

## UAB Department of Theatre 2024-2025 Season

Dedicated to our dear friend and colleague, Marlene Johnson

### GOD OF CARNAGE

By Yasmina Reza. Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Dennis McLernon

October 16-19 at 7:30pm; October 20 at 2pm

The Alys Stephens Center Odess Theatre

### NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

Book, Lyrics & Music by Dave Malloy

Directed by Santiago Sosa

Choreography by Aurkheem Jolley, Sawyer Luke & Devin Towery

Musical Direction by Carolyn Violi

November 13-16 at 7:30pm; November 17 at 2pm

The Alys Stephens Center Sirote Theatre

### THE REVOLUTIONISTS

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Jack Cannon

February 26-March 1 at 7:30pm; March 2 at 2pm

The Alys Stephens Center Odess Theatre

### SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Santiago Sosa & Michael Mercado

March 26-29 at 7:30pm; March 30 at 2pm

The Alys Stephens Center Sirote Theatre

### FREAKY FRIDAY

Book by Bridget Carpenter. Music & Lyrics by Tom Kitt & Brian Yorkey

Based on Novel by Mary Rodgers and The Disney Films

Directed by Roy Lightner

Supervisor of Music & Sound: Anthony Smith

April 4-19

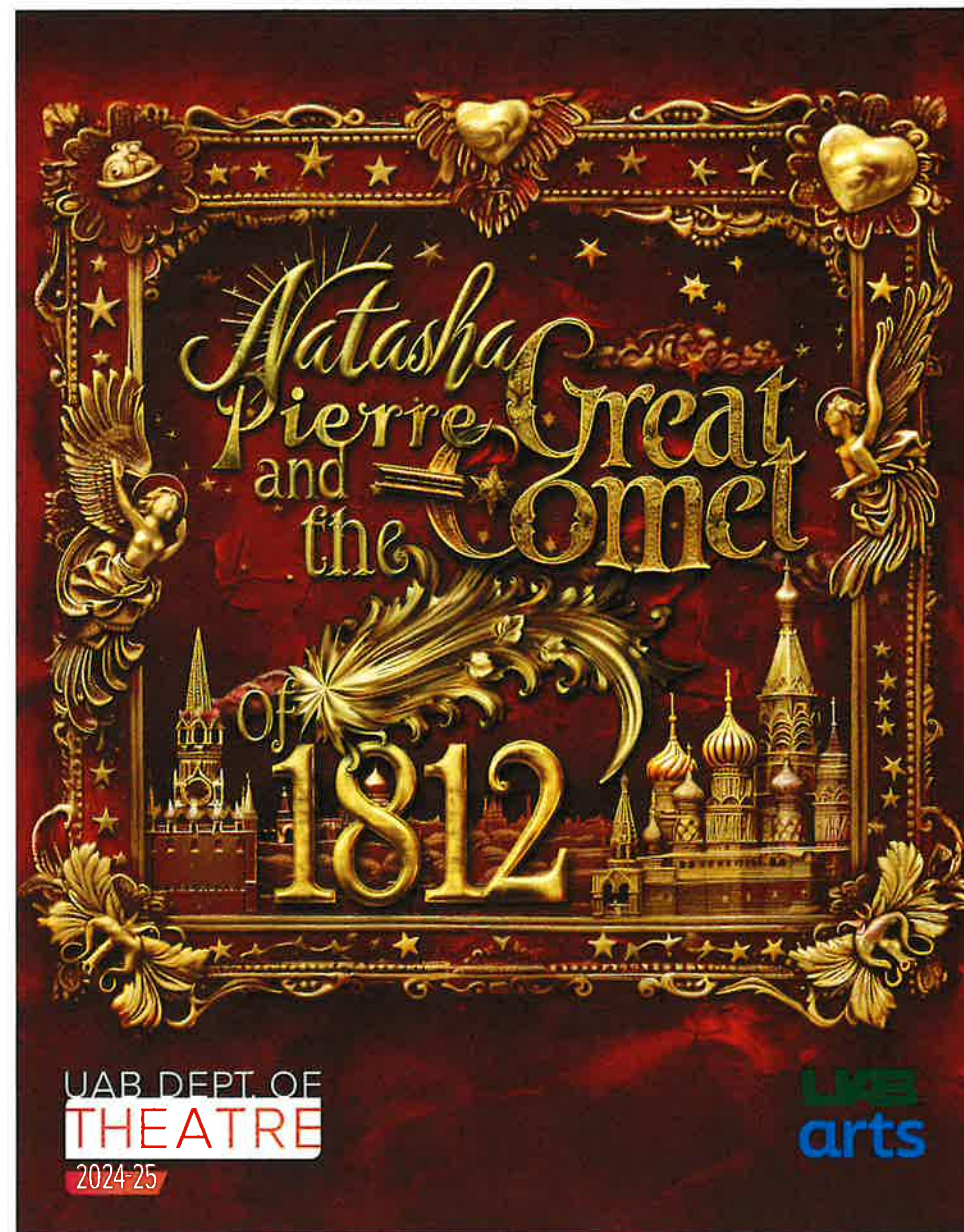
Red Mountain Theatre

Tickets/Other Info: <https://redmountaintheatre.org/subscriptions/>

ASC Box Office: 975-ARTS

[my.alsystephens.org/events](https://my.alsystephens.org/events)

Department of Theatre show information at <https://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/on-stage/current-season>



Presented by:

Frank and Joan Dawson • Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman  
Dr. Marisa Marques • Robert Raiford & Zane Rhoades • Dr. Charles Turnbough, Jr.

## OVATION THEATRE UAB

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION nights. OVATION UAB features conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well as season tickets.

OVATION's mission is to support and sponsor our students. Membership dues ranging from \$50 - \$1500+ help off-set the cost of tuition for participation in productions, as well as many other programs that enhance their theatre training at UAB.

Join us! OVATION THEATRE UAB is a perfect way to assist our talented students and have lots of fun!

You can join OVATION THEATRE UAB through our website at <https://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/alumni/give>.

Questions? Contact Program Manager, Mel Christian at 934-3237 or [cmel@uab.edu](mailto:cmel@uab.edu). We'd love to see you at our next OVATION!

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

#### Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall, Patty McDonald, Carol Odess, Chandler H. Smith, Jane Paris Smith, BBS Martha Moore Sykes Fund

#### 2024-2025 Members

Dr. Peter & Suzanne Accetta, Edie Barnes, Dr. Peter & Anne Burrows, William & Mary Ellen Capps, Peggy Carlisle, Betsy Cooper, Celeste David, Frank & Joan Dawson, Ben & Ellen Erdreich, Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Barbara Glaze, Dr. Ward & Mrs. Martha Haarbauer, Dr. and Mrs. Tracy P. Hamilton, Dr. Shuko Harada, Rona Harper, The Hendrickson Family, A.J. & Kristi Jones, Dr. Joe & Ann March, Dr. Marisa Marques, Heath Mixon & Patrick Nelson, Allen & Cele Montgomery, Dr. Brian Pettie and Tim L. Penny cuff, Beverly & David Radford, Robert Raiford & Zane Rhoades, Dr. Bates Redwine & Dan Reese-Redwine, James & Dawn Ribe, John & Deborah Sellers, Bart & Lynne Trench, Dr. Charles Turnbough, Jr., Nancy Whitt



*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.*

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

## Theatre UAB Faculty and Administrative Staff

Kelly Dean Allison, Professor.....Chair  
Valerie Accetta, Associate Professor.....Head of Musical Theatre Performance  
Jack Cannon, Assistant Professor.....Acting/Intro to Theatre  
Therrin J. Eber, Assistant Professor.....Head of Design/Tech/Production Manager/  
Technical Director  
Ward Haarbauer .....Professor Emeritus  
Cheryl Hall, Assistant Professor.....Intro to Theatre  
Karma Ibsen.....Professor Emerita  
Karla Koskinen, Professor.....Acting/Directing  
Roy Lightner, Associate Professor.....Musical Theatre Performance/Dance  
Dennis McLernon, Professor.....Performance  
Amy Page, Assistant Professor.....Costume Director  
Jonathan Parks, Assistant Professor.....Musical Direction  
Kimberly Schnormeier, Associate Professor.....Costume Design/Associate Chair  
Lee Shackelford, Professor.....Playwriting  
Santiago Sosa, Assistant Professor.....Head of Performance/Voice/Movement  
Alan E. Schwanke, Assistant Professor.....Scene Design  
Carolyn Violi.....Resident Musical Director/Collaborative Pianist  
Vessela Warner, Professor.....Theatre History  
Will York.....Professor Emeritus

#### Adjunct Faculty

Carlton Alexandra .....Intro to Dance/Tap  
Anna Foshee.....Jazz  
Sean McCord.....Playwriting I  
Mary Margaret Scalici .....Ballet

Mel Christian.....Program Manager/Tour Coordinator  
Davis Haines.....Recruitment Coordinator  
Laura Merrill.....Administrative Associate

**The Department of Theatre is committed in word and deed to creating a safe environment for learning that is free of injustice in all forms.**

***UAB Department of Theatre is a proud member of..***



The Kennedy Center

AMERICAN  
COLLEGE  
THEATER  
FESTIVAL

NAST

The National Association of  
Schools of Theatre



# NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

By Dave Malloy

Adapted from *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy

Director  
**Santiago Sosa**

Musical Director  
**Carolyn Violi**

Choreography  
**Aurkheem Jolley • Sawyer Luke • Devin Towery**

Stage Manager  
**Juliette Sosa Valle**

Scenic Design  
**Alan E. Schwanke**

Costume Design  
**Kimberly Schnormeier**

Properties Design  
**Inji Ha**

Sound Design/Engineer  
**Lance Perl**

Lighting Design  
**Kelly Allison**

Voice/Text Coach  
**Santiago Sosa • Carolyn Violi**

**Opening Night: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 7:30pm**

The Sirote Theatre in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

*The play will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.*

*This production contains mild adult themes and simulated gunshots.*

Broadway premiere presented by Howard & Janet Kagen, Paula Marie Black, Carole Shorenstein Hays, Jenny Steingart and Jason Eagan, Mary Lu Roffe and Susan Gallin, Diana DiMenna, Mary Maggio/Sharon Azrieli/Robin Gorman, Darren Sussman/Roman Gambourg/Lev Gelfer, Tom Smedes, John Logan, Lisa Matlin, Margie and Bryan Weingarten, Daveed Frazier, Argyle Productions/Jim Kierstead, In Fine Company/Hipzee, Gutterman & Caiola/Backdrop Partners, Siderow Kirchman Productions/Sunnyspot Productions, Gordon/Meli Theatricals, Rodger Hess/Larry Toppall, Daniel Rakowski/Matt Ross/Ben Feldman, Mike Karns, The American Repertory Theatre (Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Quinn, Executive Producer; Diane Borger, Producer), and Ars Nova. Originally commissioned, developed, and world premiere produced by Ars Nova; Jason Eagan, Founding Artistic Director; Renee Blinkwolt, Managing Director. Further developed and produced by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University; Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Quinn, Executive Producer; Diane Borger, Producer.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812 CAST

Natasha .....	Charity Bielicki
Anatole .....	Matthew Piper
Pierre .....	Ford Beshirs
Sonya .....	Emma Gibson
Hélène .....	Sawyer Luke
Marya .....	Sammy Sledd
Princess Mary/Maid/Opera Singer .....	Cara Parisi
Dolokhov .....	Edgar Martinez
Andrey/Bolkonsky and U/S Pierre .....	Knox Villemarette
Balaga/Servant/Opera Singer .....	Case Warner
Ensemble .....	Aurkheem Jolley
Ensemble .....	Devin Towery
Ensemble and U/S Princess Mary/Maid/Opera Singer .....	Olivia Scott
Ensemble and U/S Balaga, split U/S track of Servant .....	Ryan Chalmers

## UNDERSTUDIES

For Natasha - Monica Velma; for Anatole - Andrew Marbut; for Marya - Cheslee Duke; Violin Ensemble, U/S Opera Singer - Brennen Foy; for Helene - KK Murphy; for Bolkonsky/Andrey - Kris Brooks; Female-Identifying Swing and U/S Sonya - Norah Trench; Male Identifying Swing and U/S Dolokhov, split U/S track of Servant - Charlie Brownd

**TIME PERIOD:**  
The 19th Century

**PLACE:**  
Various locations in 19th-century Russia

## Notes on this production...

While reading Tolstoy's 1,200-page epic, Dave Malloy was most taken by the philosophical and historical elements of Volume 2, Book 5. He eventually adapted that 70- page section into a musical melodrama, inspired by genres of music from pop, rock, Americana, soul, classical, electronic dance and traditional Russian folk to Broadway standards.

When "Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812" was produced on Broadway in 2016, the play was nominated for 12 Tony awards - the most nominations of any show that season— including Best Musical, Best Original Score, Best Book, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Featured Actor, Best Direction, Best Lighting Design, and Best Scenic Design.

Malloy uses multiple creative approaches to tell the story of Natasha and Pierre during this uncertain time of war, highlighting themes of loyalty, kindness, betrayal, forgiveness and the meaning of true love. It's a mini epic connected to a much larger story that I am sure will captivate and inspire. So, please lean in and enjoy Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812.

**- Santiago Sosa, Director**

# ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Carolyn Violi

Oboe, English Horn.....Dr. William Somerall  
 Clarinet, Bass Clarinet.....Matthew Barron  
 Guitar.....Matt Williamson  
 Viola/Concertmaster.....Melanie Rodgers  
 Cellos.....Nancy Smith, Michelle Cheng  
 Bass.....Abraham Becker  
 Drums.....Joe Cooley  
 Piano.....Anthony Smith  
 Keys, Accordion.....Jonathan Parks

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

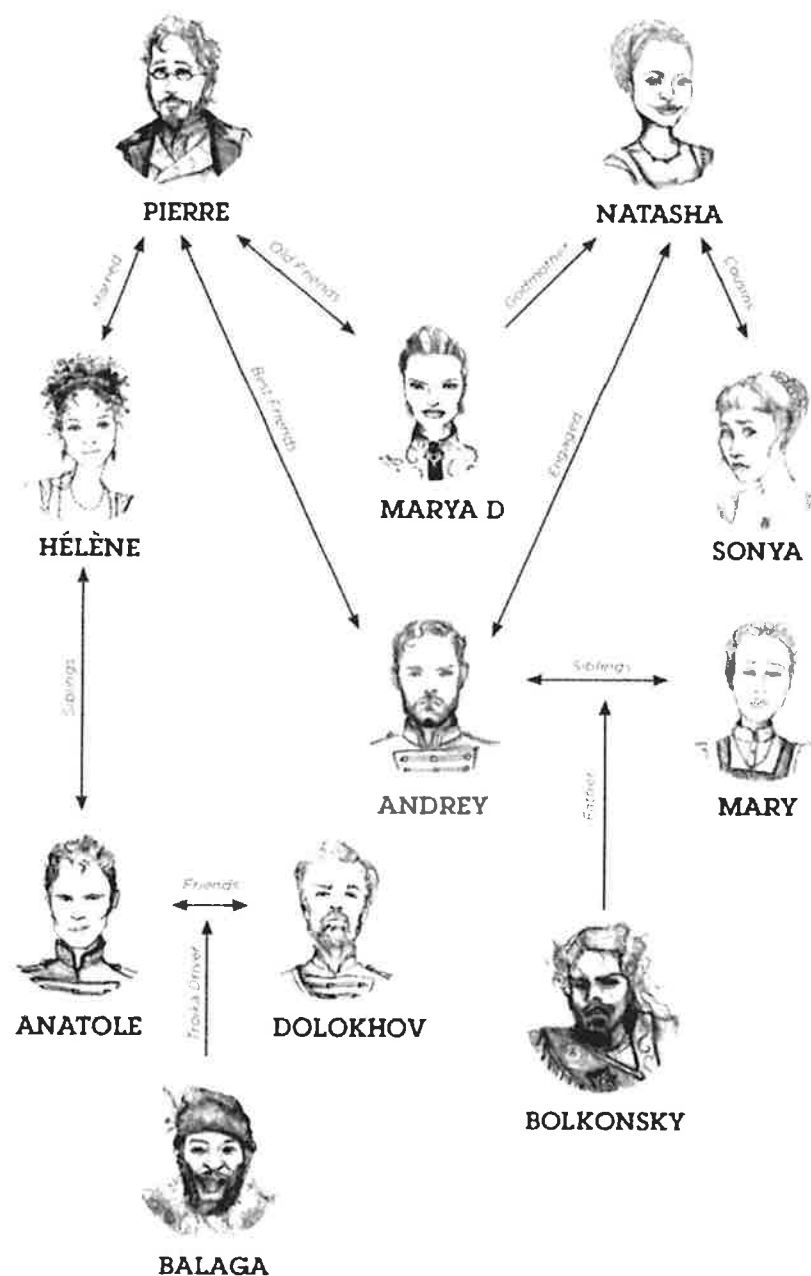
### Act I

Prologue.....Cast and Ensemble  
 Pierre.....Pierre and Ensemble  
 Moscow.....Natasha, Marya D, Sonya  
 The Private and Intimate Life of the House.....Bolkonsky, Mary, Natasha  
 Natasha & Bolkonsky's.....Servant, Mary, Natasha, Bolkonsky  
 No One Else.....Natasha  
 The Opera Part 1.....Marya D, Servant, Sonya, Hélène  
 The Opera Part 2.....Opera Soloists, Natasha, Sonya, Ensemble  
 The Opera Part 3.....Natasha, Sonya, Hélène, Opera Soloists, Ensemble  
 Natasha & Anatole.....Natasha, Anatole  
 The Duel.....Anatole, Pierre, Dolokhov, Hélène, Servant, Ensemble  
 Dust and Ashes.....Pierre, Ensemble  
 Sunday Morning.....Sonya, Natasha, Marya D  
 Charming.....Hélène, Natasha  
 The Ball.....Anatole, Natasha

### ACT II

Letters.....Mary, Natasha, Anatole, Dolokhov, Pierre, Ensemble  
 Sonya & Natasha.....Natasha, Sonya  
 Sonya Alone.....Sonya  
 Preparations.....Pierre, Anatole, Dolokhov  
 Balaga.....Balaga, Anatole, Dolokhov, Ensemble  
 The Abduction.....Anatole, Pierre, Dolokhov, Maidservant, Ensemble  
 In My House.....Marya D, Sonya, Natasha  
 A Call to Pierre.....Marya, Pierre, Servant, Ensemble  
 Find Anatole.....Pierre, Anatole, Hélène, Natasha, Servant, Ensemble  
 Pierre & Anatole.....Pierre, Anatole  
 Natasha Very Ill.....Sonya  
 Pierre & Andrey.....Sonya, Andrey, Pierre  
 Pierre & Natasha.....Pierre, Natasha  
 The Great Comet of 1812.....Pierre, Ensemble  
 Bows.....Orchestra  
 Exit Music.....Orchestra

## FAMILY TREE



## NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## UAB Department of Theatre Production Staff

Production Manager/Technical Director.....Therrin J. Eber  
 Assistant Technical Director.....Jonathan Harder  
 Costume Director.....Amy Page  
 Costume Studio Supervisor.....Sharon Morgan  
 Stage Electrics Coordinator.....David Page  
 Properties Master.....Inji Ha  
 Scenic Studio Assistants.....Webb Baker, Charlie Brownd, Jil Ceballos,  
 Jasmine Chaney, Dana Guajardo, Devin Towery, Selby Whaley  
 Electrics Assistants.....Ryder Dean, Kirk Kirkpatrick, Owen McManus  
 Costume Assistants.....Dana Guajardo, Sawyer Luke, Cade McCall, Miles Polson,  
 Alexandria Stone, Shadow Williamson, Jaida Zeigler  
 Properties Assistants.....Isabelle Johnson, Lillian Parkman, Sammy Sledd,  
 Juliette Sosa Valle  
 Media Relations.....Shannon Thomason  
 ASC House Management.....Terrie Entrup, Summer Guffey

## Staff for this Production

Assistant Stage Managers.....Jil Ceballos, Sophia Evangelidis  
 Assistant Musical Director.....Cara Parisi  
 Rehearsal Assistant.....Elena Santini  
 Additional Choreography.....Roy Lightner  
 Dance Captain.....Sawyer Luke  
 Assistant Dance Captains.....Aurkheem Jolly, Devin Towery  
 Scenic Charge.....Jennifer Luck  
 Student Scenic Charge.....Jil Ceballos  
 Lead Carpenters.....Charlie Brownd, Devin Towery  
 Paint Leads.....Dana Guajardo Selby Whaley  
 Scenery/Lighting Construction/Electrics.....Lily Anderson, Ryan Chalmers,  
 Faith Craig, Hyacinthus Craig, Grayson Farr, Jack Fortner Jr.,  
 Wyatt Hart, Vivian Hogeland, SG Kimery, Liam McElroy,  
 Savannah McNeal, Malika Muhammad, Cara Parisi, Amy Potts,  
 Andrew Tumlin, Monica Velma, Matthew White, Shadow Williamson  
 Properties Construction.....Kris Brooks, Sammy Sledd  
 Scenery/Properties Running Crew.....Dana Guajardo, Celia Knox  
 Drapers.....Amy Page, Sharon Morgan  
 Ager/Dyer.....Sharon Morgan  
 Costume/Craft Construction.....Becca Beech, Sophie Bell, Jay Brown, Jaden Camp,  
 Tynesha Carlton, Jil Ceballos, Julianna Davis, Darion Dewhirst,  
 Cheslee Duke, Emma Gibson, Yahni Jemison, Celia Knox, Edgar Martinez,  
 Janell Oliver, Hayden Pack, Miles Polson, Katie Pulmano, Samantha Robinson,  
 Kingston Sanders, Olivia Scott, Sammy Sledd, Devin Towery  
 Dressers.....Jp Williams, Shadow Williamson  
 Light Board Operator.....James Taylor  
 Spot Lights.....Nairobi Maurice, Patrick Wilson  
 Deck Audio Engineers.....Lauren Parrish, Peyton Siegel  
 Graphic Design.....Michael Vizzina, FRED Communication by Design  
 Great Comet Promotional Photos.....Autumn Dozier Photography

## *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* Production Biographies

### **Kelly Allison - Lighting Design**

Home Town: Litchfield, MN

Education: BFA-Stephens College, MFA-University of Minnesota.

Recent Production Work: Lighting Design: *Fun Home*, *Into The Woods*, *A New Brain*, *Godspell*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Savage*, *Angels in America*, Part I: *Millennium Approaches*, *A Little Night Music*, *Spring Awakening*, *Buried Child*, *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird*, *Avenue Q*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Big Love* (UAB). Scenic Design: *Silent Sky* (UAB). Co-Lighting Design: *Sanctuary City* (UAB).

### **Charity Bielicki (she/her) – Natasha**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Huntington Beach, CA

Education: HB Academy for the Performing Arts

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Fun Home* (UAB), *Alice in Wonderland* (Rose Center Theatre), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Grease*, *Newsies* (Academy for the Performing Arts).

### **Ford Beshirs (he/him/his) – Pierre**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Huntsville, AL

Education: Huntsville High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Shrek: The Musical* (Red Mountain Theatre), *The Wild Party* (Jennie T. Anderson Theatre), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Fun Home*, *The Broadway Today Touring Company*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Godspell* (UAB).

### **Kris Brooks (he/him/his) - U/S Bolkonsky/Andrey**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: St. Petersburg, FL

Education: Gibbs High School (PCCA)

Recent Work: Performance: *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putman County Spelling Bee* (TOTA Music and Theatre Conservatory), *Parade* (Pinellas County Center for the Arts), *Disney's Freaky Friday* (St. Petersburg City Theatre).

### **Charlie Brownd - Male Identifying Swing and U/S Dolokhov, split U/S track of Servant**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Hometown: Cumming, GA

Education: West Forsyth High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Newsies* (Forsyth Academy of Performing Arts). *Eurydice*, *The Addams Family*. Scenic Design/Carpentry Lead: *The Addams Family*, *Anything Goes*, *Robin Hood* (West Forsyth High School).

Visit our website at <http://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/>

## ***Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* Production Biographies**

### **Jil Ceballos (she/her) - Assistant Stage Manager**

Concentration: BA General Theatre

Home Town: Jasper, AL

Education: Jasper High School, Bevil State Community College, University of North Alabama.

Recent Production Work: Lead Painter(s): *God of Carnage* (UAB), Scenic Designer: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (University of North Alabama). Learn Scenic Designer: *The Important of Being Earnest* (University of North Alabama). Master Electrician: *Concord Floral* (University of North Alabama).

### **Ryan Chalmers - Ensemble and U/S Balaga, spilt U/S track of Servant**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Cumming, GA

Education: Lambert High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Fantasticks* (Lambert High School).

### **Cheslee Duke – U/S Marya**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Munford, AL

Education: Munford High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Lizzie: The Musical* (Actors Community Playhouse/Birmingham Festival Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (The Shakespeare Project), *The Addams Family* (CAST Theatre).

### **Sophia Evangelidis - Assistant Stage Manager**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Manhattan, KS

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre).

### **Brennan Foy - Violin Ensemble, U/S Opera Singer**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Hometown: Gardendale, AL

Education: Essential Church School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Virginia Samford Theatre), *Into the Woods Jr.* (Red Mountain Theatre).

### **Emma Gibson (she/her) - Sonya**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Biloxi, MS

Education: Biloxi High School

Recent Production Work: *Sweet Summer Nights* (Dollywood), *Into The Woods* (UAB), *Legally Blonde* (Tribe Theatre Productions), *Footloose*, *Carrie*, *Mamma Mia* (Wings Performing Arts), *Matilda* (Triple Threat Academy).

## ***Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* Production Biographies**

### **Inji Ha (she/her/hers) – Prop Master/Designer**

Home Town: South Korea

Education : MFA in Scenic Design, University of Texas at Austin; BFA Theatre Design and Technology, Auburn University

Recent Production Work: Properties Design: *God of Carnage*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (UAB). Scenic Design/Properties Design: *The 39 Steps* (UAB), *Decapitations* (Salvage Vanguard Theatre), *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Butler School of Music, UT Austin), *In Sisters We Trust, or My Fucked Up American Gril Doll* (B. Iden Payne Theatre, UT Austin), *Detroit 67'* (Telfair B. Peet Theatre, Auburn University), *Love and Information* (Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, UT Austin).

### **Aurkheem Jolley (he/him/his) - Ensemble /Choreography/Assistant Dance Captain**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Birmingham, AL

Education: Shades Valley High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *The 2024 Laughably Shakespeare Touring Company*, *Everybody* (UAB), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Kinky Boots* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Les Misérables*, *BKLYN The Musical* (JCATD).

### **Roy Lightner (he/him/his) - Additional Choreography**

Home Town: Leawood, KS

Education: MFA - Goddard College; BM - Oklahoma City University

Recent Production Work: Director/Choreographer: *A New Brain*, *Godspell*, *Disconnect*, *Hair*, *Savage*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Hairspray*, *Working* (UAB), *Sister Act*, *Mary Poppins*, *Shrek*, *Bright Star*, *Roaring 20s*, *Holiday Spectacular*, *Once* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Newsies* (New London Barn), *Legally Blonde* (Lyric Opera Arizona), *Lucky to Be Me* (NYC Opera, asst. to Peggy Hickey), 2018 MTWichita Festival Producer, *Hairspray*, *Miss Saigon* (Sondheim Center), *Bring It On* (MTKC), *Hound of the Baskervilles* (Cape Playhouse), *Wine Country Speakeasy*, *Best of Broadway*, *Under the Stars*, *This Magic Moment*, *Oh, What a Night!* (Transcendence Theatre Company). He is currently the Artistic Director of Red Mountain Theatre.

### **Sawyer Luke (she/her) – Hélène/Choreography/Assistant Dance Captain**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Hometown: Birmingham, AL

Education: Shades Valley High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Red Mountain Theatre), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (UAB), *Fun Home* (UAB), *Margaritaville* (Virginia Samford Theatre). Choreography: *Matilda Jr.* (Red. Mountain Theatre), *Elf Jr.* (Berry Middle School), *Sense and Sensibility* (UAB). Assistant Stage Manager/Choreography: *Sanctuary City*, *Sense and Sensibility* (UAB). @sawyer.luke

### **Andrew Marbut (he/him/his) – U/S Anatole**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Sucúa, Ecuador

Education: Homeschool

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Anastasia* (NACC), *Wizard of Oz* (NCU), *It's a Wonderful Life! A Radio Play* (Covered Bridge Players).

**Edgar Martinez (he/him) – Dolokhov**

Concentration: BA Performance

Home Town: Scottsboro, AL

Education: Scottsboro High School; Northeast Alabama Community College-AA in Theatre

Recent Production Work: Set Construction: *She Kills Monsters: Young Adventures Edition* (NACC) Set Coordinator: *Willy Wonka Jr.* (NACC) Running Crew: *Matilda* (NACC)..Performance: *Anastasia: The Nee Broadway Musical*, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, *Godspell* (NACC).

**KK Murphy (she/her/hers) – U/S Hélène**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Columbus, OH

Education: Upper Arlington High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Divine Children* (UAB Independent Project), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Fun Home* (UAB), *Sister Act* (Short North Stage), *The Spongebob Musical*, *The Addams Family* (Weathervane Playhouse) *42nd Street* (Upper Arlington High School).

**Cara Parisi (she/her) - Princess Mary/Maid/Opera Singer//Accordion/Harp/ Assistant Musical Director**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Kansas City, MO

Education: Bishop Miege High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *The 2024 Sidekicks Touring Company*, *A New Brain* (UAB), *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park), *All Shook Up*, *Chess* (Stage Right Performing Arts). Assistant Musical Director: *Fun Home* (UAB).

**Lance Perl – Sound Design/Engineer**

Home Town: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Education: MFA in Sound Design, University of North Carolina School of the Arts; B.A. in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education / B.A. in Technical Theatre, Brevard College

Recent Production Work: Technical Specialist at Encore Global, Sound Engineer for *Kumanana* (Gala Hispanic Theatre), Audio Engineer for Broadway's National Tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* (NETworks), Sound Engineer for *TEXAS* (Pioneer Amphitheatre). More at [www.lanceperl.com](http://www.lanceperl.com)

**Matthew Piper (he/him/his) – Anatole**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Corner AL

Education: Corner High School

Recent Production Work: Assistant Directing: *2024 Side Kicks Touring Company* (UAB). Directing: *Dark Road* (Corner Theatre Academy)

Performance: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Into The Woods*, *A New Brain* (UAB), *9 to 5*, *The Sound of Music* (Virginia Samford Theatre), *The Very Grey Matter of Edward Blank* (Corner Theatre Academy).

**Elena Santini – Rehearsal Assistant**

Concentration BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Cumming, GA

Education: West Forsyth High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *The Addams Family*, *Anything Goes* (West Forsyth High School), *Tuck Everlasting* (Forsyth Academy of Performing Arts). Choreography/Direction: *Anything Goes* (West Forsyth High School).

**Kimberly Schnormeier - Costume Design**

Home Town: Gambier, OH

Education: MFA in Scenography from Northwestern University. BFA in Graphic Design, Miami University

Recent Production Work: Costume/Scenic Design: *The Wolves* (UAB). Costume Design: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Fun Home*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Savage*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Silent Sky*, *Working*, *A Little Night Music*, *Vinegar Tom*, *Buried Child*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *In The Next Room* (or, *The Vibrator Play*), *Clybourne Park*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Big Love*, *Charley's Aunt* (UAB). *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Birmingham Children's Theatre).

**Alan E. Schwanke - Scenic Design**

Home Town: Salem, OR

Education: M.F.A. of Scenic Design from Northwestern University; B.F.A. of Theater Design & Technology from The University of Central Oklahoma; Member of the United Scenic Artists Union Local 829

Recent Production Work: Scenic Design: *Sister Act*, *Dreamgirls* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Everybody*, *Into the Woods*, *Sense and Sensibility* (UAB), Associate Scenic Designer for *Downstate*, Playwright's Horizons (Off-Broadway NYC); Associate Scenic Designer for *A Christmas Carol*, Alliance Theater (Atlanta, GA); Associate Scenic Designer for *King James*, Steppenwolf Theater (Chicago, IL)/Mark Taper Forum (Los Angeles, CA).

**Olivia Scott (she/her) – Ensemble and U/S Princess Mary/Maid/Opera Singer**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Panama City, FL

Education: A. Crawford Mosley High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: *Rent* (Dr. Phillips Center), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (VST), *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Everybody* (UAB). Assistant Musical Director: *Into The Woods* (UAB).

**Sammy Sledd (she/her) - Marya**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Huntsville, AL

Education: Grissom High School

Recent Work: Performance: *The 2024 Contemporary Broadway Touring Company* (UAB), *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Nashville Shakespeare Festival Apprentice Company* (NSF), *The 2023 Fiercely*, *Shakespeare Touring Company*, *Fun Home*, *Into The Woods*, *Sense and Sensibility* (UAB), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Drowsy Professor* (Grissom High School), *Legally Blonde* (Lyrique Music Productions). Assistant Voice Coach/Assistant Fight Director: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (UAB).

*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* Production Biographies

**Santiago Sosa - Director**

Home Town: Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Education: BFA, Texas State University; MFA, The University of Wisconsin  
Recent Production Work: Performance (Narration): *The SpongeBob Musical* (UAB).  
Voice & Text Coach: *God of Carnage, Fun Home, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead, The SpongeBob Musical, Much Ado About Nothing, Godspell* (UAB), *As You Like It, The Wolves* (University of Kansas), *The Tempest* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival).  
Directing: *Sense and Sensibility* (UAB), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Island Shakespeare Festival), *Blood Wedding* (Lipscomb University), *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Theater Bug) *Twelfth Night* (Vanderbilt University), *Julius Caesar* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival), *Fight Direction: A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (The Theater Bug).

**Juliette Sosa Valle (she/her) - Stage Manager**

Concentration: BA General, BS Public Health  
Home Town: Granger, IA  
Education: Woodward Granger High School  
Recent Work: Stage Management: *The 39 Steps, Fun Home, Into The Woods, Noises Off* (UAB), *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* (Opera Birmingham). Assistant Stage Management: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (UAB). *Performance: Dracula* (Woodward Granger High School).

**Devin Towery (she/her) – Ensemble/Choreography/Assistant Dance Captain**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre  
Home Town: New Braunfels, TX  
Education: North East School of the Arts  
Recent Production Work: Performance: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *The 2023 Pop Divas Touring Company, Into the Woods, A New Brain* (UAB), *An American in Paris* (NESA), *Rock of Ages* (NBPA). *Dance: Swan Lake* (CBSA). Assistant Choreography: *Everybody* (UAB).

**Norah Trench (she/her/hers) - Female-Identifying Swing and U/S Sonya**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre  
Home Town: Birmingham, AL  
Education: Vestavia Hills High School  
Recent Production Work: Performance: *The 39 Steps, Sense and Sensibility* (UAB), *Anastasia, Comedy of Errors, Xanadu, Steel Magnolias* (Vestavia Hills High School).

**Monica Velma (she/her/hers) -U/S Natasha**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre  
Home Town: Wetumpka, AL  
Education: Wetumpka High School  
Recent Production Work: Performance: *Mean Girls, Alice by Heart* (WHS) *Princess of Emberfast* (Wetumpka Depot).

**Knox Villemarette (he/him) - Andrey/Bolkonsky and U/S Pierre**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre  
Home Town: Lafayette, LA  
Education: Teurlings Catholic High School  
Recent Production Work: Spotlight for *Fun Home* (UAB). Performance: *Sister Act* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Summer Lyric Theatre at Tulane), *The 2024 Laughably Shakespeare Touring Company* (UAB), *Footloose* (Teurlings Catholic High School).

*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* Production Biographies

**Carolyn Violi (she/her/hers) – Tony Award Broadway Producer for *Stereophonic*, Tony Award nominated Broadway Co-Producer for *Fat Ham*/Conductor/Musical Director**

Home Town: Indiana, PA  
Education: BS in Music Education, Certification in Elementary Education  
Recent Production Work: Conducting/Musical Direction: *Fun Home, Into The Woods, The SpongeBob Musical, A New Brain, Godspell, The Secret Garden, Spelling Bee, Savage, Hairspray, Hair, Spring Awakening, Avenue Q, Urinetown: The Musical* (UAB), *Gypsy, Oliver*, (Red Mountain Theatre), *Bat Boy* (Pittsburgh Musical Theatre), *Falsettos* (PGH Upstairs Theatre). Broadway Touring: Conductor: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, The Goodbye Girl, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Broadway Producer: *Hello Dolly Revival* (Bette Midler -Ten Tony Nominations & Seven Tony Awards including Best Actress and Best Revival of a musical), *Betraval* (Tom Hiddleston -Four Tony Nominations), *Tootsie* (Two Tony Awards -Santino Fantana -Outstanding Actor in a Musical & Robert Horn -Best Book of a Musical), *Fat Ham, New York, New York* (Kander & Ebb, Lin-Manuel Miranda), and *Once Upon A One More Time* (Based on songs recorded by Britney Spears). Broadway Co-Producer: *Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz*

**Case Warner (he/him/his) - Balaga/Servant/Opera Singer**

Concentration: BFA Musical Theater  
Home Town: Edwardsville, Illinois  
Education: Edwardsville High School  
Recent Production Work: Performance: *Alice by Heart* (Debut Theater Company). *Legally Blonde: The Musical, Pippin, The SpongeBob Musical* (Edwardsville High School). Direction: *Silent, But Deadly* (Edwardsville High School).

**Special Thanks:**  
**Seth Cain**  
**The Alabama Ballet**

**Accordions For This Production Supplied by Samuel J. Tumminello**