

*Zoey's*  
**PERFECT**  
*Wedding*

BY **MATTHEW LÓPEZ**

DIRECTED BY **ROB RUGGIERO**

**April 30 – June 5**

**THEATER  
WORKS  
HARTFORD**

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What is it about a wedding that somehow brings out the worst in all of us? Is it the pressures of perfection, the fear of judgement, or the expectation to throw the GREATEST PARTY OF ALL TIME?! Or is it simply the way it becomes all about ourselves instead of focusing on the reason we are all gathering in the first place?

ZOEY'S PERFECT WEDDING has all the ingredients of a great comedy: characters in conflict, high tension, crazy situations... and the potential for total disaster. But at its center, the play is really about how we manage expectations --- both of ourselves and of each other. It's about the difference between what society tells us will make us happy, versus what actually will.

What begins as a fabulous comedy, ends up becoming an unexpected reckoning of marriage, love and friendship. That's the brilliance of Matthew's writing. It's smart, funny, and delightfully disarming.

Here comes the bride!

– Rob Ruggiero

TIME: THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, 2008  
PLACE: THE DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN MARRIOTT

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ZOEY'S PERFECT WEDDING is a part of our 2021-2022 Season.

#ZoeyPerfectWedding

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# Zoey's **PERFECT** Wedding

BY **MATTHEW LÓPEZ**

DIRECTED BY **ROB RUGGIERO** †

## THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

|         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| DJ      | ESTEBAN CARMONA*       |
| Charlie | DANIEL JOSÉ MOLINA*    |
| Sammy   | HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA* |
| Rachel  | BLAIR LEWIN*           |
| Missy   | HALLIE ELIZA FRIEDMAN  |
| Zoey    | RACHEL B. JOYCE*       |

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Set and Lighting Design | BRIAN SIDNEY BEMBRIDGE |
| Costume Design          | HARRY NADAL            |
| Sound Design            | MELANIE CHEN COLE      |
| Stage Manager           | NICOLE WIEGERT*        |

## Casting

JZ CASTING / GEOFF JOSSELSON, CSA /  
KATJA ZAROLINSKI, CSA

HAIR DESIGN BY E. JOHN MCGARVEY  
FOR LES CHEVEUX SALON

Cover Design by WONDRIKARUSSO

Originally developed and produced at  
the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company

† Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.  
\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors  
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## WHO



**ESTEBAN CARMONA** (DJ) is making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. He is a Puerto Rican bi-coastal actor born & raised in Philadelphia, PA with a BFA from Montclair State University. Theater credits: Oedipus in *Oedipus el Rey* at The Magic Theater (Best Performance Nomination), Ensemble in *Julius Caesar* at The Public Theater (w/Oskar Eustis), plus leading roles in *Dream of the Burning Boy* and *Really, Really* at Medicine Show Theater. TV credits: 7 episodes as Julito in HBO's *The Deuce* (w/David Simon & Maggie Gyllenhaal), *Prodigal Son* on FOX, Guest Star in *Street Justice: The Bronx* (Discovery). Esteban is extremely grateful to his mom and brother for the constant support and encouragement in chasing his dreams without hesitation. Follow on Instagram for the fun stuff! @Esteban\_Carmona\_



**DANIEL JOSÉ MOLINA** (Charlie) is making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. Broadway: *Fish in the Dark* (Cort Theatre). Off-Broadway: *Terra Firma* (BPAC). Regional: APT: Petruccio in *The Taming of the Shrew*; St. Louis Shakespeare: Edgar in *King Lear*; Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Henry V in *Henry V*; Ferdinand in *Love's Labor's Lost*; Hal in *Henry IV, Part One and Two*; Ferdinand in *The Tempest*; Elliot in *Water by the Spoonful*; Posthumus in *Cymbeline*; Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*; Three seasons at Utah Shakespeare Festival. Film: *The Yellow Birds*. Recipient of 2011 National Irene Ryan Acting Award. BFA: Savannah College of Art and Design.



**HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA** (Sammy) is making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. A Dallas native and Carnegie Mellon graduate, Hunter is best known for his nearly two years starring on Broadway as Henrik in the Tony Award-winning revival of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, opposite Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury, followed by Bernadette Peters and Elaine Strich. Other New York credits include the recent revival of *Once Upon a Mattress* (Minstrel) starring Jackie Hoffman and Jerry Herman's *Dear World* (Julian) starring opposite Tyne Daly. Select regional credits: *The Tempest* (Ariel) at the Dallas Theater Center; *Candide* (Maximillian) at the Alliance Theatre with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; *Ragtime* (Younger Brother) at Barrington Stage; *The Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic) at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle and at the Ordway Center in St. Paul, *Cabaret* (Cliff) at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and Sacramento Music Circus; *Sense and Sensibility* (Willoughby) at TheatreWorks in Silicon Valley; *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka) and *Titanic* (Charles) both with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera; *Othello* (Clown) at the Utah Shakespearean Festival; *Something's Afoot* (Geoffrey) at the Goodspeed Opera House and others. A close friend of legendary actress Elaine Strich, Hunter appeared in and helped produce the award-winning documentary *Elaine Strich: Shoot Me*. Please follow @HRHerdlicka and visit HunterRyanHerdlicka.com



**BLAIR LEWIN** (Rachel) is thrilled to be making her debut at TheaterWorks Hartford this season! She is a recent graduate of NYU Grad Acting and was last seen as Kimber in *Stick Fly* at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Other credits include the Off-Broadway premiere of Nancy Bleemer's *Providence* at 59E59 Theaters and on Netflix in *The Trial of the Chicago 7*.



**HALLIE ELIZA FRIEDMAN** (Missy | she/her) is ecstatic to make her **TheaterWorks Hartford** debut, and holds a special place for TWH in her heart, since she interned with Front of House her Sophomore year! She will be graduating this May, in the class of 2022, from the Hartt School where she is getting her BFA in Acting. Hartford Stage (staged reading): *Long Christmas Dinner* (Cousin Ermengarde); Playhouse

On Park: *Into The Woods* (Rapunzel), *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Fairy, u/s Helena); The Hartt School: *Three Sisters* (Masha); New Works: *SHEL* (workshop), *The Kids Table* (Lin). Hallie would like to thank Bob Davis, Debbie Markowitz, The Hartt School Theater Division faculty, her mom and dad, her amazing supportive friends, and Rob Ruggiero for this opportunity! [hallieelizafriedman.com](http://hallieelizafriedman.com) IG: [hallieelizafriedman](https://www.instagram.com/hallieelizafriedman)



**RACHEL B. JOYCE** (Zoey) is making her **TheaterWorks Hartford** debut. New York Theatre: *The Collision* (59E59), *Fuck Marry Kill* (The New Ohio), *Lysistrata* (Two Headed Rep), *Let's Get Ready Together* (The Tank), *Pussy Sludge* (HERE), *Our Town* (GreenWood Cemetery). TV: *I'm Dying Up Here*, *The Iliza Shlesinger Sketch Show*, *Younger*, *Modern Love*, *The Jim Gaffigan Show*, *Love Life*. For her digital

comedy series *Royally*, she won Best Actress in a Comedy at both the New York Television Festival and the Indie Series Awards. She is the Co-Artistic Director of Less Than Rent Theatre. BA: Fordham University.



**MATTHEW LÓPEZ** (Playwright) is the first Latiné playwright to win the Tony Award for Best Play for *The Inheritance* in 2021. He is the author of *The Whipping Man*, one of the most widely produced new American plays of the last several seasons. The play premiered in New York in 2010 at Manhattan Theatre Club, directed by Doug Hughes and starring Andre Braugher. The sold-out production extended four times, ultimately running

101 performances off-Broadway and garnering Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards. Matthew was awarded the John Gassner New Play Award from the New York Outer Critics Circle for the play. His play *Somewhere* premiered at the Old Globe and has been subsequently produced at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, CA and most recently at Hartford Stage Company. Other plays include *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (World Premiere: Denver Center Theatre, 2014), *Reverberation* (World Premiere: Hartford Stage Company, 2015), *The Sentinels* (World Premiere: Headlong Theatre, London, 2011). His play *The Inheritance*, directed by Stephen Daldry, premiered at London's Young Vic in 2018, where it was called "the most important American play of the century." It transferred to the West End later that year, opened on Broadway in 2019, and was awarded the Tony Award in 2021. López currently holds new play commissions from Hartford Stage Company, Manhattan Theatre Club and South Coast Rep. He worked as a staff writer on the HBO series *The Newsroom*.



**ROB RUGGIERO** (Producing Artistic Director/ Director) has been part of **TheaterWorks Hartford** artistic leadership for 29 seasons. He has directed over 65 shows, including TWH productions of *The Sound Inside*, *American Son*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Constellations*, *Next to Normal*, *Relativity* (starring Richard Dreyfuss) and *Christmas on the Rocks*, which he also conceived. His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High*

## WHO

(starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TWH. He also conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* which moved off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. His work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. Rob recently directed *A Grand Night for Singing* at Goodspeed Musicals where over his 14-year relationship he has directed many award-winning musical productions. Internationally he directed *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece.

**BRIAN SIDNEY BEMBRIDGE** (Set and Lighting Design) **TheaterWorks Hartford**: *The Lifespan of a Fact*. Off-Broadway: The Public Theater, Second Stage, Jean Cocteau Repertory, Kids with Guns and Theatre at St. Clements. International: Theatre Royal Stratford East in London, Town Hall Theatre in Galway, Ireland, and Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in Sydney, Australia, among others. Regional: The Guthrie Theater, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, The Second City, Lookingglass Theatre Company, ACT Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alliance Theatre Company, Geffen Playhouse, A.C.T., Writers Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Drury Lane Theater, Ravinia Festival, Children's Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre Company, Circle X Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, Opera Omaha, Virginia Opera, Juneau Lyric Opera and Asolo, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Madison repertory theatres. He is the recipient of seven Jeff Awards, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and LA Weekly Theater Awards, three Garland Awards, two Gregory Awards and an Ovation Award. Brian represented the United States at the Prague Quadrennial in 2011 with his design of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. Film designs include *Marie and Bruce*, *Holding Out*, *Stray Dogs*, *Late for Church* and *Muppets from Space*. [briansidneybembridge.com](http://briansidneybembridge.com)

**HARRY NADAL** (Costume Design) Originally from San Juan, PR, Harry has designed numerous productions at **TheaterWorks Hartford** in the last decade, most recently *The Invisible Hand*, *Fade* and *Good People*. New York: Lincoln Center Institute, Atlantic Theater Co., Brooklyn Academy of Music, LABYrinth Theater Company, Juilliard, INTAR, HOME for Contemporary Theater and Art, Pregones/PRTT, HERE Arts Center and Theater for the New City among others. Regional: *Freedom Ride* at Chicago Opera Theater, *Seven Guitars* and *A Raisin in the Sun* at Arena Stage (Washington, DC), George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick, NJ), UrbanArias (Arlington, VA), Baltimore Center Stage, Boise Contemporary Theater, People's Light (Malvern, PA) and Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, among many. Upcoming: *Porgy & Bess* at Des Moines Metro Opera and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* at ZACH Theatre (Austin, TX). Faculty member at Pratt Institute's film school. MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. [harrynadal.com](http://harrynadal.com)

**MELANIE CHEN COLE** (Sound Design | she/her/hers) is pleased to make her **TheaterWorks Hartford** debut. Regional credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park/Indiana Rep co-production), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol* (2021 & 2020), *Alabama Story*, *Buzz*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *High School Play: A Nostalgia Fest* (Alley Theatre), *The Supreme Leader*, *Steel Magnolias* (Dallas Theater Center), *Witch* (The Huntington), *Ohio State Murders* (Goodman Theatre), *Mrs. Harrison*, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Indiana Rep), *Noura*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Imaginary Invalid* (The

Old Globe), *At the Old Place* (La Jolla Playhouse). Education: M.F.A. in Theatre and Dance from UC San Diego. [melaniesound.com](http://melaniesound.com), IG: melaniechencole

**JZ CASTING** (Casting) **Geoff Josselson, CSA** and **Katja Zarolinski, CSA** are New York-based casting directors, handling productions for theatre, film and television. Recent work includes productions for **TheaterWorks Hartford**, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Baltimore Center Stage, Cape Playhouse, Denver Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Irish Repertory Theatre, Merrimack Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Round House Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Weston Playhouse. For more information, please visit [www.jz-casting.com](http://www.jz-casting.com)

**MIKE LENAGHAN** (Director of Production) After eight years of teaching Set Design and Production at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Mike returns to **TheaterWorks Hartford** as Director of Production. Mike's first stint with TheaterWorks began in 2004 with *The Ten Unknowns* and concluded in 2014 with *The Other Place*. For 55 productions, Mike was Technical Director, Production Manager, occasionally Props Master and Facilities Manager and on one special occasion, the Set Designer for *The Santaland Diaries*. Proud to be donning only one hat this time around, Mike is so excited to come home again. Mike's professional career began as an apprentice at Goodspeed Musicals (even if he faxed the wrong cover letter to the theatre) then off to the Juilliard School Production Department, Downtown Cabaret Theater and Westport Playhouse. Broadway credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Our Town* and *Fortune's Fool*. Off Broadway: *The It Girl*, *Suburb* and *The Summer of '42*.

**NICOLE WIEGERT** (Production Stage Manager) **TheaterWorks Hartford**: *This Bitter Earth*, *Christmas on the Rocks '21*, *Walden*. Regional: *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Pike St.*, *Detroit '67*, *Henry V*, *A Lesson from Aloes*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hartford Stage); *Passing Through* (Goodspeed Musicals); *Spinning* (Long Wharf); *Shakespeare In Love* (CT Rep); *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Flood* (Mountain Playhouse); *Grease*, *A Chorus Line* (Ivoryton Playhouse); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beehive: the 60's Musical* (Theatre by the Sea); *James and the Giant Peach*, *Big Fish*, *Our Town*, *Anatole* (First Stage Milwaukee); *Hall of Final Ruin*, *The Griots* (Renaissance Theaterworks); *Swan Lake* (Milwaukee Ballet). Television: *House Hunters*, *Extreme Cheapskates*, *Biggest Loser*. Love to LC, WW and CW.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit [actorsequity.org](http://actorsequity.org)

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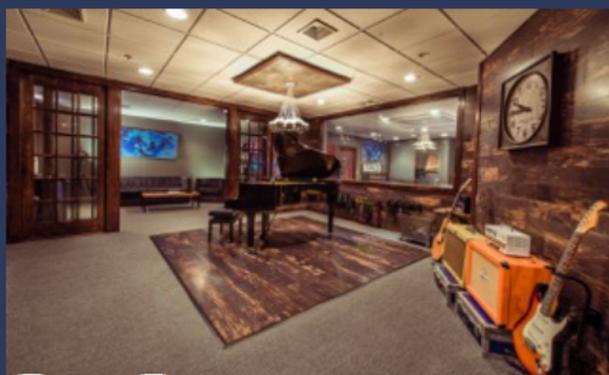
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