

# Program



**FUSE**  
THEATRE OF CT

# Lost Girl

*A Play by Kimberly Belflower*



July 22 at 7:30 pm ·  
July 23 at 3:00 pm ·  
July 23 at 7:30 pm  
Gateway Christian  
Fellowship,  
129 Bull Hill Ln,  
West Haven, CT



271 Elm Street  
West Haven, CT 06516  
[www.fusetheatrect.org](http://www.fusetheatrect.org)  
Instagram: @fusetheatrect  
Facebook: @fusetheatrect  
#fuseislit

### **FUSE Board of Directors**

Noah Golden, Chair  
Jake Egan O'Hara, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Santaus, Treasurer  
Lara Morton, Secretary  
Barbara Sonenstein, Director

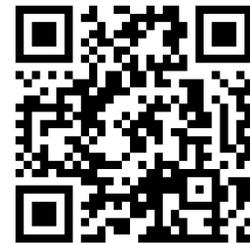
### JOIN US!

FUSE Theatre of CT is looking to expand its board of directors and creative team. If you or someone you know might be a great fit for FUSE, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at  
[info@fusetheatrect.org](mailto:info@fusetheatrect.org)  
(203) 314-3394

FUSE is an inclusive, highly collaborative 501 (c)(3) non-profit arts organization dedicated to educational outreach, development of new works, opportunities for career-oriented artists, exemplary training programs and a commitment to producing high quality theatrical productions in the Greater New Haven area.

Mission: "To ignite a passion for theatre in youth and adults in CT."



**This production has been made possible through grants from the following supporting organizations:**



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

Office Of The Arts



**FUSE**

THEATRE OF CT

# Lost Girl

*A Play by Kimberly Belflower*

Directed by Lara Morton

Movement by  
Sue Dresser

Underscoring by  
Lydia Arache

Produced by  
Noah Golden

Costumes by  
Lara Morton

Elizabeth Santaus

Nightwing Whitehead

This production runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.

"Lost Girl" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# Cast



Mother/Nina.....RILEY ARENBERG  
Curley/Doctor.....EMMA BENDER  
B/Callie.....EMMA BLANCHETTE  
Peter/Slightly.....ANDREW JAMES BLEIDNER  
A/Cora.....GWEN GERSICK-SEWARD  
Nibs/Detective.....DEMARIE LOPEZ  
C/Krista.....SERENA MCFARLAND  
Wendy.....ABIGAIL PAIGE  
Toodles/Therapist.....DYLLAN SIEGMUND  
Boy.....JUSTIN WARGO

Lift Captains: Andrew James Bleidner & Serena McFarland

# *Creative Team*



Director.....LARA MORTON

Assistant Director.....KEONA GOMES

Stage Manager.....CJ BURDO

Movement.....SUE DRESSER

Costumes.....LARA MORTON

NIGHTWING WHITEHEAD

Underscore.....LYDIA ARACHNE

Lighting.....KENNY SELDON

Sound.....HERB RUBIO

Mic Technician.....RICH IVES

Creative Producer  
NOAH GOLDEN

Executive Producer  
ELIZABETH SANTAUS

# Bios

---



**Riley Arenberg (Nina/Mother)**, she/her, has loved theatre since she was small and is thrilled to be part of Fuse's "Lost Girl." She's performed as Mrs. Webb in "Our Town," The Bakers Wife in "Into The Woods," Eurydice in "Antigone," The Fairy Godmother in a Covid-canceled production of "Cinderella," and a number of other shows. She is currently writing her own screenplay adaptation of Emily Brönte's 'Wuthering Heights.'

**Emma Bender (Curly/Doctor)**, she/her, is a junior at Quinnipiac University studying theater. Past performances include: Anfisa ("The Three Sisters"), Angus/Second Apparition ("Macbeth"), and Anne/Monster Under the Bed/Nightmare ("4 A.M. Stay-At-Home Edition"). When not performing, Bender can be found curled up with a good book or watching a hockey game. She is excited to be making her Fuse debut with this show and wishes to thank Fuse Theatre for this opportunity.



**Emma Blanchette (B/Callie)**, she her, is a rising high school junior thrilled to join this excellent cast for her third production with Fuse. Audiences may recognize her most recently from our November production of 'All Together Now!', or our Spring 2021 production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical," portraying Hermia and singing the boppy love duet, "The Course of True Love" by Fuse resident Composer Lydia Arachne. Other roles include Adelaide in "Guys & Dolls Jr.," Molly in "Annie," and Little Ti Moune in "Once on This Island" (Square Foot Theatre,

Wallingford, CT). She's also had various ensemble and supporting roles in productions of "Moana Jr.," "Seussical Jr.," "The Little Mermaid," "Elf Jr.," and "Shrek Jr." She has training in acting, dancing, music, voice, and studies and performs comedy improv with director Lara Morton's home-grown group FOCUS Teen Improv. She'd like to thank her former theatre teacher, Matthew Young, for helping her grow as a serious actor. "It is not the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves." - William Shakespeare

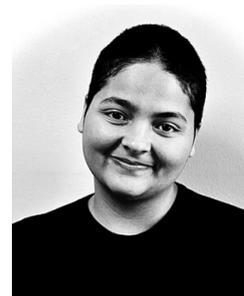
**Andrew James Bleidner (Peter/Slightly)** comes to us from the world of film, TV and fashion, where he has been working steadily and fruitfully for nearly a decade. Bleidner's first role was in HBO's "Boardwalk Empire."

Bleidner's most recent roles include Alex Lombardo in Netflix's forthcoming true-crime drama "The Good Nurse," starring Eddie Redmayne and Jessica Chastain, and Jay in "Two-Lane Backdrop," currently in post-production. If you look closely while watching the New York City scenes in Marvel's recent blockbuster "Morbius," you may spot Bleidner as Jared Leto's stunt double. When asked about spending the summer doing this play, Bleidner warmed our hearts with his answer: "I just love the arts so much." A proud SAG/AFTRA member, Bleidner would like to thank their parents for their endless support, sister Genevieve for always being a best friend and guide, and brother Carl for Broadway inspiration. Bleidner would like to thank Lara Morton for her creative direction and Noah, Elizabeth, Lydia, Susan, and Nightwing for all their help. "The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it." - Peter Pan



**Gwen Gersick-Seward (A/Cora)**, she/her, is a rising sophomore at Cheshire Academy, and one of their Theatre Student Leaders. She is very excited to join the Fuse Theatre community in "Lost Girl!" She has trained and performed for theatre and film with Margie Haber Studio, ATLAS Middle School, the Yale Dramat, and New York Film Academy. She also has frequently contributed to theatre behind the curtain as an Assistant Director, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Social Media Manager, and member of stage crew. [resumes.breakdownexpress.com/gwenmargaret](https://resumes.breakdownexpress.com/gwenmargaret)

**Demarie Lopez (Nibs/Detective)**, she/her, feels so lucky to be a part of this production and amazing cast. She would personally like to thank Lara for giving me this opportunity. Lopez is currently getting her degree in Theatre Arts at Housatonic Community College.



**Serena McFarland (C/Krista)**, she/her, is excited to perform in "Lost Girl." She is a senior at the University of Florida, achieving her Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications and Masters in Public Relations. She has most recently played the role of Vanessa in "Inthe Heights." She is grateful to the Artistic Director, Lara Morton, and Creative Producer Noah Golden for the opportunity. She is thankful to her parents for their love and support. [www.resumes.actorsaccess.com/serenamcfarland](https://www.resumes.actorsaccess.com/serenamcfarland)

**Abigail Paige (Wendy)**, she/her, is beyond thrilled to be in her first production with Fuse. A RI high school senior, Paige is a member of 4 honor societies - NHS, International Thespian, World Language and Tri-M. She is President of her school drama club and takes voice lessons locally and acting classes at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in NY.

Some of her favorite roles are Plankton ("The SpongeBob Musical," WWHS), Alice ("Alice in Wonderland," Vanilla Box Productions), and Ellie ("Freaky Friday," Academy Players of RI). Paige's short film titled "Me, Myself and I" won a national competition and a New England Emmy Honorable Mention. Her most recent production of "TheSpongeBob Musical," where she played Sheldon J. Plankton, received a Sondheim Award nomination for Best Musical. When not at rehearsals, Paige spends her time with friends, volunteering, and scrapbooking. She would like to thank Fuse for this incredible opportunity, the fantastic cast and crew, as well as all of you for returning to the theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show. To keep up with her latest, please visit her website: [www.theabigailpaige.com](http://www.theabigailpaige.com).



**Dyllan Siegmund (Toodles/Therapist)**, he/him, is a 19-year-old actor who was born and grew up in Connecticut. Kind and supportive to those around him, he was previously a part of Fuse Theatre of CT's productions of "The Lion King Jr." in 2020 as Zazu, and "All Together Now!" in 2021. Alongside his interest in voiceover, Siegmund has recently been broadening his horizons into theatre. He'd like to dedicate his performance in this production of "Lost Girl" not only to an audience, but also to his pet cats; the furry beings that helped him grow and become the soft soul he is today.

**Justin Wargo (Boy)**, he/him, is a Stratford resident making his Fuse debut. He last played a busboy in "A Center Stage Christmas" at Center Stage in Shelton. Wargo has taken acting lessons with Lara Morton since 2020, and has previously studied acting and voice over performance in Norwalk. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, anime conventions, manga and studying Japanese.



**Kimberly Belflower (Playwright)**, she/her, is a playwright and educator originally from a small town in Appalachian Georgia. Her play, "Lost Girl," is published by Samuel French and won the 2018 Kennedy Center Darrell Ayers National Playwriting Award. Her other plays include "John Proctor is the Villain" (2019 Kilroys List), "Gondal," "Teen Girl FANTasies," and "The Sky Game," which have been commissioned, produced, and developed by Ojai Playwrights Conference, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Farm Theatre, We the Women Collective, Peppercorn Theatre, Less Than Rent Theatre, Cohen New Works Festival, as well as many colleges and universities across the country. Kimberly has also worked as a writer and narrative lead for Meow Wolf, Santa Fe's celebrated immersive arts company, and is currently a Playwriting Fellow at Emory University. She proudly holds an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Lara Morton (Director)**, she/her, co-founded Fuse Theatre of CT with Susan Larkin in 2019. Since that time, Lara has directed Disney's "The Lion King Jr." (2020), "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical" (2021) and now "Lost Girl." Creative Producer credits include "All Together Now!" (2021), and the forthcoming 'Songs For A New World,' directed by Noah Golden. Morton currently directs and instructs FOCUS Teen Improv of Madison and coaches actors of all ages and levels of training/experience through her DBA company Handful Productions, using a hybrid philosophical approach of Viola Spolin exercises and her own instinct-based teaching techniques. She also performs regularly for the Yale School of Medicine as a Simulated Patient actor, where she was invited to pilot her personal-professional development workshop, 'Improv(e)verything' in 2019. This workshop will be expanded starting next week into to a free three-week course for New Haven and West Haven middle and high school students and is made possible through an Artists Respond grant from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development. As a playwright, Morton has written a stage adaptation of Kate Chopin's "The Awakening," an interview-based play about Military Sexual Trauma (MST), "America's Daughters," which was honored with several professional staged readings in Manhattan (Epic Theatre Ensemble's Sunshine Series of New Works, 2011) and New Jersey (Speranza Theatre's Fall Festival, 2013), "My Name is Job," based on the biblical story of Job, and a solo touring educational piece about CT State Heroine Prudence Crandall, "The Prudence Crandall Story," which has been gracing Connecticut school stages since 1998 through the Anti-Defamation League and Arts for Learning, Inc. Morton wishes to thank Noah and Elizabeth for being unshakably consistent and present every step of the way, to the remarkable, passionate crew led by CJ and Keona, for Lydia's insane musical genius and this crazy-gifted cast for being willing to experiment and open all of yourselves up there, and the biggest thank you of all to YOU for just being here. Enjoy the show! Let it in. #fuseislit #fuselostgirl "Theatre is a series of insurmountable obstacles on the road to imminent disaster, but strangely it all works out in the end." 'How?!' 'I don't know. It's a mystery.' – Tom Stoppard

**Keona Marie Gomes (Assistant Director)**, she/her, is a rising sophomore University of Hartford student making her assistant directorial debut with "Lost Girl." In the past, Gomes has performed everything from being a stage manager, an usher, and an actress in multiple productions ("[Be].longing," "Romeo and Juliet," "To Save a Life...") and is excited to be apart of such a phenomenal play. She would like to thank Lyle, Lara, the entire Fuse team, and all of her friends for their love and support.

**CJ Burdo (Stage Manager)**, grew up in a family business in the '70s, surrounded by the Music & Broadway industry. Burdo is the manager of Andrew James Bleidner, film and theatre actor, and Peter/Slightly in this "Lost Girl." "If you risk nothing, then you risk everything." - GD

**Sue Dresser (Movement)**, she/her, is grateful to be working with Fuse on the movement for "Lost Girl." She has previously worked in the Pioneer Valley with Exit 7 ("Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime"), Amherst Community Theater ("Matilda"), Amherst College Musical ("American Idiot," "Bare," "Urinetown"), Wilbraham & Munson ("Little Shop of Horrors"), Turners Falls High School ("The Little Mermaid," "Dorothy in Wonderland," "The Lion King"), Arena Civic Theatre ("Annie," "Beauty and The Beast," "Spring Awakening," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Irma LaDouce," "The Gumdrop Dragon"), and Valley Light Opera ("The Gondoliers"). She would like to thank her family for their support, her sister Kate for the wonderful carpool time, and everyone at Fuse for their great collaboration and sharing their love of theater.

**Nightwing Whitehead (Wardrobe Supervisor/Assistant Costume Designer)**, she/her, was born in 1958. The Barbie was born in 1959...so for a year she had nothing to do. She has been trying to make up for lost time ever since. Whitehead has been around theatrical wardrobe departments all her life, her first paying job at an opera house in Colorado. After many years of self-training, Whitehead went back to school and earned a BS in Fashion Design at Philadelphia University. Her creations have been seen in plays at every level from Community to Equity, as well as several independent films. Whitehead has also done work for world-class magicians, faire-workers, and many others in mysterious professions. She is a professional full-time enigma who, in what spare time she has, enjoys reading and howling at the moon.



**Lydia Arachne (Composer)**, she/her, is a composer, producer, writer and multi-instrumentalist. A transplant to CT from frosty Buffalo, New York. Arache is the creative force behind Semaphora (semaph.org), a folk-funk fusion project featuring songs that tell stories about the ways people navigate technology and the natural world. Semaphora's albums, "Zoonotic" and "Sister Administrator" are available wherever you might typically find music on the internet. In 2021, she composed an original songs and underscoring for Fuse's "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical." Arachne's previous Music Direction credits include "Jesus Christ Superstar" with Madison Lyric Stage, "Legends of the Forgotten Borough" with New Haven's Bregamos Community Theater, Handful Productions' S.A.T.B. Cabaret, and Fuse/Handful's 2020 production of Disney 'The Lion King Jr.' She would like to remind you to support local artists and love the earth.

**Noah Golden (Creative Producer)**, he/him, is proud to be on the team for this wonderful show. He last produced Fuse's musical revue, "All Together Now," and wore many hats (including video editor and adaptor) for "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical." Favorite onstage roles include Barfee ("25th Annual...Spelling Bee"), Sancho Panza ("Man of La Mancha") and Chas ("Trestle at Pope Lick Creek"). He has also worked as a director (The Orange Players), assistant director (A Shared Stage Productions), writer (Vintage Soul Productions, Long Wharf's New Haven Play Project) and played drums in the pit for several musicals. During the day, Noah is a video producer for Yale School of Medicine. He will next direct "Songs For A New World" for Fuse this fall.

**Elizabeth Santaus (Executive Producer)**, she/her, graduated from Wellesley College with a major in studio art and a minor in mathematics. Elizabeth has over thirty years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Santaus knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006. She has been a QuickBooks® trainer for the Community Economic Development Fund's Bridgeport location and currently presents seminars in conjunction with SCORE. Santaus has been Treasurer of The Network of Executive Women of Milford, Inc. for seven years. A member of the Gateway Christian Fellowship congregation, Santaus' strong faith and seemingly effortless grace extends to this community and to the arts. The arts, particularly fine art, musical theater, and dance, have been her unpaid passion, and she is thrilled to be able to combine this love with her financial management skills working with Fuse, and has successfully written several state grants to fund this season's productions. Since coming to Fuse, Santaus has served as Executive Producer on "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical" (2021) and "All Together Now!" (2021).

# The arts support commerce. Commerce supports the community. The community supports the arts.



**Arts West CT**  
Welcomes our "ABBBA"  
**Partners Arts Building Business  
Building Arts**

**Network between shows:  
7/23/22 @ 5:30 p.m. right here at  
Gateway Christian Fellowship  
Open to all.**

**@Westhavenarts  
artswestct@gmail.com**

FUSE Theatre of CT supports the efforts of ArtsWestCT to establish a thriving arts scene here in West Haven.

The mission of ArtsWestCT is to center creative expression by and for the West Haven community.

We are a non-profit public-facing arts service organization that presents and promotes a range of cultural events.

To build a stronger West Haven, support the Arts Center renovation project at 304 Center Street, downtown West Haven.

Get involved on Facebook  
[@WestHavenArts.](#)

Our town has a unique and historic past as a family amusement and entertainment destination. That identity is a part of who we are, but it is not the whole story. West Haven is home to many incredible artists and arts organizations. Without a central space in which to create, collaborate, and connect, these artists remain small, separate islands in a vast, lonely sea. If they had a way to come together, just imagine what they could do for our town. This dream is within reach, but it will disappear if we don't act now.

Look around you today at this wonderful community that has come together to support a young, innovative arts organization looking to build strong, lasting foundation for the future in West Haven. Wouldn't it be incredible to be able to offer them a flexible and state of the art theatre space, right in the center of town? The funding is there. How will we allocate it?

West Haven is now in a unique position to completely reinvision itself as an entertainment destination once again, but only if the town makes its own best interest the priority.

West Haven deserves a thriving arts scene and hearty business community. Join the movement. Come to the meeting here Sat 7/23 at 5:30. Make your voice heard.



<--Recent article about the history and current status of this vacant, town-owned property on the WH green.



# Special Deals For "Lost Girl" Ticket Holders

*Thank You For Supporting Local Business!*



Show your e-ticket and get a  
FREE Bud or Bud Light Draft

Exclusive coupons available  
in the lobby - grab and go!



Free consultation and X-Ray! Mention that you  
saw this ad in the program when you make your  
appointment. Dr. George Discher: (203) 933-7135  
654 Savin Ave, West Haven, CT 06516

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL  
RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS  
IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION  
OF THE AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT  
LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

Next Up:

# Songs for a New World



Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Performances Nov. 18-20 @ Bregamos Theatre, New Haven



## Open Auditions For Singing Actors

We are looking for incredible voices for this, so if you've got the chops, we want to hear them!

Virtual submissions may be submitted now thru 8/14/22.  
For more information, scan this QR code or visit our website

[www.FuseTheatreCT.org](http://www.FuseTheatreCT.org)

Join us for a talkback with the cast and creatives after the Saturday matinee!



## **Special Thanks**

Gateway Christian Fellowship · Signorama · Elinor Slomba and ArtsWestCT

The Ward-Heitmann House Museum · April Chateaufneuf

Aviva Luria · Barth McNeill · Sandy Morton · Jake Egan · CJ & Andrew

# FUSE

THEATRE OF CT

'A Midsummer  
Night's Dream-  
The Rewired  
Musical'



Now streaming! [www.fusetheatrect.org](http://www.fusetheatrect.org)

## TEEN

'Improv(e)verything'  
Acting & Personal Growth Workshop

**Cost: FREE!\***

\*Must be enrolled in New Haven  
& West Haven Public Schools  
to qualify for free tuition.  
Up to 5 non-NHPS/WHPS students  
may enroll in each session  
for the cost of \$150.00



**Free!!**  
*improv*  
**class!**

MON/TUES/WED  
July 25th -  
August 10th 2022

2 Sessions

11:00 -12:30

Green Team: Ages 11-13

12:30-2:00

Orange Team: Ages 14-17

Final Performance

8/12/22 @ 7 p.m.

featuring a collaboration with  
FOCUS Teen Improv



Lead Instructor: Lara Morton  
Apprentice Instructors: Ben Reynolds  
& Keona Marie Gomes

Max 20 students per 90  
minute session

Gateway Christian  
Fellowship  
129 Bull Hill Lane, West  
Haven, CT 06516

Interested candidates should contact instructor Lara Morton via

**[info@fusetheatrect.org](mailto:info@fusetheatrect.org)**

to share a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in learning  
how improvisational acting can enhance many aspects of your life!  
If it seems like a good fit, we will get back to you with an application to be  
filled out by your parent or guardian.



Supported by a 2022 Artist  
Respond Grant of the  
Connecticut Department of  
Economic and Community  
Development