

“A Transparent Musical” Press Guide

We celebrate gender diversity and the unique gender identity of each company member of “A Transparent Musical.” We want to give everyone covering this world premiere production the correct terminology and helpful information when referencing the company as well as the characters in the production and the production itself. Should you have any questions or need clarification when referencing a member of the company, please reach out to ctgpublicity@ctgla.org.

“A Transparent Musical” Cast (In order of Introduction)

Marv (he/him) / Magnus Hirschfeld (he/him)	Pat Towne (he/him)
Davina (she/her) / Darlene (she/her)	Peppermint (she/her)
Rabbi Raquel (she/her) / Gittel (she/her) / Queerdo	Murphy Taylor Smith (she/her)
Hyman (he/him) / Karl (he/him) / Queerdo / Others	Jimmy Ray Bennett (he/him)
Ali Pfefferman (she/her)	Adina Verson (they/them)
Shelly Pfefferman (she/her)	Liz Larsen (she/her)
Maura Pfefferman (she/her)	Daya Curley (she/her)
Sarah Pfefferman (she/her) / Queerdo	Sarah Stiles (she/her)
Josh Pfefferman (she/her) / Queerdo	Zachary Prince (he/him)
Ezra (he/him) / Edward (he/him)	Kasper (they/them)
Len (he/him) / Queerdo / Others	Robert Pieranunzi (he/him)
Megan (she/her) / Queerdo / Others	Emily Goglia (she/her)
Other Megan (she/her) / Dora (she/her) / Queerdo / Others	Samora la Perdida (she/they)
Charlotte (she/her) / Charli (they/them) / Others	Justin Rivers (all pronouns)
Gerd (he/him) / Queerdo / Others	Futaba Shioda (he/him)
Shlohmo (he/him) / Queerdo / Others	Dahlya Glick (they/them)

“A Transparent Musical” Company

Book by MJ Kaufman (he/they) and Joey Soloway (they/them)
 Music, Lyrics, and Vocal Arrangements by Faith Soloway (they/them)
 Choreographed by James Alsop (she/her)
 Directed by Tina Landau (she/her)
 Scenic Design Adam Rigg (they/them)
 Costume Design Toni-Leslie James (she/her)
 Lighting Design Jen Schriever (she/her)
 Sound Design Kai Harada (he/him)

Projection Design Yee Eun Nam (she/her)
 Hair and Wig Design Matthew Armentrout
 Orchestrations John Clancy
 Music Direction and Arrangements Julie McBride (she/her)
 Casting The Telsey Company: Patrick Goodwin, CSA Charlie Hano, CSA
 Additional Casting Michael Donovan, CSA; Richie Ferris, CSA
 Associate Artistic Director Kelley Kirkpatrick (he/him)
 Production Stage Manager David S. Franklin (he/him)

Names/Pronouns and Addressing People Best Practices

When referencing anyone, please do not put quotation marks around someone's name or pronouns. For pronouns, please refer to the above cast and company list of pronouns and use them, just as you have the goal of spelling a name correctly. Some may not use pronouns that are collectively the same such as she/they or she/he/they – whatever pronouns are listed next to someone's names are the ones that a person would like to be identified, please honor that. If you have questions about this, please contact us for additional guidance.

Please honor cast member's names as listed in this guide. Some cast members may have undergone name changes and use a different name than they had previously gone by. In coverage, please do not use phrases like "he wants to be addressed as" or "she calls herself" or any other phrases that can cause doubt about someone's gender or the legitimacy of a name.

We understand using they and them pronouns in the singular may be new for many. Singular they pronouns are conjugated as plural they pronouns. With a singular they, you are welcome to use *themselves* instead of *themself* – both are acceptable. (PS: some autocorrection will automatically update *themselves* to *themself*). For example: *Adina Verson plays the role of Ali Pfefferman. Verson might be a familiar face to Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building" as they played the role of Poppy.*

For those who use all pronouns, you are welcome to identify them as she/her, they/them, he/him or a combination. You can also forgo pronouns and just use someone's name in replacement of pronouns. For example: *Justin Rivers' Charli in the second act was a powerful force telling their story of studying in Berlin. You certainly felt the journey of Charli with dynamic voice that Rivers shared on stage.*

No spoilers!

To maintain theatre magic and not reveal any spoilers to "A Transparent Musical," we kindly ask that you do NOT discuss/cover the following with the actors or share these plot points/references with your audience:

- Ali's name change to Ari
- Nazi interaction
- Book burning

We recognize that concepts around pronouns and gender expansiveness might be new or something you are still learning, so we offer this glossary of some of the most common words you may hear in the show or culture. There are also some definitions that are highlighted from the Jewish perspective.

A note: To honor the truth of the "A Transparent Musical" story and its characters, "A Transparent Musical" contains language that might be offensive and triggering to a variety of communities — most prominently language that is transphobic or anti-Semitic. The views implicit in this language reflect those of the character within the story and not those of the creators or company.

Gender Inclusivity and Language Terms

Gender is a set of socially constructed behaviors and attributes that a society considers appropriate, usually in relation to the categories of male, female, or nonbinary. Your gender is different than your sex assigned at birth.

Gender identity is how you identify and feel on the inside. Gender expression is how you express your gender on the outside. Gender identity and gender expression are not necessarily correlated.

Cisgender (cis) means you identify with the gender you were assigned at birth.

Transgender (trans) is an umbrella term for those who identify with a gender outside of the gender they were assigned at birth. Transgender is a descriptor of a gender identity and is not connected to someone's sexual orientation. For example: "Sexual orientation is who you go to bed with, gender identity is who I go to bed as."

Nonbinary is a term for gender identities that live outside of the binary of "man" and "woman." A nonbinary gender experience could be a mix of "man" and "woman," somewhere between "man" and "woman," outside of "man" and "woman" or another experience entirely.

Queer means something a little different to everyone who uses it and identifies with it. It's most often used as an umbrella term for people who identify with sexual orientations and gender identities outside the mainstream of heterosexual or cisgender norms. The word was previously used as a slur but has been reclaimed by many parts of the LGBTQIA+ movement. Because of this history, it is important to ensure appropriate use of this word. For example, someone may identify as "a Queer person" but should not be referred to as "a Queer." Queer is also often used to describe things other than individual identity — for some, queer is a community, queer is liberation, queer is style, queer means inclusivity or flexibility.

Pronouns are the words we use to talk about people aside from using their names (ex: he/his, she/hers, they/them, and many more.) While pronouns may reflect a person's gender, this isn't always the case. For that reason, it is important not to assume someone's pronouns.

LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, the T being inclusive of Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive (or Gender Non-Conforming) identities. Many variants or extensions of the acronym exist, including the common LGBTQ+ which adds the letter Q for those who identify as queer or for those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Jewish Terms

Hadassah Also known as "The Women's Zionist Organization of America," Jewish women's organization focused on philanthropy and women's leadership.

JCC Acronym that stands for Jewish Community Center, a gathering place for Jewish communities in most major cities with events and activities for all ages.

Purim A Jewish holiday commemorating how ancient Jews were spared from massacre during the Persian Empire, and during which the Book of Esther is read aloud or reenacted, and costumes and revelry are encouraged.

Media Guides

For gender-related terms in addition to the definitions offered above, including terms to avoid, please visit GLAAD Media Reference Guide at glaad.org/reference. You are also welcome to use the Association of LGBTQ Journalists LGBTQ Style Book at nljia.org/stylebook or the Trans Journalists Association Style Guide at transjournalists.org/style-guide.

Topics pertaining to "A Transparent Musical"

In our production, a multiracial cast portrays the population at the Institute for Sexual Research. However, this casting is not historically accurate. Despite the multi-racial makeup of Weimar Berlin, the milieu of the Institute was predominantly white. Our casting reflects a fantasy version of the Institute. We also hope that it can call attention to the white-washed lens of queer history and the erasure of queer and trans people of color from European LGBTQ+ history.

***Das Lila Lied** or **The Lavender Song**, which is woven through A Transparent Musical, has been called by some historians the first gay anthem, despite remaining largely unknown today. Written in 1920 for a performance in the Berlin cabaret scene, with lyrics by Kurt Schwabach and music by Misha Spoliansky (under the pseudonym Arno Billig), the song was dedicated to Magnus Hirschfeld. Over a hundred years later, these final lyrics still reverberate in this new century:

Round us all up, send us away // that's what you'd really like to do // But we're too strong, proud, unafraid // in fact we almost pity you // You act from fear, why should that be // What is it that you are frightened of // The way that we dress // The way that we meet // The fact that you cannot destroy our love // We're going to win our rights // to lavender days and nights

Information about “A Transparent Musical”

“A Transparent Musical” is based on the Amazon Prime TV series Transparent and written by the TV show’s creators – Joey Soloway and Faith Soloway. “A Transparent Musical” features many of the same characters and themes as the TV show, but it is a brand-new story. Fans of the TV show may notice references or similarities to the show, but the musical is a standalone story that everyone can enjoy.

All trans and nonbinary characters are played by trans and nonbinary actors. Should you have any questions regarding the identity of a member of the company, please reach out to CTGPublicity@ctgla.org. We can also provide you with appropriate language for any company member you are referencing in your coverage.

“A Transparent Musical” is recommended for ages 13 and up. While overall an incredibly positive story of community and family, this production contains brief depictions of violence, sexual themes, strong language, and brief depictions of drug experimentation.

General show copy:

Audiences will follow the “Transparent” story through the Pfefferman family’s youngest child Ali Pfefferman, played by Adina Verson, as she navigates the ups and downs of self-discovery. Ali’s Los Angeles Jewish family is filled with secrets, but when her parent, Maura – played by Daya Curley – transitions to the transgender matriarch she always knew she was, the family is forced to confront their own identities and navigate their relationships with each other. Through a revelatory story of acceptance and self-expression, “A Transparent Musical” explores the intersection of Jewish and queer history while celebrating the imperfectly human and startlingly familiar aspects of a universally relatable family. [Production Photos and more information can be found here.](#)