

**SKIDMORE THEATER PRESENTS**

# **JKB SpringFest**

## **I Love XXX**

By Meng Jinghui

Translated by Claire Conceison

Directed by Cameron Jabs '21



Stage Managed by Leandro Bustos '23

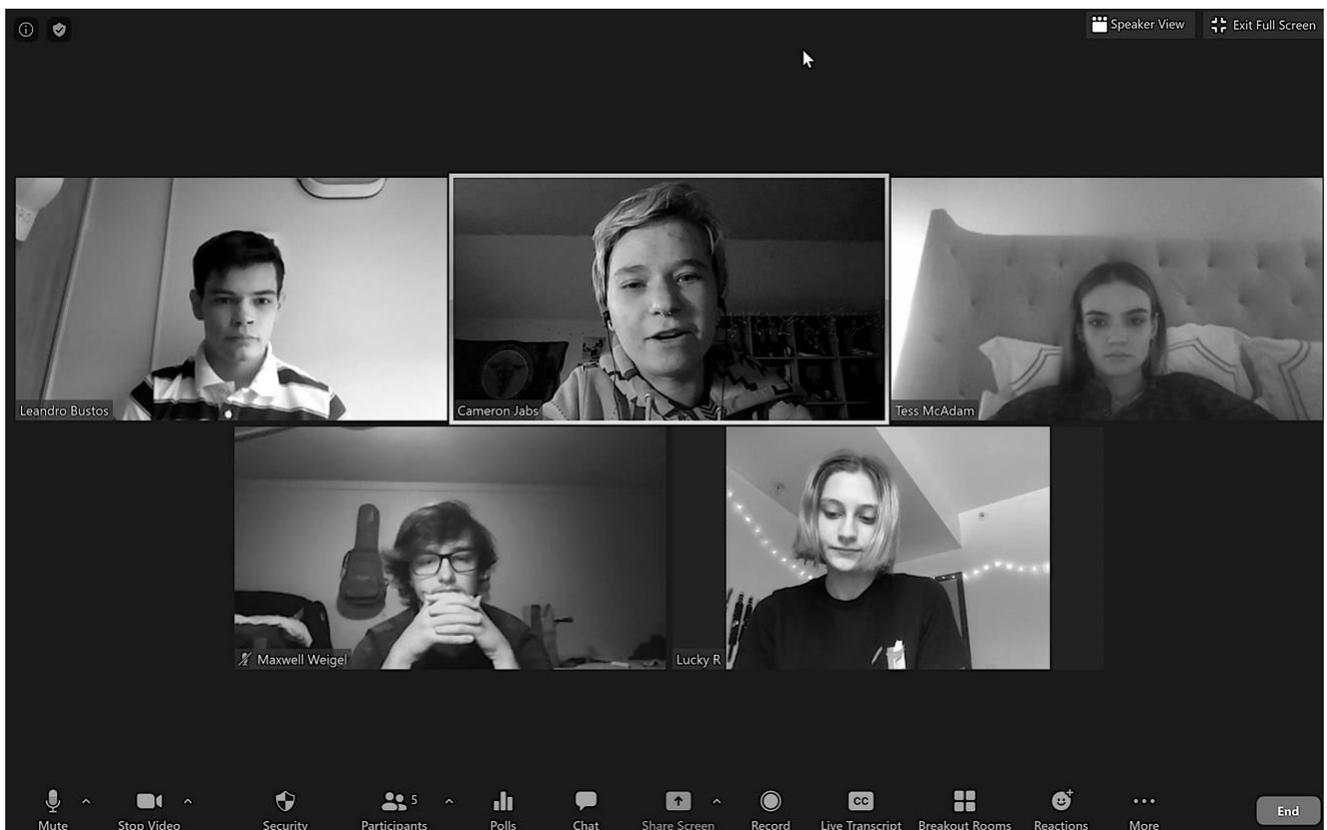
# CAST

**Tess McAdam '24**

**Lucky Ricci '21**

**Max Weigel '24**

*Special thanks to Sarah Lindner and Finn Hogan*



*I Love XXX Rehearsal Photo*

## Lead Artist Note

Some things I've been thinking about:

*I Love XXX* came to me via Dr. Eunice Ferreira's Theater and Culture II class. I did a whole project on avant-garde Chinese theater, plus our class had a talk with Dr. Claire Conceison, who is a Theater and Chinese Culture professor at MIT and has translated Meng's work along with numerous other Chinese playwrights and directors. I stayed after class for like... 30 extra minutes to talk more with her.

She said something in our class that really stuck with me, that the most important international relationships the United States will have in our lifetimes will be with China. We still live in the shadow of Donald Trump in many, many ways. Of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of violence against Asian communities in the United States and abroad.

I don't think *I Love XXX* (and this version of it) really ADDRESSES any of these things per se, but it is motivated by them. Chinese theater, but also theater in translation by extant playwrights in general, is so important and yet so underrepresented.

My image of this piece has changed a lot. A LOT A LOT.

It's gone from a reading to an in-person production to pre-recorded online... It's been a journey.

It's been so fun but so hard... so many challenges come up that you don't expect!

It's really hard to direct and dramaturg at the same time.

I encourage all directors to dramaturg and all dramaturgs to direct at some point because I think you learn a lot but yeah... at the same time? It's a lot.

## Lead Artist Note (cont.)

It's hard to really delve deep into the text while also feeling the pressure of the machine... that things are going and you have to Do Stuff and Make a Good Play and it's easy to lose the dramaturg brain along the way.

I am so thankful for the time, care, and support Dr. Claire Conceison and Meng Jinghui have given to this project. It's been so special and so unique as an undergraduate student. They have both given so much time and effort and creative energy.

A bit of advice given to me from Meng via Dr. Conceison... with every play he does he tries to fail... he hasn't failed yet, but he'll keep trying.

I hope we failed big :))))))

–Cameron Jabs '21



*I Love XXX Rehearsal Photo*

## CAST BIOS

**Tess McAdam '23** (Ensemble) is a Psychology major. Non-Skidmore credits include *Hairspray!* (Tracy Turnblad) and *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeney). Tess continues to train with acting coach Lori Lively. She has taken voice lessons for 5 years and trained at Belvoir Terrace Theater Intensive. She would like to thank her director and her stage manager for their dedication and support.

**Lucky Ricci '21** (Ensemble) is a Theater major. Her previous credits include *The Sor Juana Project* (Castaño) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Friar Francis). Lucky has been working with Skidmore College for four years and does vocal training with Acting and Voice Studios. She would like to thank her friends, family, and Skidmore Theater for seeing the actress in her; she dedicates her performance to Ruby.

**Max Weigel '24** (Ensemble) is a first-year student with an undecided major. His previous credits outside of Skidmore include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander) and *Oliver* (Fagin). This is Max's first performance at Skidmore. He has received no formal training. He would like to dedicate this performance to his director, stage manager, and castmates for being a part of his first piece of theater in college.

## PRODUCTION BIOS

**Leandro Bustos '23** (Stage Manager) is a Theater major with a Business minor. Previously at Skidmore: *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* (Ensemble). Leandro is also performing in *No Names* for SpringFest. Leandro would like to thank his lovely cast and especially his lead artist for their amazing work.

**Cameron Jabs '21** (Director) is a Theater major who has done work across design, dramaturgy and directing. Previous Skidmore credits include *The Sor Juana Project* (Dramaturg) and *Radium Girls* (Assistant Scenic Designer). Cameron would like to thank his cast for their amazing work, Lisa Jackson-Schebetta and Dr. Eunice Ferreira for their support and guidance, Claire Conceison for her inspiration and her time, and especially Leandro (his stage manager).

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Theater Department at Skidmore College acknowledges that we work, learn, create, and reside on the lands of the Haudenosaunee, Muheconneok, Kanienkehaka, and Abenaki peoples. We thank the elders of these tribes for their past, present, and continued stewardship of these lands. We recognize that land acknowledgement is only a first, small step towards building ethical, reciprocal, and reparative relationships with the indigenous, Native, and First Nations peoples of this hemisphere and we strive to move beyond our words to reflect our intentions through our actions.