

November 14, 2019
For Immediate Release

The House Theatre of Chicago Announces *Verböten*
A new musical inspired by Jason Narducy's teenage punk rock band

Watch Trailer [Here](#)

Running January 16 – March 8, 2020

Chopin Theatre, 1543 W Division St, Chicago

Press Opening: Sunday, January 26 7:00pm



(Verböten, 1983)

1983. Chicago. It's do-or-die for **Verböten**—a band made up of outsider teens with seriously complex home lives. As they gear up for a show at The Cubby Bear that is sure to change their lives forever, can they keep their parents from destroying the fabric of their self-made punk rock family? With lyrics and music by Verböten's original guitarist **Jason Narducy (Bob Mould, Superchunk, Split Single)** and

book by **Brett Neveu** (*Odradek, Pilgrim's Progress, Traitor*), *Verböten* is inspired by the true story of Chicago's own young punks.

Music and Lyrics by **Jason Narducy**

Book by **Brett Neveu**

Directed by **Nathan Allen**

We started a punk rock band in Evanston in 1982. I was 11 years old and it felt incredible to write original songs and play them with my friends. We all had our own issues at home but we found love and support in our little group. We were Verböten.

Brett Neveu wrote this play depicting our scene in Evanston in 1983. I think he captured the spirit of the band and both the humor and confusion that we possessed.

I was nervous about writing songs for a musical for the first time. Thankfully, the whole process of developing the piece took five years so I had plenty of time to create music and lyrics. Brett's characters are so well written that lyrics came quickly or at least quicker than they have for my compositions for my current and previous bands. For the kids songs, I wrote hardcore punk rock; inspired by bands that inspired Verböten (Circle Jerks, Articles of Faith, Hüsker Dü, Naked Raygun, The Ramones). The other characters (mostly parents), sing songs that sound more like their own generation from the 60s and 70s.

I'm thrilled to be a part of this production. The cast and crew are incredible. I can't thank The House Theatre and Brett Neveu enough for taking our story to the stage 37 years after we made punk rock songs in an Evanston basement.

-- **Jason Narducy**

Watch Trailer For Verböten -

https://youtu.be/NIYJVP_DlrA

Cast Members:

The cast for the *Verböten* features **Kieren McCabe** (Jason); **Krystal Ortiz** (Tracey); **Matthew Lunt** (Chris); **Jeff Kurysz** (Zack); **Jimmy Chung** (Jason's Stepdad); **Ray Rehberg** (Jason's Dad); **Paul Fagen*** (Tracy's Dad); **Jenni M. Hadley** (Tracy's Mom); **Marika Mashburn+*** (Chris's Sister); **Marc A. Rogers** (Zack's Dad).

The design team includes **Lee Keenan+** (Set and Lights), **Izumi Inaba+** (Costumes), **Matthew Muñiz+** (Arrangements/Music Direction), **Marika Mashburn+*** (Casting), **Grover Hollway** (Sound), **Kasey Foster** (Choreography), **Eleanor Kahn** (Props), **Amalie Vega*** (Stage management).

+Company Member at The House Theatre of Chicago

*Member of Actor's Equity Association

Purchase tickets to *Verböten* -

Visit TheHouseTheatre.com or call the box office at (773) 769-3832.

Tickets \$20 - \$50. All seats General Admission.

Download hi-res images of Jason Narducy -

<http://pitchperfectpr.com/split-single/>

About Jason Narducy

Jason Narducy is an Evanston, IL-based musician. In 1982, at 11 years-old, he formed the seminal punk rock band *Verböten* with his childhood friends in an Evanston basement. Narducy would later go on to front *Verbow*, releasing three albums with the band (one in its earliest incarnation as Jason & Alison). Since his days in *Verbow*, Narducy has gone on to tour with such acts as Robert Pollard and *Telekinesis*. Today, he plays bass in both the *Bob Mould Band* and *Superchunk*, and fronts *Split Single*, with whom he's recorded two albums with a rotating cast of stellar musicians, including Jon Wurster, *Spoon's* Britt Daniel, *R.E.M.'s* Mike Mills, and *Wilco's* John Stirratt.

About The House Theatre of Chicago

The House is Chicago's premier home for intimate, original works of epic story and stagecraft. Founded and led by Artistic Director Nathan Allen and driven by an interdisciplinary ensemble of Chicago's next generation of great storytellers, The House aims to become a laboratory and platform for the evolution of the American theatre as an inclusive and popular artform.

The House was founded in 2001 by a group of friends to explore connections between Community and Storytelling through a unique theatrical experience. Since becoming eligible in 2004, The House has won 24 Joseph Jefferson Awards, became the first recipient of Broadway in Chicago's Emerging Theater Award in 2007, and was awarded a 2014 National Theatre Company Grant by the American Theatre Wing, founder of the Tony Awards. The 18th season of original work is underway and The House will continue its mission to unite Chicago in the spirit of community through amazing feats of Storytelling.

Foundation Production Sponsor: The Poetry Foundation

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