

ZURICH ENGLISH-SPEAKING THEATRE  
SWISS PREMIERE

**JUNE 25TH**  
**— JULY 4TH**  
**2026**  
THEATER  
MILLERS  
ZURICH

# FARRAGUT NORTH

A DRAMA BY  
**BEAU WILLIMON**

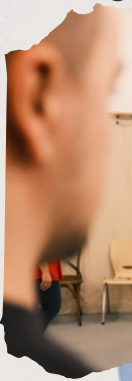
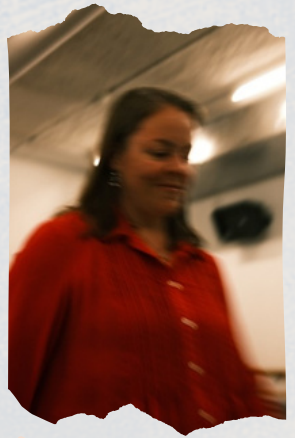
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# FARRAGUT NORTH BY BEAU WILLIMON

Set during a fiercely contested presidential primary, **FARRAGUT NORTH** follows a young, ambitious campaign press secretary caught in the brutal machinery of American politics. Written by Beau Willimon (*House of Cards* / *Andor*), it offers an unflinching look behind the curtains at the strategists, spokespeople, the media, and dealmakers who shape public perception of representative politics while serving their own ambitions. But as loyalties shift and personal motives collide, the play explores how power, even in small doses, distorts values and relationships.



## Beau Willimon | Author

Pack Beauregard Willimon (born October 26, 1977) is an American playwright and screenwriter. He developed the American version of the series *House of Cards*, serving as showrunner for the first four seasons. In 2018, Willimon created the drama series *The First* for Hulu, about the first crewed mission to Mars. He was also a writer on both seasons of the Disney+ series *Andor*.

At Juilliard, he wrote a play, *Farragut North*, that was inspired by his experience as press aide for Dean's 2004 campaign for President. In fall 2008, it premiered off Broadway at the Atlantic Theater Company in a production starring John Gallagher Jr., Chris Noth, and Olivia Thirlby.

**FARRAGUT NORTH** is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, services the Dramatists Play Service collection ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)).



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, tablets, and smart watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited.

# CREATIVE TEAM

## Note from the Director

My fascination with Farragut North stems directly from my fascination with the gap between public perception and private reality. Author Beau Willimon's *House of Cards* opened a door for me, revealing that politics is driven by the very specific, very fragile egos of people in suits and not just ideology. It was a masterclass to me in watching people treat human connection as a weapon.

Farragut North is about the ghosts of the West Wing - the staffers, the fixers, the speechwriters who are close enough to feel the heat of the oval office, but far enough away to be expendable. They're the unfortunate architects who never get to enter the building.

My goal is to remind the audience that the officials sitting in government buildings are not cogs in a machine. They are people waking up at 3 AM with anxiety. They are people who fail their partners, friends and families, who drink too much, who are utterly terrified of losing their youth and utterly terrified of losing their relevance. To make it in D.C., the narrative suggests you must become 'less'. You must suppress your morality, your hope and even your beliefs.

We watch these characters fall not because we enjoy the wreckage, but because we recognize the warning signs in ourselves. Farragut North is a mirror, not a prophecy. It leads us to the question: If proximity to power demands becoming less, what might you gain by refusing the trade?



### Nevin George | *Director*

Nevin George is a Swiss-Indian actor and director. After traditional schooling, he pursued freelance work before studying film at Zurich, where he directed his films, *Mary* and *My Nuclear Family*. He is currently finishing up his short film titled *STURM*. He played the role of Birdlace in *Dogfight* (ZEST's November 2024 production) and co-directed *Frankenstein* (ZEST's November 2025 production)



### Eli Melvin | *Co-Director*

Eli is an Australian-born performer residing in Zürich since 2020. He loves all forms of theatre and the unique connections created between the audience and stage by a live performance.

Eli is an active member of ZEST, having had the pleasure of performing in many readings and productions. Most recently he was assistant director alongside Nevin on *Frankenstein* (2025) and directed *Hand to God* (2025). He is a glutton for punishment!

# CAST



**Yasser Shawky**



**Darryl Cox**



**Zoë  
Zimmermann**



**Zoë Marsaly**



**Mimi Ambiel**



**Trista Schlick**



**Lucian Todirică**



**Sina Develioglu**

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## **Yasser Shawky | *Stephen Bellamy***

Theatre and improv actor Yasser Shawky moved from Prague, Czech Republic to Zurich a little over two years ago. Having been on the stage from a young age, and having studied both film and theatre, he's always quite excited to get on stage.

His most recent performance was in the ZEST Hand to God production.

Also, he prefers the aisle-seat on an airplane.

## **Darryl Cox | *Paul Zara***

Darryl is Brit, originally from London and has been in Switzerland since 2006. As far as being an actor in a public theatre play, he's a complete virgin, but has been a ZEST member for a few years and has done numerous readings. He loves the world of politics (à la "House of Cards"), so the opportunity to play in Farragut North was a bit of a no-brainer.

As a Londoner, he's been spoilt for choice for great theatre, but the transition from audience member to on-stage is a bit daunting - crumbs!

## **Zoë Zimmermann | *Molly***

A Radio Presenter by day and somewhat of an actress by night, Zoë Zimmermann is Swiss-English or as she likes to call it "Swinglish" and grew up in Zurich. This is her first time sharing the stage with the ZEST Crew, but it's not her first acting experience. As a Child she's been in numerous Swiss-German spoken plays with the swiss theatre school Metzenthin. She's been in fairytale classics like Rumpelstiltskin, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and a few original Plays. This is her first time acting English, albeit in an American accent. Zoë, who has suffered as an intern in real life, is delighted to play Molly. A complex female character just like herself. And personally, the window seat on a plane always wins.

## **Zoë Marsaly | *Beth***

Zoë is French-American, and grew up moving back and forth between the two countries. She first discovered the stage at the age of nine, playing in her school's production of Hamlet. Ever since, she has held a passion for theatre and film, both as a spectator and an actress.

Prior to moving to Zurich last year, Zoë studied engineering in Lausanne. There, she was a member of the Village Players, and rediscovered community theatre through productions like The Murder of Rose Ashcroft (dir. Horvath), and The Breakdown (dir. Siviglia).

For her first show with ZEST, she is excited to get bullied on stage against the somewhat nostalgic backdrop of early 2000's American Politics.

On a personal note, Zoë believes someone's favourite things say a lot, so these are some of hers: Orange, Belmondo's Breathless, To The Lighthouse by Woolf, a 1997 Honda CRV, and sea otters.

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## **Mimi Ambiel** | *Ida Horowitz*

Mimi Ambiel comes from Brazil and landed in Switzerland almost 5 years ago. As a former violinist, the stage is not a strange place to be, but being there as an actress is her first time.

She studied the bachelor in violin performance, freshly finished the masters at ZHdK in music and movement - Rhythmik, and now she's pursuing a career as an actress. Yes, she's 30 years old. Yes, she's starting something new. Yes, she worries about it. No. Yes.

## **Trista Schlick** | *Tam Duffy*

Trista is thrilled to be making her ZEST debut, which also marks her return to the stage after nearly 20 years - she took some time off to have a couple of kids, but never lost the itch! Originally from Minnesota, and later North Carolina in the U.S., Trista moved with her family to Switzerland in 2020...and would not recommend international relocation during a pandemic. Some of her past roles include Emily in *Our Town*, Aldonza/Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha*, Maria in *West Side Story*, Maria in *Sound of Music*, and Maria - just kidding - Kim in *Bye Bye Birdie*. She works in Internal Communications and HR for her "day job," but her favorite place to be is on a stage, singing and acting.


## **Lucian Todirică** | *Frank*

Lucian is a veterinary scientist who fell in love with theatre in high school, playing Gremio in *The Taming of the Shrew* with *Drama Club Botosani*. After moving to Zurich, he joined ZEST and soon became the club's Production Coordinator. He recently played *Pastor Greg* in *Hand to God*, and now takes on the role of *Frank*, a journalist navigating the messy political scene of Washington. Lucian is also making his directorial debut, co-directing the upcoming ZEST musical, *RENT*. Outside of theatre, you can find him performing *stand-up* on the Zurich comedy circuit.

## **Sina Develioglu** | *Waiter*

Sina grew up in Cyprus and Turkey and worked as a child actor in Istanbul with credits including a sitcom remake of *Daddy Day Care* (2006) and the feature film *Ulak / The Messenger* (2008). After moving to Germany in 2016 to study Psychology, he relocated to Zurich in 2021. His ZEST credits include *Davey* (Lieutenant of Inishmore, 2023), *Gibbs/French Waiter* (Dogfight, The Musical, 2024), *Ensemble/Understudy Christopher* (Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, 2025), and *The Creature* (Frankenstein, 2025). Sina claims to despise typecasting. That's why for his fifth ZEST show, he's thrilled to be playing yet another *Waiter* - this time, with a dramatic turn.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

The background of the page features a light blue, semi-transparent image of a theater stage. Several silhouettes of people are scattered across the stage, some standing and some in motion, creating a sense of activity behind the scenes.

Production Coordinator	Lucian Todirică
Head Stage Manager	Daniel Heidland
Stage Managers	Marianne Alewine, Dogan Dalay, Helena Sievi
Scenographers	Fabian Kuratli, Johannes Frohnhofen
Properties	Susan Feldmann
Specialist Properties	Skye Hudson Daniels
Music (composer)	Philippe Schmidt
Head of Lighting	Oli Pont
Lighting Team	Linea Nordgren, Karen Sarmiento
Head of Sound	Rich Hsieh
Sound Team	Kim Mason-Piercy
Costumes	Anna-Thea Jäger, Rosanna Löw
Head of Makeup and Hair	Bettina Ament
Prompt Lead	Irene Lautenbach
Prompt Team	Beatrice Hungerbühler
Assistant Stage Managers	Pekko Roman, Bianca Kiss, Tim Hupf
Head of Publicity	Alex Clapper
Photography	Edwin Parayampillil
Videography and Trailers	Nevin George, Michael Gawthorne, Alex Clapper
Artwork and Graphic Design	Nevin George, Alex Clapper
Ticketing	Alessio Del Toro, Andrea-Manuela Rüttimann
Front of House Organiser	Lorraine Kälin
Front of House, Get-in, Get-out	Members of ZEST
Catering	Valery Niggli
Q&A Moderation	Bouqui Stautmeister

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**The American International Club of Zurich was founded in 1957 and provides a non-political, international networking forum for members of all nationalities. The AICZ has no political affiliations or objectives and is not a profit-making organization.**

Regardless of age, gender, nationality or profession, our members enjoy the candid openness and positive, friendly atmosphere that is so inherent in North American culture. Whether in Switzerland for professional or personal reasons, members and their families enjoy spending time with other like-minded people to fully benefit from and enrich the experience of living here.

Thanks to our several membership categories – individual, student, couples, as well as corporate memberships – we have long term members and members that may only be in Switzerland for a short business assignment.

The AICZ prides itself on:

- promoting a supportive community spirit among members
- assisting members and their families in their adjustment to Swiss culture and lifestyle
- fostering fellowship and friendly relationships among the members of AICZ and their Swiss communities
- maintaining good relations and cooperating with other organizations in Zurich with similar goals or purposes.

We are a strong club of a great group of people! Check out [www.aicz.ch](http://www.aicz.ch) for more information.



**ZURICH ENGLISH-SPEAKING THEATRE**  
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