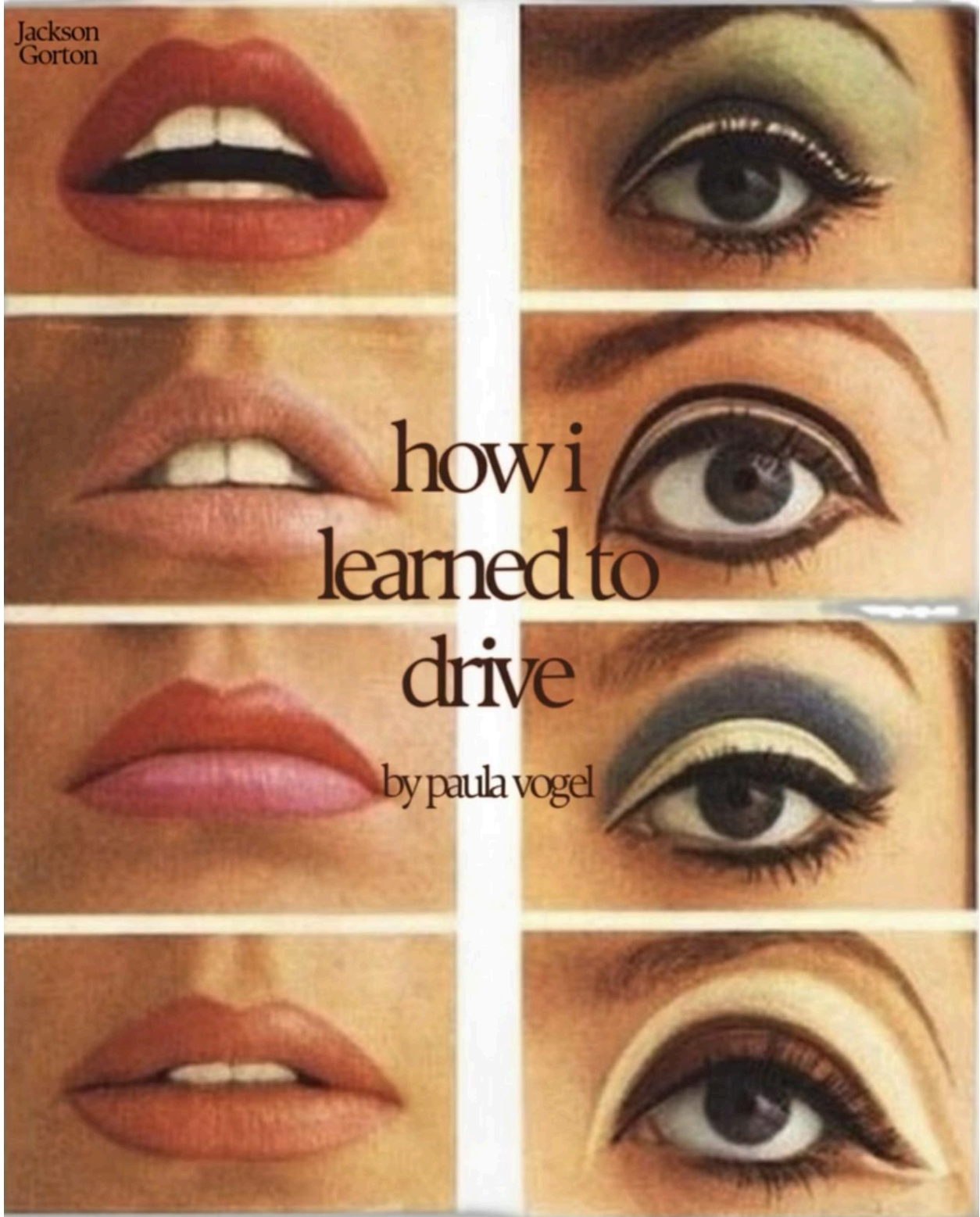


Jackson
Gorton

how i
learned to
drive

by paula vogel



How I Learned to Drive

By Paula Vogel | Spring 2025

Who?

Director: Willa Jackson

Executive Producer: Addy Gorton

Preferred Contact Email: learntodriveyale@gmail.com

What?

This 1997 Pulitzer Prize-winning memory play follows the story of a young woman as she comes of age in rural Maryland during the 1960s and 1970s. In a series of nonlinear flashbacks, by turns funny and harrowing, she retraces her driving lessons with a charismatic older man, which extend beyond simply learning the rules of the road. A versatile Greek chorus provides context, atmosphere, and dysfunctional family dynamics.

When?

Initial Auditions: December 1-4, 2025

Callbacks: December 5-6, 2025

Casting Day: December 8, 2025

Rehearsals begin: January 13, 2026

Tech Week Dates: March 23-25, 2026

Performance Dates: March 26-28, 2026

Strike: March 29, 2026

Overall Dates (First Rehearsal to Last Performance): January 13 – March 28

Time Commitment

Because this production has a relatively small cast, all actors should expect a significant time commitment. During the first five weeks of rehearsal, plan to rehearse approximately 5–7 hours per week. In the final three weeks leading up to opening weekend, rehearsals will increase to ~8–10 hours per week. During tech week, be prepared to commit 4–6 hours per day to the production. If you have any concerns regarding the time commitment, please indicate them in the audition form or email us at learntodriveyale@gmail.com.

Content Warning
<p>This production includes moments of on-stage intimacy (indicated in character list). The show deals with themes of sexual abuse and coercion within a family relationship.</p>

Links
<p>YCA Page Audition Form Audition Sides Folder</p>

Meet the Team



Willa Jackson (Director, she/her) is a junior in Branford majoring in History of Art and American Studies. She is also a member of YaleDancers and a guide at the Yale University Art Gallery. This year, she played the role of Leela Lo Lottle in the Dramat's Fall Ex, *Exclamation Point and an Act Without Words*. She is SO excited to be making her directorial debut with this powerhouse of a team and masterpiece of a script. She can't wait to meet you!



Addy Gorton (Executive Producer, she/her) is a sophomore in Jonathan Edwards majoring in English with a Creative Writing concentration. When she's not working, you can probably find her nagging her friends, sitting in the sun, or daydreaming (usually some confusing combination of the three). But most of all, she is so excited to be working on How I Learned to Drive for the next few months!!!



Alice Kasdan (Li'l Bit, she/her) is a sophomore in Stiles majoring in Theater and Anthropology. She played Boo in *Exclamation Point* earlier this year and is currently working on *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. She is sooooo excited about this incredible production!!!

The Cast

The role of Li'l Bit will be played by Alice Kasdan. The other four roles are open for casting!

PECK: Attractive man in his forties. Despite being a character who is both deeply troubled and troubling, he could be played by an actor one might cast in the role of Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird*—wise, earnest, compassionate, paternal. [This role includes intimacy with Li'l Bit and Female Greek Chorus.]

MALE GREEK CHORUS: Plays Grandfather, Waiter, High School Boys. Crude, snarky, dark-humored.

FEMALE GREEK CHORUS: Plays Mother, Aunt Mary, High School Girls. Unhappy, outspoken, norm-enforcing. [This role includes intimacy with Peck.]

TEENAGE GREEK CHORUS: Plays Grandmother, High School Girls, and the voice of eleven-year-old Li'l Bit. Frank, old-fashioned—and as the young Li'l Bit, very vulnerable.

FAQ and Audition Details

What do I need to prepare before the audition?

First, fill out this [AUDITION FORM](#) before the audition. Then, sign up for a ten-minute slot on the YCA website or send us a self-tape by 11:59pm on Thursday, December 4 at learntodriveyale@gmail.com.

Please prepare with sides for the characters that you would like to be considered for. All the sides are linked here in the [Audition Sides folder](#). No need to be fully memorized at all! Just become familiar enough that you can deliver the material confidently and showcase your abilities with as little stress as possible.

What will the audition look like?

On the day of the audition, we will first introduce the team and then have you introduce yourself. Next, we will dive into the sides. We may ask you to read cold from a different scene. We are looking for grounded, character-driven performances.

Afterwards, we will make sure there is time for you to ask any questions you may have! We cannot wait to meet you!

If you have any more questions, please feel free to email us at learntodriveyale@gmail.com.

A note on accessibility

We are committed to accommodating any and all access needs and making sure everyone feels comfortable in the audition room! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns!

Contact Us

learntodriveyale@gmail.com

Willa Jackson, Director, willajackson@yale.edu

Addy Gorton, Executive Producer, addygorton@yale.edu