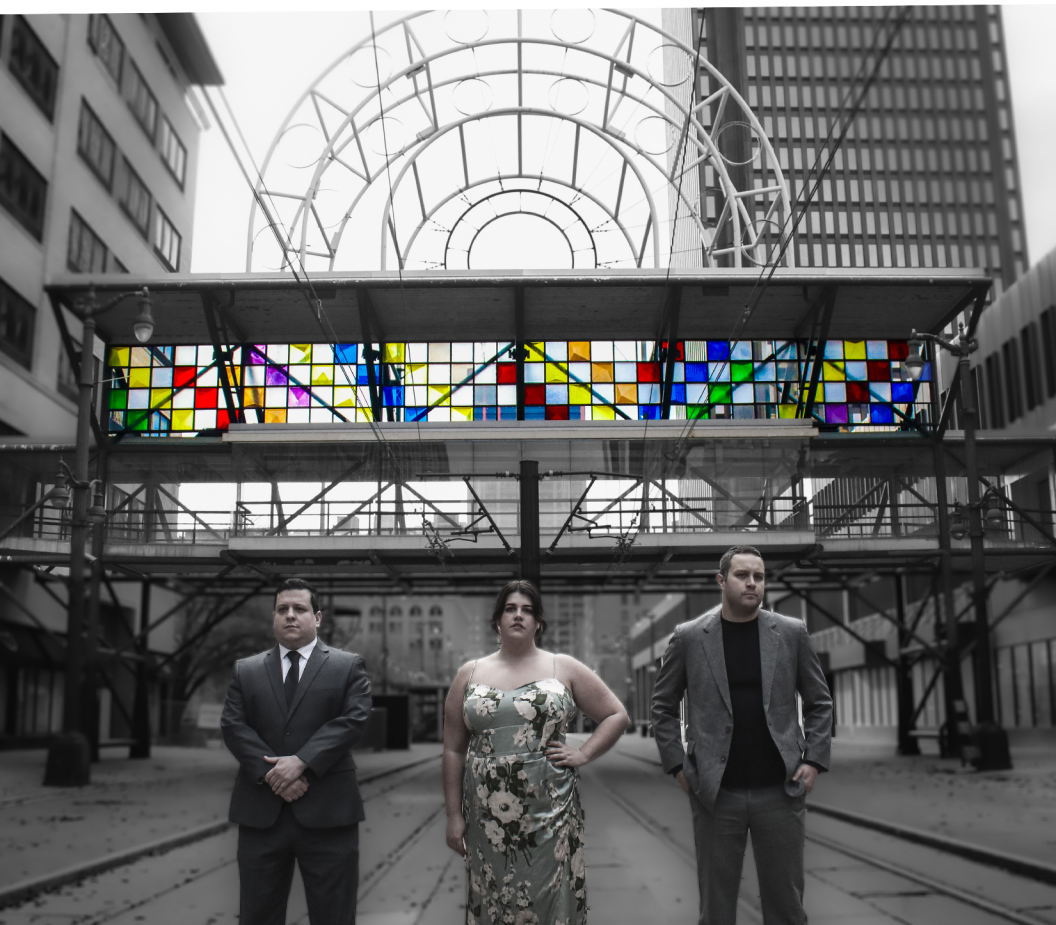
**Directed by Nicolette Navarro**

**Produced by Bellissima Productions**

**"Burn/This" is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**

# ABOUT THE SHOW

The place is a Manhattan loft shared by Anna, a lithe young dancer-choreographer, and her two gay roommates—her collaborator, Robbie, who has just been killed in a freak boating accident, and Larry, a world-weary, caustically funny young advertising executive. As the play begins Anna is recovering from attending Robbie's funeral, comforted by her wealthy, well-meaning boyfriend, Burton, a sci-fi screenwriter whose persistent proposals of marriage Anna finds herself unable to accept. Then, with sudden, unexpected explosiveness, Robbie's older brother, Pale, bursts on the scene. He has come to collect his brother's belongings—but stays on to transform the action of the play and the lives of those in it. Menacing, profane, dangerous, and yet oddly sensitive, Pale is both terrifying and fascinating and, in the end, the one who brings to Anna the unsettling but compelling love that, despite her fears and doubts, she cannot turn away.







# BIOS

**Ben Caldwell (Pale)** was recently seen as Roger in Bellissima's RENT. Previous credits: 12 Mo' Angry Men at Ujima Company, Measure for Measure with Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Mediocre Heterosexual Sex with Buffalo United Artists, As You Like It with Shakespeare in Delaware Park, The Oregon Trail at Alleyway, and Smart People with Ujima Company, coming soon: Alice Childress' Wedding Band for Ujima. Ben is a graduate of Medaille College. He would like to thank Nicolette and Bellissima, Mr. Wilson, Marissa, Mom, Dad, Jenna, and Staysh, Ujima Company and Lorna C. Hill.

**Matt Giangreco (Burton)** was recently seen in Bellissima's RENT, Head Over Heels, and Dogfight. Matt is a Student Dentist at UB School of Dental Medicine. He would like to thank his amazing wife Kathryn, the entire cast and crew for their hard work, Ujima for hosting us, and to his family and friends for indulging and supporting him in everything he does.

**Karen Harty (Anna)** is grateful to be back at Bellissima. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University and she has been putting it to use in this piece. As a frequent flier in the musicals around town, it's been a joy to start the year with a straight play. Some recent credits include Head Over Heels (Gynecia) and Dogfight (Rose) here at Bellissima, Legally Blonde (Enid) at MusicalFare Theatre, and Beauty and the Beast (Mrs. Potts u/s) at the Theatre of Youth. Thank you to my wonderful family and friends for your support and love! Thank you (extra) to Matt. Thank you most (this time) to Nick. I love you.

**Zachary Murphy (Larry)** is making his Bellissima debut! Previous credits: The Echoes of the Brimstone Club (Emcee) at Cedar Point, The Coaster Crew (Luca Laff) at HersheyPark, NU Theatre credits: Cabaret (Emcee), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (The D'Ysquith Heirs), Us and Them (Tino), Moving Back Home: NUDance Theatre (Dancer), coming soon: Cinderella (Jean-Michel) at the Lockport Palace Theatre. Zachary is a recent graduate of Niagara University, BFA in Theatre Studies: Performance and a minor in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. He would like to thank all his friends and family for their never ending love and support and to the NU Theatre faculty for everything they have done!

# DIRECTORS NOTE

Hello everyone!

Thank you all for coming to Bellissima's Burn/This. Bellissima is currently in our sixth season! Bellissima has been a labor of love and whether this is your first or tenth time seeing us, we appreciate your support. If you follow us, you know that our theatre, Marie Maday, along with props, furniture, costumes, and technical elements were destroyed due to the Christmas blizzard, and we have pivoted to adapt our seasons for the next few years.

I saw Burn/This in 2019 on Broadway starring Adam Driver, Kerri Russell, and Brandon Uranowitz, and I was in love with this play. Not only were the actors great, but the dialogue was smart and witty and the story was so captivating. It was a story of identity, love, and friendship through the lens of loss. After leaving the theatre, I wanted to do this play at Bellissima. I am so incredibly lucky to direct this show with this awe-inspiring cast. These characters are complicated and complex, and Karen, Ben, Zach, and Matt you have navigated them beautifully. I have loved our rehearsals that feel like we are playing and exploring together. You all have made me a better director, I can't wait for audiences to see what we have made together.

As both the director of this show and the Artistic Director of this company, I truly want to thank our patrons for coming to see a Bellissima Productions show. Everyone who put this show together is passionate about theatre and each other, and we appreciate you supporting new artists and work.

-Nicolette Navarro

# THANK YOU!

Brian Brown & Ujima  
Configuration Dance Studio  
Rosaria Monte



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# Bellissima Productions 2023-2024 Season

