

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE

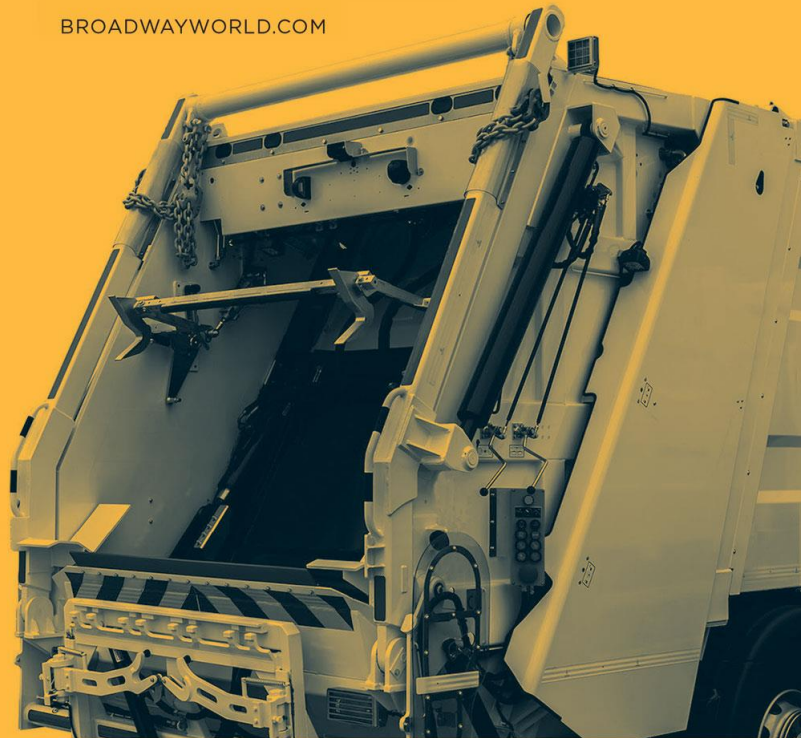
NORTHLIGHT
THEATRE

THE GARBOL GISTS

By Lindsay Joelle
Directed by Cody Estle

**“Laced with wit and wisdom,
full of humor and heart”**

BROADWAYWORLD.COM



September 1 - October 2, 2022

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

Image Description: The poster for Northlight Theatre's production of *The Garbologists*, written by Lindsay Joelle and directed by Cody Estle. There is a black and white photo of a garbage truck in the center. The poster has a dark yellow background with thick red dashes running across the top and bottom. A quote reads, "Laced with wit and wisdom, full of humor and heart." The show runs from September 1st through October 2nd.

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GUIDE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Northlight's production of *The Garbologists* by Lindsay Joelle. This production will run at Northlight Theatre from September 1st through October 2nd. The address is 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL, 60077.

This guide holds many different accessibility tools to make your experience at the show as comfortable as possible. Please be aware that not every element of this guide will be useful to each individual. Therefore, please feel free to pick and choose which accessibility tools would be most beneficial to you.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday – Thursday Evenings (all times are estimates)

- 6:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 7:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 7:30pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 7:35pm The show will begin.
- 9:00pm The show will end.

Friday – Saturday Evenings (all times are estimates)

- 7:00pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 7:30pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 8:00pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 8:05pm The show will begin.
- 9:30pm The show will end.

Saturday – Sunday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 1:30pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 2:00pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 2:30pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 2:35pm The show will begin.
- 4:00pm The show will end.

Weekday Matinees (all times are estimates)

- 12:00pm The lobby opens for concessions & socializing.
- 12:30pm The auditorium opens for you to take your seat.
- 1:00pm A recorded curtain speech will play.
- 1:05pm The show will begin.
- 2:30pm The show will end.

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FULL SHOW SYNOPSIS **(spoilers ahead)**

Run time: 90 minutes, with no intermission

Danny is a middle aged white man who has been working for the New York City Department of Sanitation for nine years. At the start of the play, he drives his garbage truck and tries to teach Marlowe the ins and outs of the job. This is Marlowe's first day, and she's been asked to ride along with Danny to learn the ropes, but she has little patience for Danny's "lessons". She lets him know that she received a perfect score on the written exam. Danny insists that there are things about the job that can't be learned from a written exam. He tries to make small talk with Marlowe but she informs him that she doesn't like to talk before she's had her morning coffee.

Some time later, Marlowe is loading garbage into the back of the truck when Danny attempts to help her. Marlowe reminds Danny that she's the "Loader" and he's the "Driver" but Danny suggests those titles don't mean anything. Marlowe insists that she passed the strength test and doesn't need special treatment. Danny finally gives in, but as soon as Marlowe continues working, he can't help but provide unsolicited advice about her technique. Marlowe gets fed up and lets Danny know that she graduated double summa cum laude from Columbia. Danny is surprised as most of his coworkers are ex-convicts. Eventually, Danny reveals that his ex-wife, Tiffany, took out a temporary restraining order on him, causing him to lose his son. Danny insists that people would realize he's not a bad guy if they would just give him a chance.

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Later that day, while working, Danny is monologuing about the best butcher in the city. Marlowe expresses frustration at Danny's constant talking. After Marlowe has a brief scare about catching bed bugs from touching a mattress, Danny calms her down by suggesting that if the mattress had bed bugs then there'd be more garbage bags as the residents would have thrown out everything in their home. He tells Marlowe that this kind of insight is called "reading the bags".

The next day Marlowe is standing outside of Starbucks having a heated conversation over the phone with someone named Sharonda who is trying to collect a debt. When Danny approaches, Marlowe quickly hangs up. He hands her a coffee and tells her how much she owes him. Marlowe is surprised as she thought he was buying her the coffee without expecting to be paid back. She proposes that she pay him back by paying for his coffee next time, but he informs her that he doesn't drink coffee. He then tells her a story about a co-worker named Ramsburg who was known for offering to pay people back but never did until he worked up a large tab and was transferred to another area.

The following day Danny and Marlowe come across a box of dildos while working. Danny plans to take one of them to prank a coworker, but Marlowe suggests he can't take it because the dildo doesn't belong to him. Danny says that anything left out on the curb is the property of the City of New York. He then teaches Marlowe about "mongering" which is a word the sanitation workers use to describe scavenging the junk they find. However, Danny also informs Marlowe that keeping trash is against union rules, so it's best to do it secretly and not talk about it, especially around supervisors.

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When Danny infers that the garbage bags they are currently loading into the truck are filled with belongings of someone who recently died, Marlowe starts removing the bags from the truck. She starts to have a panic attack, leading Danny to try and help her. Eventually she calms down, but shortly after Danny saves her from an exploding can of spray paint she was crushing in the back of the truck. He becomes agitated with her inability to follow directions and then receives a phone call from the nurse's office at his son's school. He is informed that his ex-wife has not answered the school's phone calls so he tries to call her himself. Marlowe quickly tells him to hang up as he still has a temporary restraining order. He complies and then tells Marlowe the story of how his ex-wife came to file the order in the first place. He tells her that his ex-wife came at him first so he pushed her away to protect his son who was nearby. Marlowe then reveals that she had a child too, but the child died.

After their work shift, Danny is smoking a cigarette outside the garage. Marlowe approaches and asks about a book of botanical prints that she found in their truck. Danny lets her know it's a gift from him to her for upsetting her earlier that day. He invites her to have a drink with him but she declines. She then reveals that the book of botanical prints he gave her is very old and might be worth thousands of dollars.

In the following scene, Danny and Marlowe are celebrating their find by getting drinks together at a bar. Marlowe asks why Danny doesn't like to be referred to as a "garbage man" and he states that, "Just because we pick up trash, that don't make us garbage." Marlowe then jokingly calls herself a "garbologist". Marlowe contemplates getting high, but Danny reminds her that they are subject to random drug tests and anything stronger than aspirin

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can be grounds for termination. The two of them daydream about what they will do with the money if the book sells. Danny says he would use it to buy season tickets for the New York Rangers for his son. Marlowe says she would use the money to pay her bills. She reveals that when her son died of cancer she was admitted into in-patient care, and when she returned home her parents had disposed of all of her son's belongings. Danny then mentions that his previous partner was named Darondel, and Marlowe becomes visibly agitated as she recognizes the name and description. She tells Danny that people like him don't deserve children and then leaves the bar with the book.

The following Monday, Marlowe drives the garbage truck as Danny sits in the passenger seat. A heavy winter storm recently passed through the area causing them to work twelve hour shifts for multiple days in a row. Marlowe reveals that she recently found out Danny got his previous partner, Darondel, fired. Danny confesses that his supervisor called him into the office one day to discuss Darondel taking "Christmas tips" which is illegal in New York City. Marlowe then states that she and Danny will not be splitting any money made from selling the book. Danny insists that he has a right to some of the money since he's the one who found the book. Marlowe tells Danny that she owes \$500,000 for her son's chemotherapy and that she dropped out of Columbia to care for him. Marlowe's phone suddenly rings, distracting her, and causing her to almost hit a biker and knocking the garbage truck's mirror off in the process. Marlowe starts to panic when Danny tells her she'll be drug tested. She took a Robitussin last night and a DayQuil this morning. Danny quickly instructs her to switch seats with him.

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Two weeks later Marlowe and Danny meet at a cafe. Danny took the blame for the incident with the truck's mirror and was suspended. Marlowe reveals that her son, Malik, loved garbage trucks. Early one morning, during his first round of chemo, Malik heard a garbage truck outside and begged Marlowe to carry him outside to watch. Marlowe says they took a picture with the two guys on the truck. The two guys turned out to be Danny and Darondel. Shortly after that photo is when Darondel was fired after being ratted out by Danny. Danny apologizes and Marlowe hands him a check: his cut from the book. Danny then recounts what he remembers from that day with Malik. He describes Malik's clothing and says he could tell he was a kid accustomed to being liked, and that he liked him for it. Marlowe thanks him for sharing that memory of her son.

A few days later, Danny and Marlowe are in the garbage truck. As Danny drives, Marlowe hands him two tickets to a Rangers game. Danny asks her how much they cost, but she refuses to tell him. As she scrolls through the news on her phone, she comes across a news story about archaeologists who found a Byzantine dump. Danny comments that most of what we know about ancient civilizations comes from studying their garbage. Marlowe wonders out loud what they'll think of us in a thousand years. The lights go to black as she looks out into the distance.

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SENSITIVITY GUIDE

CONTENT WARNINGS

This story deals with cancer and the death of a child. Please see synopsis above for specifics.

SENSORY WARNINGS

Towards the end of the play, about 80 minutes in, there is a loud screeching sound and the sound of cars honking as the characters hit the brakes on the garbage truck.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does this production contain any technical elements that could be loud, bright, or shocking?

Like many of Northlight's plays, this production will include technical elements that may trigger sensory sensitivities. Northlight has done its best to design elements so that they will be accessible to all, but each person is different, thereby making it impossible to plan for every individual. If you believe that you may have some sensory sensitivities to the show, please consult the guide above to make you are aware of them before they happen. Please also remember that Northlight has noise canceling headphones as well as sunglasses available to borrow for any of these moments.

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What types of accessibility options does Northlight provide?






Northlight provides a wealth of accessibility options for its audience members. These tools can be broken up into two specific categories: Specific Date Accessibility and General Accessibility. For specific date accessibility, Northlight will provide accommodations on predetermined dates throughout the run. We highly recommend reserving tickets for these dates ahead of time. These accommodations include: ASL Interpretation, Audio Description, Open Captions, and Relaxed/Sensory Friendly Performances.

For general accessibility, Northlight provides a wide range of tools that can be requested at any performance of the show free of charge. These include: assisted listening devices and accessible seating. For accessible seating, it is recommended you request the necessary seats when purchasing your tickets, as they may not be available the day of the performance. For assisted listening devices, please go to the House Manager or ask an usher.

For more information, visit northlight.org/visit/#accessibility or email Ruben Carrazana, Community Engagement Manager, at rcarrazana@northlight.org.

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REFERENCE PHOTOS

	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Exterior</p> <p>Id: The front of North Shore Center on a sunny day. The building has white columns and its sides are primarily made of windows.</p>
	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Entrance</p> <p>Id: The doors to North Shore's building. The doors are paneled glass and there is a hand railing leading up. A man is entering the doors.</p>
	<p>North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Parking Lot</p> <p>Id: The parking lot at the theater. It is a sunny day with many clouds, there is a sign that says "Theatre Parking Only" and several cars parked.</p>
	<p>Northlight's Auditorium</p> <p>Id: The doors leading directly into the theater. There are three doors which are all light brown wood. Two doors are open. A sign above the doors reads North Theatre. A man is waving hello.</p>
	<p>The Set for <i>The Garbologists</i></p> <p>Id: A front half of a large garbage truck faces the audience, while the second half sits to the left also facing the audience. A black lamppost about fifteen feet tall is on the right. The back wall is made of brick, and has the dark outline of the New York City skyline on it. Black plastic trash bags are piled and running up the back wall. A smaller pile of trash bags is near the front of the stage.</p>

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 A portrait of Ruben Carrazana, a Hispanic man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark maroon sweater, sitting and resting his head on his hand against a black background.	<p>Ruben Carrazana Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>Id: A Hispanic man sits and stares at the camera with his head resting on his hand. He has black hair and wears a dark maroon sweater in front of a black wall.</p>
 A portrait of BJ Jones, an older man with a white beard and silver hair, smiling, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest.	<p>BJ Jones Artistic Director</p> <p>Id: A picture of a jolly older man with a white beard and hair going silver.</p>
 A portrait of Tiffany Renee Johnson, a Black woman with dark brown hair, wearing a salmon-colored shirt, looking directly at the camera with a soft smile.	<p>Tiffany Renee Johnson Marlowe</p> <p>Id: A Black woman in her early 30's stares at the camera with a soft, closed-mouthed smile. She has dark brown, nearly black hair with medium brown skin and wears a salmon colored shirt in front of a half white, half brown obscure background.</p>
 A portrait of Luigi Sottile, a white man with longish hair, wearing a white t-shirt, standing with his arms folded in front of industrial windows.	<p>Luigi Sottile Danny</p> <p>Id: A white man, 30's, stares at the camera with intensity. Long-ish hair, white t-shirt, arms folded, stands in front of an industrial set of windows. Brown hair and blue eyes.</p>