

Adapted by Patrick Barlow Directed by JW Guido

From the novel by John Buchan

From an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

November 7–9, 2025 Robert F. Panara Theatre

rit.edu/performingarts

A Note from the Director

Fifteen years ago, in 2007, I directed and performed in *The* 39 *Steps* in New York City with only four actors (plus four voice actors). At that time, we were inventing on the fly—experimenting with how to make Hitchcock's suspenseful thriller accessible, visually playful, and ridiculous in ASL. Somehow, some of the ASL choices we created back then have survived. It is strange to know that our old jokes are still circulating in the theatre world, but hey, if Shakespeare gets quoted for 400 years, I will take 15.

What makes this show unique is its combination of ASL, farce, and theatrical imagination. We are not just translating a British spy story straight—we are twisting it into a high-speed, chaotic comedy that celebrates Deaf culture, language, and humor. The farce is not just spoken or signed—it is built into the timing, the exaggeration, the visual gags, and yes, even the props. (Trust me, you will never look at a phone or a sheep the same way again.) We have also included voice actors to shadow our ASL actors, making the play bilingual in its own fast-paced, ridiculous way. Think of it as Hitchcock meets vaudeville meets "who forgot to rehearse this prop gag, but it still worked perfectly."

Moreover, of course, there are Deaf jokes sprinkled in—so if you see the Deaf audience laughing before the hearing audience does, do not worry, it is not a mistake. That is just part of the fun. Hitchcock may have loved suspense, but we love inside jokes.

I could not be prouder of the team that brought this production together. Special thanks to Mia McCoy and Gabi Nocciolino, who have been the real detectives behind the scenes—solving problems, keeping us sane, and occasionally making sure no one actually dies while faking death on stage. (Stage safety, it turns out, is less glamorous than international espionage but much more necessary.) This show is fast, chaotic, and ridiculous—precisely the way

I like it. Thank you for joining us on this absurd adventure. We hope you laugh, we hope you cheer, and we hope you leave wondering: "Was that actually in Hitchcock's movie, or did they just make that up?" The answer: probably both.

Now sit back, enjoy the chase, and remember: the only thing more dangerous than a secret spy ring... is an actor with too many props.

JW Guido

Land Acknowledgment

We gather on the traditional territory of the Onöndowa'ga:' or "the people of the Great Hill." In English, they are known as Seneca people, "the keeper of the western door." They are one of the six nations that make up the sovereign Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

We honor the land on which RIT was built and recognize the unique relationship that the Indigenous stewards have with this land. That relationship is the core of their traditions, cultures, and histories. We recognize the history of genocide, colonization, and assimilation of Indigenous people that took place on this land. Mindful of these histories, we work towards understanding, acknowledging, and ultimately reconciliation.

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.

NTID PERFORMING ARTS

presents



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FIERY ANGEL LIMITED

THE 39 STEPS

ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN FROM THE MOVIE BY ALFRED HITCHCOCK LICENSED BY ITV GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED AND AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY SIMON CORBLE AND NOBBY DIMON

DIRECTED BY JW GUIDO ASST. DIRECTED BY GABI NOCCIOLINO

"THE 39 STEPS" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **ERIC JJ MOSLOW**

SCENIC DESIGNER SACHA GLASSER

COSTUME DESIGNER **EMILY OHL**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **ZACHARY RIBACK**

PROJECTION/SOUND DESIGNER **DAN ROACH**

STAGE MANAGER **MIA MCCOY**

ASST. STAGE MANAGERS **KERIANN CROY & RIVER MCGUIRE**

The original London production directed by Maria Aitken; designed by Peter McKintosh; lighting designed by lan Scott; sound designed by Mic Pool; and movement directed by Toby Sedgwick. Opened by the Tricycle Theatre (now known as Kiln Theatre) in Kilburn in August 2006 and transferred to the Criterion Theatre in the West End on 14th September 2006 and subsequently to the American Airlines Theatre on Broadway on 15 January 2008. The original production was directed by Fiona Buffini.

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Assistant Director/Vocal Director Technical Director Stagecraft Manager **Technical Theatre Assistant** Dir. of Artistic Sign Language

Translation Team Fight Choreographer Intimacy Coordinator Assistant Vocal Director Head Stage Manager **Assistant Stage Managers** Lighting Designer/Electrician **Flectricians**

Light Board Operator Follow Spot Operator Sound/Caption Designer **Projection Operator** Audio Technician **Audio Engineers** Carpenters

Scenic Charge Artist **Painters**

Costumes/Props Manager

Costume Designer

JW Guido Gabi Nocciolino Eric JJ Moslow Joseph Hamilton Matthew Parsley

Ace Grav

Seth Gore, Shelly Guy

J. Simmons Jill Rittinger

Connor Nardocci*

Mia McCov*

Keriann Croy*^, River McGuire*^

Zachary Riback[^] Jonathan Litwak[^]. Cameron Harrington* Hannah Slater* Benny Cobb* Kennedy Wright*

Dan Roach Tayori Snipe*^ Matthew Oley^

Caden Bickel**, Wyatt Pfeil** Dylan Barbin, Olivia Croteau[^] Dante Daniel, Mary Enow,

Wyatt George, Alex Hatziyannis,

Owen Pietras, Sara Krebs*^, Alia Ulanbek Kyzy*^, Ceres Redondo*.

Chance Riceporter* Sacha Glasser

Keana Gamaro[^], Katie Yates[^]

Rosie Mazique **Emily Ohl**

[^] Indicates that student is currently a Performing Arts Scholar

^{*} Indicates that student is currently enrolled in an NTID Theatre Practicum

Costume Shop Assistants

Wardrobe Supervisor Wardrobe Crew

Prop Master Backstage Crew Supervisors Backstage Crew

House Manager Poster Designer Interpreters

La'Akea DiCarlo, Mia McCoy, **Emily Ohl** Rosie Mazique Dyllin Butler*, Rei Scrimo*, Bella Nicholson*. Amelia York*^ Mac Leong Joseph Hamilton, Matthew Parsley Logan Pendergraft*^ Ceres Redondo*, Hannah Roth*^ Joseph Fox Julie Morris Cynthia Collward, Cath Kiwitt, Eric Severson



PROGRAM FEATURE

Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980), often hailed as the "Master of Suspense," was one of the most celebrated directors in the history of cinema. Born in London, Hitchcock began his career in the British film industry as a title card designer during the silent era, quickly moving into screenwriting and directing. By the 1930s, he had established himself as a gifted storyteller with a unique ability to combine tension, humor, and psychological depth.



Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock circa 1960s



A defining moment in his early career came in 1935 with the release of *The 39 Steps*. Based on John Buchan's 1915 novel, the film tells the story of Richard Hannay, an ordinary man caught up in a world of spies, murder, and mistaken identity. With its brisk pace, witty dialogue, and inventive use of suspense, the film became Hitchcock's first major international success. It introduced themes that would recur throughout his career:

the wrongly accused protagonist, the resourceful heroine, and the delicate balance between romance, humor, and danger.

The 39 Steps not only solidified Hitchcock's reputation in Britain but also paved the way for his move to Hollywood, where he went on to direct some of cinema's most iconic films, including Rebecca (1940), Rear Window (1954), Vertigo (1958), and Psycho (1960). Over his lifetime, Hitchcock directed more than 50 films, constantly pushing the boundaries of cinematic storytelling. He became equally known for his technical innovations—pioneering new uses of the camera, editing, and sound—and for his playful on-screen cameos that audiences came to anticipate.

Hitchcock was knighted in 1980, shortly before his death, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire filmmakers, playwrights, and artists around the world. Nearly a century later, The 39 Steps remains one of his most enduring works, celebrated not only as a classic of British cinema but also as the inspiration for clever and fast-paced stage adaptations that honor Hitchcock's genius while delighting audiences with suspense, comedy, and theatrical inventiveness.

"Puns are the highest form of literature."



The 39 Steps (1935) Hitchcock (second right) directing the handcuffed Madeleine Carroll and Robert Donat on the first day of filming.

Photograph: Gaumont British Pictures/BFI National Archive



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CREATIVE & ARTISTIC TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



JW Guido (He/Him) (Director) is a proud RIT alumnus and third-year NTID Faculty Fellow completing his doctoral degree in Educational Theatre at NYU. A professional actor and director with over 15 years of experience, JW has performed and directed productions nationwide, including Twelfth Night with Shakespeare in the Park. Now in his fourth year with NTID Performing Arts, he continues to blend creativity, accessibility, and Deaf culture in his work. He thanks his amazing family for their endless love and support—Go Bills!

Gabi Nocciolino (She/Her) (Assistant Director/Vocal Director) is a Faculty member in the NTID Department of Performing Arts. Prior to arriving at RIT/NTID she served as the Director of the Performing Arts program at the Texas School for the Deaf for ten vears. Congratulations and "Thankoo" to the 39 Steps cast and crew for an amazing production!

Sacha Glasser (She/Her) (Scenic Designer) is a backstage enthusiast, designer, and a faculty member in the NTID Department of Performing Arts. Productions she has had the pleasure of designing for include: Cabaret. Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, Everybody, Peter and the Starcatcher, and The Cracked Nut. Love to Iain, Joshua, and Harvey. Enjoy the show and ... watch your steps!

Keriann Croy (She/Her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a thirdyear Motion Picture Science major from Elon, North Carolina. Over the last 13 years, she has been involved in more than 70 productions onstage and backstage, and this is her first time working with NTID Performing Arts. Recently, you may have seen her dancing with the RIT Collective or Vis Viva Dance Company, or as the ASM on Peter and the Starcatcher. Keriann is grateful to be part of this production and the performing arts community on campus.

Ace Gray (They/Them) (Director of Artistic Sign Language) is a RIT graduate from Silver Spring, MD. They've worked on several shows including *Everybody* as Everybody/Evil, *Thy Name is Woman* as Ophelia, *Peter and the Starcatcher* as Black Stache, and recently they wrote and directed their own play, *It Will Be Okay*! They want to thank *The 39 Steps* cast and team for being amazing. They also want to thank their family, friends, and partner for their support. Enjoy the show! Thankoo!

McClain Leong (They/Xe/Xir) (Props Master) is a recent graduate of the School of Individualized Study and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. They worked on various production teams as a student, and they're so glad to be back to work on *The 39 Steps*! Xe'd like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for all of their work and, as always, their mom for her never-ending support. Thankoo!

Mia McCoy (She/Her) (Stage Manager) is a third-year ASLIE major from Buffalo, New York. This is her third show with NTID, following *Deaf Players Creators Festival* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. She would like to thank everyone involved but a special "Thankoo" to her amazing stage management team-Keriann and River. Mia is continuously honored to work with directors like JW Guido and Gabi Nocciolino.

River McGuire (He/Him) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second-year Film Production major from Frederick, Maryland. He hopes everyone who came to see this performance truly enjoyed it. This production wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every cast and crew member—each contributing their own "step" toward this fantastic show, a total of thirty-nine steps!

Eric JJ Moslow (He/Him) (Technical Director) is originally from Buffalo, NY where he received his BA in theater from SUNY Buffalo State. He then spent 10 years in the Midwest where he earned his MFA in Scene Design from Illinois State University. He has now been at NTID for 5 years working as the Technical

Director and has earned some design credits on previous shows. **Go Bills!**

Connor Nardocci (He/Him) (Assistant Voice Coach) is a fourth-year ASLIE major from Binghamton, New York. He previously performed on stage from high school through early college, with his favorite role being Jason in *Falsettos*. Last fall, he had the privilege of serving as Assistant Voice Coach for NTID's *Peter and the Starcatcher*. He is thrilled to work again with NTID's theatre department this semester and thanks the cast and crew for their hard work. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Emily Ohl (She/Her) (Costume Designer) is a fourth-year student majoring in Industrial Design, originally from Columbia, Maryland. She designed costumes for *Concord Floral* and *It Will Be Okay*. Emily is excited to be costume designing an NTID show this year! She finds this production fun and silly and hopes everyone enjoys it.

Zachary Riback (He/Him) (Lighting Designer) is a fifth-year Cybersecurity major from Chatham, New Jersey. He has been involved in RIT/NTIDs productions of *The Cracker Nut*, *Everybody*, and *Angels in America*. Zachary is very excited to finally take charge in his final semester after years of working the lights for many different shows in the Panara Theatre. He would also like to thank everyone from NTID Performing Arts for working with him all these years and giving him the opportunity to design for this show!

Jill Rittinger (She/Her) (Intimacy Director) has directed intimacy for productions including RENT, Cabaret, Dot (Blackfriars Theatre), Proof (SUNY Brockport), Little Rock (SUNY Geneseo), and Concord Floral (RIT/NTID). Acting credits include Lady M in Macbeth, Arkadina in The Seagull, Henrietta Swan Leavitt in Silent Sky, Orsino in Twelfth Night, Katharine Hepburn in Tea at Five, and Candy Starr in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Commercial work includes URMC,

Planned Parenthood, and Monroe County Executive campaigns. Educated at SUNY Fredonia, Circle in the Square, and Nazareth University (M.Ed.), she is a certified Consent-Forward Artist, Level II Reiki Healer, and standardized patient blending acting, education, and consent.

Dan Roach (He/Him) (Sound and Projection Designer) has designed sound for over 300 productions at theatres including Geva Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, Barrington Theatre Company, NTID, RIT, SUNY Brockport, and Nazareth University. Recent work includes Romeo & Juliet and Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson Apt 2B at Nazareth University, The Cracked Nut and Peter and the Starcatcher at NTID, Andy Warhol in Iran at Barrington Theatre Company, and Blithe Spirit at The White Heron Theatre. A Berklee College of Music alum, Dan has been designing sound for theatre for the past 37 years.

J. Simmons (He/Him) (Fight Choreographer) currently teaches Stage Combat for the University of Rochester's International Theatre Program. His recent RIT/NTID credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Thy Name Is Woman*, *Deaf Republic*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Fences*, and *Man of La Mancha*. His work earned an Award of Excellence in Stage Combat from the Kennedy Center. J has worked in TV, film, and theatre nationwide and now runs a private acting coaching business for 34 students.



Director JW Guido



Assistant Director Gabi Nocciolino



Assist. Voice Coach Connor Nardocci



Director of ASL Ace Gray

Stage Management



Mia McCoy



Keriann Croy



River McGuire

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Sean Crowe (He/Him) (Voice of Clown #1) is a first year student majoring in Chemistry from Westtown, New York, where he has been a member of many productions, such as Footloose, Anything Goes, and The Play That Goes Wrong. He would like to extend a thank you to the directors for giving him this opportunity, and would also like to thank the audience for coming to share this experience with us.

Wyatt George (He/Him) (Clown #1) is a fifth-year student majoring in 3D Design from Austin, Texas. This is his final semester at NTID, marking his fourth and last performance with NTID Performing Arts. He has enjoyed roles such as Alfonso in Deaf Republic, Ghost Train in Jovita and Esperanza, and Smee in Peter and the Starcatcher. Wyatt gives a huge thank you to JW Guido for always believing in him. He is also thrilled to work with Gabi Nocciolino again she gave him his first role as Gideon in *Pinocchio* at the Texas School for the Deaf. It has been an honor and a blast!

Jonathan Hall (He/Him) (Voice of Clown #4) is a firstyear student in the BS/MS Cybersecuity program from Fallsington, Pennsylvania. He has participated in several shows, including Sherlock Holmes, Clue, and Footloose. He would like to add "This my first of what I hope will be many shows at RIT. It has been a pleasure to be introduced and to work with so many wonderful people. I have been involved in theater starting my junior year of high school and have loved it ever since. Beyond my time on stage I love to write, design watches, and play video games. I hope each and every one of you enjoys the show!"

Katrina Kalis (She/Her) (Annabella/Clown #4) is a secondyear student majoring in Laboratory Science Technology from St. Augustine, Florida. She has been involved in many productions such as *Shrek*, *The Lion King*, *The Circus*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *A Chorus Line*. She loves to bring different characters to life and is excited to share this story with the audience. She would like to thank everyone who came to support the cast and hopes you enjoy the show! Thankooo!

Brendan Malloy (He/Him) (Clown #3) is a third-year honors student double majoring in Criminal Justice and Biomedical Sciences from Las Vegas, Nevada. He previously appeared as Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Brendan is thrilled to take on the role of the Clown to bring life on stage. He would like to thank his friends and family for their endless support, and to the cast and crew for making this production *The 39 Steps* such a fun and memorable experience. Brendan hopes the audience leaves with smiles, good memories, and a reminder of the magic that live theatr can create.

Max Mazgelis (He/Him) (Voice of Clown #3) is a fourth-year student majoring in Graphic Design and Glass from Westford, Massachusetts. He has been involved in many productions such as Telly in *Benchmarks*, Danny Maguire in *Xanadu*, Squidward in *The Spongebob Musical*, Walter Hobbes in *Elf The Musical*. He has also been involved as backstage crew for *Unstageably Fresh Gynt* and *A Chours Line*. He is thrilled to be participating in this show! It's been a while since he acted in a full-length production, and he can't imagine a more fun role to play. This show has been such an enjoyable experience, and he hopes you all have a great time. Thank you for coming!

Arthur Parsley (They/Them) (Clown #2) is a proud NTID alumnus, Class of 2019. Hailing from Rochester, New York, Arthur has performed in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *In the Heights*, and *The Tempest*. Theatre has always been a source of growth, joy, and connection, and they are excited to share this experience with the cast, crew, and audience. Arthur thanks their husband, mother, and younger brother for

their love, support, and inspiration, and is especially grateful to their husband for encouraging them to thrive in theatre and for being a role model to young performers.

Abby Rochelle (She/Her) (Voice of Anabella, Pamela, and Margaret) is a second year Game Design and Developement major. Abby lives outside of Boston, Massachusetts and has performed in over twenty-five productions so far. This is her second time performing with NTID as well as her second time performing in The 39 Steps! She'd like to thank her family, friends and partner for being so supportive as well as for having to hear "I can't, I have rehearsal" about a billion times. She hopes that you enjoy the show! Thankoo Thankoo!

Jaelyn Russell-Lillie (They/Them) (Pamela/Margaret) is a first-year student in the LEAD: Community Development and Inclusive Leadership program. They are an international student from Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. They have some past theater experience as ballet dancer in the Canadian Deaf Musical Theater Black Drum. Jae would like to thank their family and friends who always support them no matter what, they are forever grateful to have them.

Miles Sopchak (He/Him) (Voice of Richard Hannay) is a fourth-year student majoring in Computer Science major with a Theatre Arts minor. He is so excited to get the opportunity to be in another NTID show and work with all of the wonderful people there! Miles would like to say thank you to everyone who has worked on this show! Shoutout to his girlfriend, Morgan, for helping him memorize all of his lines, his parents for always supporting his theatrical endeavors, and Cath, Eric, and Cynthia for being the best interpreters ever!!! I hope you all enjoy the show!

Anthony Trocki (He/Him) (Voice of Clown #2) is a first-year ASL Interpreting major from Rochester, New York and has taken part in many fun productions such as Clue, Big Fish,

Oklahoma, Once Upon a Mattress, and many more. He is thrilled to play the role as a voice of clown #2. He would like to thank his amazing parents and friends for supporting him through this huge transition in his theatre career.

Peyton John Yevich (He/Him) (Richard Hannay) is a second-year student majoring in 3D Digital Design hailing from Stratford, Connecticut and currently lives in Fort Worth, Texas. He played Bill Slank in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Zach in *A Chorus Line*, and Character D in *It Will Be Okay*. He truly hopes that you will be able to enjoy the show!

Special Thanks:

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Spies, Lies & Headshots





Sean Crowe



Wyatt George



Jonathan Hall



Katrina Kalis



Brendan Malloy



Max Mazgelis



Arthur Parsley



Abby Rochelle



Jaelyn Russell-Lillie



Miles Sopchak



Anthony Trocki



Peyton Yevich



RIT and NTID Performing Arts 2025-2026

Joint Theatrical and Dance Season

NTID Department of Performing Arts

Faculty

Erin Auble, Interim Chairperson Sacha Glasser JW Guido Andy Head Marc Holland Gabi Nocciolino Thomas Warfield

Adjunct Faculty

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Denise Morgan

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