



**| YOUR | NAME | MEANS
DREAM**

Written and Directed by
JOSÉ RIVERA

JUNE 3 – JULY 6

**THEATER
WORKS
HARTFORD**

DIRECTOR / PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

We're in the 2050s. Aislin, a hoarder and shut-in, is sick, elderly and trapped in the past. Her ramshackle home is a visual metaphor for her loneliness and melancholy.

Into this messy world comes a super-advanced AI entity named Stacy with abilities beyond anything Aislin could imagine. Stacy's job is to keep Aislin alive, happy, and healthy. As Stacy says, "All this must seem like magic to you."

Stacy does her job with humor, honesty, compassion – with real emotional risks and with actual love. Stacy is "imprinted" by Aislin and her mind will be dismantled the day Aislin dies. In this high-stakes relationship, their destinies are intimately linked, and Stacy and Aislin change each other forever.

Aislin has to learn to trust, to let go of control, just as Stacy has to navigate Aislin's temperament, history, medical needs, and emotional complexity. "I am learning you," Stacy tells her. Whether Stacy can do that and win Aislin's trust is a key conflict in the play. Failure would mean Stacy's destruction.

As we enjoy watching them eat, fight, play, joke, and dance together, we ask two questions. Can Aislin build the daughter she never had? And can Stacy build a soul?

– José Rivera

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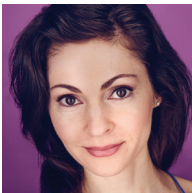
TheaterWorks Hartford is celebrating its 39th season as a non-profit, professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

YOUR NAME MEANS DREAM is the 4th show of the 2024-2025 Season.
JUNE 3 – JULY 6, 2025

| YOUR | NAME | MEANS DREAM

Written and Directed by
JOSÉ RIVERA

THE CAST



SARA KOVIAC *



ANNE O'SULLIVAN *

**An apartment in the East Village, New York.
The near future.**

Set Design	MISHA KACHMAN[†]
Costume Design	RISA ANDO**
Lighting Design	YICHEN ZHOU**
Sound Design	DAVID REMEDIOS[†]
Movement Direction	SARA KOVIAC
Assistant Director	PAU
Dialect Coach	ROBERT DAVIS
Stage Manager	TOM KOSIS*

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Originally produced at the Contemporary American Theater Festival
in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in July 2023,
Peggy McKowen, Artistic Director, Jeff Griffin, Managing Director.

YOUR NAME MEANS DREAM is presented by
special arrangement with Paradigm Talent Agency.

* Appearing through an Agreement between this theater and Actors' Equity Association, the Union
of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

† United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume,
Lighting, Sound and Projection Designers in Live Performance.



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WHO

SARA KOVIK (Stacy) is making her **TWH** debut. Sara created the role of Stacy in *Your Name Means Dream: CATF* (World Premiere), NJ Rep, Theater J; Workshops: Sundance, Goodman, Rattlestick, NYTW. Other: Rivera's *The Hours Are Feminine* (World Premiere Off-Broadway) and *Lovesong (Imperfect)*, Paula Vogel's *Bard at the Gate* for McCarter Theater, and T41 for Signature Theatre. Sara was a classical dancer at The Metropolitan Opera (multiple world premieres) with directors Bart Sher, Mary Zimmerman, and Robert LePage; at Lincoln Center in *Peter and the Wolf* and *Cinderella*; and with Stephen Schwartz as aerial soloist in Goodspeed's tour of *Pippin*. TV/Film: *The Civet*, *Reverie (a Dream)*, *The Fall of a Sparrow*, *Flying*, *A Possession*, *The Undoing* (HBO). Sara is an accomplished film and theatre choreographer, and dance educator. sarakoviak.com

ANNE O'SULLIVAN (Aislin) is making her **TWH** debut and is honored to reprise this role written for her by Mr. Rivera. Anne recently finished a very successful run at NJ Rep, and prior to that 2023's huge success at CATF in WV, both with her esteemed co-star Sara Koviak. She celebrates over 45 years working as an actor on Broadway, Off-Broadway and in many regional theatres around the country. Over the last 7 years Anne has played the late, great Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer in *Becoming Dr. Ruth* by Mark St. Germain in 6 productions around the US. She is currently working on producing and starring in *Mrs. Jones*, a play for 6 actors about the legendary labor leader Mother Jones. Film and TV credits include guest starring roles in 6 *Law & Order's*; *Sex and the City*; *Cosby*; *ER*; *Models Inc.*; *Speed*; and the upcoming horror film *The Home*, starring Pete Davidson. Anne is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, NY, and a native of Ireland.

JOSÉ RIVERA (Playwright/Director) *Marisol* (Obie Award), *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (Obie Award), *Cloud Tectonics*, *Massacre (Sing to Your Children)*, *Boleros for the Disenchanted*, *Another Word for Beauty*, *Sueño*, *Sonnets for an Old Century*, *School of the Americas*, *Brainpeople*, *Adoration of the Old Woman*, *The House of Ramon Iglesia*, *Each Day Dies with Sleep*, *Lovesong (Imperfect)*, *The Hours Are Feminine*, *Your Name Means Dream*, and *A Lunar Rhapsody* have been produced around the country and translated into a dozen languages. *The Motorcycle Diaries* was nominated for a 2005 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar – making him the first Puerto Rican writer so honored. Other honors include a BAFTA, a Writers Guild Award, and a Goya Award (Spain). Other films include *On the Road* (2012 Cannes Film Festival), *Trade* (the first film to premiere at the United Nations), *The 33* and *Letters to Juliet*. Rivera wrote and directed the award-winning short films *The Fall of a Sparrow* and *The Civet*, co-created and produced *Eerie, Indiana* (NBC), and was a consultant and staff writer on *Penny Dreadful: City of Angels* (Showtime) 2019. He is currently working on a remake of *La Bamba*, and a film about the Molina baseball family from Puerto Rico. He was the head writer of all 16 episodes of the Netflix series based on *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, which the London Telegraph called “a spellbinding adaptation of an unfilmable novel.”

MISHA KACHMAN (Set Design) has worked at Arena Stage, Asolo Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, Berkeley Rep, Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Play House, Court Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre Center, Opera Royal Versailles, Pasadena Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Round House Theatre, Seattle Opera, Seattle Rep, Signature Theatre, Syracuse Stage, TFANA, The Wilma, 59E59 Theatres, and Woolly Mammoth, among others. Misha is a Company Member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and he serves as Professor and Head of MFA in Design at University of Maryland. mishakachman.com

RISA ANDO (Costume Design | she/her) is a costume designer born and raised in Japan, making her **TWH** debut! She has worked in various theater communities internationally including Japan and Ireland. Recent design credits include: *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The Musical!* (Playhouse On Park); *The Niceties* (Collective Consciousness Theatre); *Draupadi*

(Rattlestick Theater); *A View from the Bridge* (Long Wharf Theatre); *The Salvagers* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *Mamma Mia!* (Forestburgh Playhouse); *Switch No Otoko* (Éclo, Tokyo). She holds an MFA from David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. risaando.com

YICHEN ZHOU (Lighting Design) is a theatre designer working mostly with lighting and scenery. Recent credits include: *Invasive Species* (Vineyard Theatre); *Vile Isle* (The Tank); *Faust* (Heartbeat Opera); *The Return of Benjamin Lay* (The Sheen Center, The Sedgwick Theatre); *Kin* (Chain Theatre); *The Woman in Black* (Weston Theatre Company); *The Far Country* (Yale Rep); *The Rasa Project* (National Sawdust); *The Life and Death of King John* (Juilliard School); National Playwrights Conference (The O'Neill). zhouyichen.design

DAVID REMEDIOS (Sound Design) TWH: Debut. Recent: *What You Are Now, Lady Day...*, and *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life...* (Merrimack Rep); *Your Name Means Dream* (Theater J); *A Christmas Carol* and *The Winter's Tale* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.); *Redeemed* (59E59); *Tornado Tastes Like Aluminum Sting* (Contemporary American Theater Festival); *The Hours Are Feminine* (INTAR). Regional: Northern Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, Everyman, Huntington, Portland Stage, City Theatre, Alley Theatre, Trinity Rep, Geva, American Repertory Theatre, Theatre for a New Audience, among many others. David is Assistant Professor and Program Head of Sound Design at Boston University's School of Theatre. remediossound.com

PAU (Assistant Director) is a director, singer, actress, and stage manager originally from Chile, now based in New York City. She graduated from AMDA's Integrated Program and obtained her BFA in Musical Theatre at The New School, NYC. Director Credit: *Second Chance* (The Chain Theatre). Performance Credits: NYC: *Sheep/Woman in Ñachi* (Iati Theatre); *Pat in Proud* (RSPC); *Paulina* in *The Winter's Tale* (Rude Grooms); *Janet* in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Teatro Petulante, Chile). IG: @pautobarmusic

TOM KOSIS (Stage Manager) *Your Name Means Dream* marks Tom's 15th production with TheaterWorks Hartford. Broadway: *Mary Poppins*, *Side Show*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ann*, *My Fair Lady*, *Grand Hotel*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. National and International Tours: Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *A Chorus Line*, *Song & Dance*, *West Side Story*, *Dreamgirls*. Tom was the Associate Director/Choreographer for The Radio City Music Hall *Christmas Spectacular*.

ROB RUGGIERO (Artistic Director) is in his 13th season as artistic director at TheaterWorks Hartford. He has directed dozens of local premieres including *Fever Dreams*, *The Garbologists*, *Fun Home*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Next to Normal*, *Relativity* (starring Richard Dreyfuss), and *Christmas on the Rocks*, which he also conceived. Broadway: *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper); *High* (starring Kathleen Turner, premiered at TWH). Rob conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* which ran off-Broadway, and conceived and directed the musical *Ella*, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and a National Tour. His work can also be seen across the country at Goodspeed, The Muny, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, among other regional theaters.



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Bob and Patti Pulito	Linda Webber
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Martey S. Rhine	Gary Wnek
Margaret and Charles Rich	John Wyszniwski
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