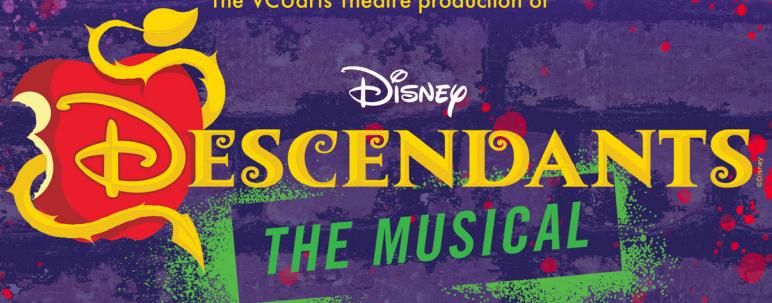


vcuarts | theatre

The VCUarts Theatre production of



Book by

Nick Blaemire

Music Adaptation by
Madeline Smith

Vocal and Incidental
Arrangements by
Madeline Smith

Additional Lyrics by
Nick Blaemire

Orchestrations by
Matthew Tishler

Music Produced by
Matthew Tishler

Songs by

Johan Alkenas, Adam Anders, Aristeidis Archontis, Antonina Armato, Howard Ashman, Peer Astrom, Stephen Mark Conley, Doug Davis, Charity Daw, Andrew C. Dodd, Josh Edmondson, Pipo Fernandez, Nikki Hassman, Samuel Hollander, Ben Hostetler, Tim James, Hanna Jones, Jack Kugell, Craig Lashley, Andrew Lippa, Jeannie Lurie, Alan Menken, Grant Phillip Michaels, Anthony Mirabella, Shayna Mordue, Chen Neeman, Susan Paroff, Shelly M. Peiken, Joacim Persson, James K. Petrie, Adam Schlesinger, Adam Schmalholz, Tyler Shamy, Jodie Shihadeh, Nikki Ann Sorrentino, Thomas Armato Sturges, Ali Dee Theodore, Matthew Wong, David Zippel

Based on the Disney Channel Original Movies written by **Josann McGibbon and Sara Parrott**

Directed by **Desirée Dabney**

April 19th - 28th, 2024 | Tickets \$25

Tickets & Info: bit.ly/VCUTHEATRETIX | 804-828-6026 | theatretix@vcu.edu

@ the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, 922 Park Ave

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Disney's Descendants: The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.com



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THEATRE

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THE VCUARTS DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
PRODUCTION OF

 **DESCENDANTS**
THE MUSICAL

DIRECTOR

Desirée Dabney

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mara Smith

COSTUME DESIGNER

Alia Radabaugh**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Nate Cain**

SCENIC & PROJECTIONS

DESIGNER

Dasia Gregg

SOUND DESIGNERS

Angela Mae Vivaldi

Thomas Vecchione

CHOREOGRAPHER

Christine C. Wyatt

INTIMACY + FIGHT DIRECTOR

Stephanie "Tippi" Hart^^

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Carissa K. Lanstra**

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Bonnie Brady*

** VCUarts Theatre is proud to feature the artistry of our students

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, AGMA, or SAG/AFTRA

+ Member of United Scenic Artists, 829

^ Member of SDC, the Union of Stage Directors & Choreographers

^^ Associate Member of SDC, the Union of Stage Directors & Choreographers

° Member of International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

Carmenita Higginbotham, Dean of the School of the Arts

Holly Alford, Assistant Dean

Bonnie McCoy, Chair, Department of Theatre +

Sharon Ott, Artistic Director, Department of Theatre ^

Descendants runs about 90 minutes with a brief intermission.

Descendants is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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

Disney's DESCENDANTS

Book by
Nick Blaemire

Music Adaptation by Madeline Smith Vocal and Incidental Arrangements by Madeline Smith Additional Lyrics By Nick Blaemire

Music Adaptation by
Madeline Smith

Music Adaptation by
Madeline Smith

Songs by

Johan Alkenas, Adam anders, Aristeidis Archontis, Antonina Armato, Howard Ashman, Peer Astrom, Stephen Mark Conley, Doug Davis, Charity Daw, Andrew C. Dodd, Josh Edmondson, Pipo Fernandez, Nikki Hassman, Samuel Hollander, Ben Hostettler, Tim James, Hanna Jones, Jack Kugell, Craif Lashley, Andrew Lippa, Jeannie Lurie, Alan Menken, Grant Philip Michaels, Anthony Mirabella, Shayna Mordue, Chen Neeman, Susan Paroff, Shelly M. Peiken, Joacim Persson, James K. Petrie, Adam Schlesinger, Adam Schmalholz, Tyler Shamy, Jodie Shihadeh, Nikki Ann Sorrentino, Thomas Armato Sturges, Ali Dee Theodore, Matthew Wong, David Zippel

Based on the Disney Channel Original Movies
written by Josann McGibbon and Sara Parriott

VCUarts Theatre Land Acknowledgement

We honor the indigenous Powhatan land in Tsenacomoco, also known as Richmond, Virginia, where Virginia Commonwealth University sits. This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with indigenous communities, but serves as a first step in honoring the land we occupy and as an act of resistance against the erasure of their histories. As you watch this play, we encourage you to reflect on the land that you are on, who the traditional keepers of the land are, what the treaty relationship is, or if it is unceded territory.

Statement of Belonging, Dignity, and Justice

The faculty and staff of the Department of Theatre at VCUarts unequivocally condemn all forms of bigotry, racism, and anti-Blackness. We are determined to support all our students by mindfully creating a culture of both safety and accountability within our department where BIPOC students feel seen and all our students feel valued. We seek to include, reflect, and give agency to the varied experiences of our community being mindful of the historically marginalized AAPI, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and ADA communities.

MUSICIANS

KEYBOARD ONE	Robert Stoop
KEYBOARD TWO (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)	Mara Smith
BASS	Alex Kehayasa
GUITAR	Forrest Link
DRUMS	Joe Lubman

THE CAST

MAL	.....	Miciah Jenel
EVIE	.....	Julia Koncoski
JAY	.....	Ryan J. Flores
CARLOS	.....	Katherine Nguyen
MALEFICIENT	.....	Autumn Papczynski
GRIMHILDE	.....	Nicole Boisseau
JAFAR	.....	Nikolas Glover
CRUELLA DE VILLE	.....	Parker Nelson
BEN	.....	Mathieu Saliba
KING BEAST	.....	Bronson Dawson
QUEEN BELLE	.....	Michelle Roux
FAIRY GODMOTHER	.....	Ava Van Ameringen
JANE	.....	Casey Henley
CHAD	.....	Ethan Payne
AUDREY	.....	Jessica Pain
DOUG	.....	Lucien Chelonis
ENSEMBLE	.....	Korinne Brier
ENSEMBLE	.....	Briana Creque
ENSEMBLE	.....	Kassandra Fortuna
ENSEMBLE	.....	Elyse Glenn
ENSEMBLE	.....	Eliana Miller
ENSEMBLE	.....	Julia von Fahnestock

UNDERSTUDIES

MAL	.....	Hadi Lancaric
EVIE	.....	Eliana Axler
JAY	.....	Kai Avila
CARLOS	.....	Ryan Humphrey
BEN	.....	Jovan Long
FAIRY GODMOTHER	.....	Elle Reeves

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I wanna listen to my heart, too. And it is telling me that we are not our parents." - Mal

Remember Cruella De Vil, Jafar, Evil Queen and Maleficent? Well, they now have children who have been learning, living and breathing evil just like how their parents taught them. But is that enough?

Twenty years after Belle and Beast marry and become king and queen, they establish the United States of Auradon, creating a prosperous new nation from the surrounding kingdoms, and banish the villains to the Isle of the Lost, a slum surrounded by a barrier where magic is suspended. As a director I just knew that this production would bring thought, magic, love and of course some evilness. The cast began their *Descendants* journey February 12, 2024 learning music, choreography, developing their characters and learning important historical facts and backstories of these profound Disney characters. When you watch the production the entire cast and crew are pouring their heart and soul into the characters and story. Each performance is honest and magical. This work is not easy and takes several hours a day of hard work and dedication. You will laugh, cry, be motivated to watch Disney movies and leave the production wondering if there will be an encore. The encore will be the amazing students at Virginia Commonwealth University being seen around the world sharing their talents and stories from their dedication to the arts while attending this amazing institution.

"If you do your best each and every day, good things are sure to come your way." — Tiana

Director, Desirée Dabney

THE CAST

KAI AVILA

Kai Avila (Jay U/S) is a first-year pursuing a BA in Theatre with a minor in Musical Theatre. He is thrilled to be in his first mainstage at VCU. Other recent credits include 21 CHUMP STREET (SALT) and very recently CHASING GEORGE WASHINGTON (VA Rep).
@kamiyangi



ELIANA AXLER

Eliana Axler (Evie U/S) is so excited to be in her first VCU mainstage production! She is a freshman pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Previous roles include Sharpay in HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL and Mrs. Wormwood in MATILDA THE MUSICAL. Enjoy the show!



NICOLE BOISSEAU

Nicole Boisseau (Grimhilde) is a fourth-year student pursuing her BA in Theatre and a BS in Psychology in the Honors College. Previous VCU credits include ANON(YMOUS) (Assistant Director) and RENT (Ensemble/Swing). Other recent projects include WAYFINDING (SALT), EVERYBODY COMES TO RICK'S (SALT), and MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY (Virginia Repertory Theater). You can find her on Instagram @nicole.boisseau



KORINNE BRIER

Korinne Brier (Ensemble) is a freshman currently pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. This is her first mainstage at VCU, but her previous credits include LITTLE WOMEN (Jo) and HEATHERS (Heather Chandler). She would like to thank her parents for always believing in her.



LUCIEN CHELONIS

Lucien Chelonis (Doug) is a sophomore at VCU pursuing their BA degree. This is their first mainstage at VCU and they are hoping to pursue directing in the future. They would like to mention a thank you to Nicole Chelonis, as her continued support and enthusiasm is what allows Lucien to strive towards their dreams.





BRIANA CREQUE

Briana Creque (Ensemble) is a fourth-year student pursuing her BA in Theatre with a minor in Marketing Insights. Though this is her second mainstage she will be making her Hodges debut!! Previous VCU credits include SCHOOL GIRLS (Paulina U/S, Eloise U/S). Other recent credits include MUSEUM (SALT) and FIRST RESPONDERS (Firehouse Theater). Thank you to my friends and family for all the love and support.



BRONSON DAWSON

Bronson Dawson (King Beast) is a first-year student majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Previous VCU credits include the Musical Theatre Showcase, as well as the One Acts performance, WHEN THEY SPEAK OF RITA. For more, follow Bronson on Instagram @bronny_dd16



RYAN J. FLORES

Ryan J. Flores (Jay) is a fourth-year student pursuing a BA in Theatre and a minor in Musical Theatre. His previous VCU credits are RENT and WHITESPLAINING, in collaboration with The Conciliation Project. He is also part of VCU Improv's BIPOC team Black, Brown, & Honey. On camera work includes Boy in i wish u could love me too (rine). HELP!!! TRAPPED IN PLAYBILL! Three wishes granted if released!! @ryan_j_flores



KASSANDRA FORTUNA

Kassandra Fortuna (Ensemble) is a third-year student pursuing her BA in Theatre with a minor in business. Kassi was previously seen as Mephistopheles in DR. FAUSTUS. This is her first mainstage performance at VCU and she couldn't be more excited. Follow her on Instagram!! @kassi.tuna



ELYSE GLENN

Elyse Glenn (Ensemble) is a third-year student pursuing her BS in Marketing and a minor in Musical Theatre. This is her first ever VCU production. She is also a member of VCU's premiere competitive a cappella group, Ramifications. For more, follow Elyse @lyse_lyse_



NIKOLAS GLOVER

Nikolas Glover (Jafar) is a third year-student pursuing the BA in Theater. He was previously seen in MUSEUM (SALT) and EVERYBODY COMES TO RICKS (SALT). He'd like to give a shout out to all his friends who have helped him through this journey of his life and is excited for his future here! Another day, another slay!



CASEY HENLEY

Casey Henley (Jane) is a second-year student pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Her previous credits include SALT: FEMALE OF THE SPECIES (Molly), SPACE GIRL (Charlotte), and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU (Sienna). Casey is a member of Crimes Against Fantasy, a VCU improv team. Casey thanks her friends and family for their love and support! Instagram: @kc.henley <3



RYAN HUMPHREY

Ryan Humphrey (Carlos U/S) is a fourth-year Political Science major. This is his first mainstage at VCU. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support.



MICIAH JENEL

Miciah Jenel (Mal) is a senior in the theatre program at VCU. She was Joanne in their production of RENT. Her other credits include BEAUTIFUL THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL (Virginia Rep) and ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (Yes, And! Theatrical Company). She'd like to thank her family, friends, and professors for their support in her craft! Follow her on Instagram @m.iciah



JULIA KONCOSKI

Julia Koncoski (Evie) is a fourth-year student pursuing her BA in Theatre. This is her first mainstage show for VCU! Other recent credits include MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (SALT) and ROMEO AND JULIET (SALT). She would like to thank her amazing family, friends, cast, and crew for being ridiculously awesome!



HADI LANCARIC

Hadi Lancaric (Mal U/S) is a freshman pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Her most recent shows are URINETOWN (Penelope Pennywise) and NEWSIES (Katherine). She thanks her friends and family for always supporting her. Feel free to follow her on instagram @hadi_jane_



JOVAN LONG

Jovan Long (Ben U/S) is a third year-transfer student at VCU pursuing a BA in Theatre and a Musical Theatre minor. This is his third mainstage at VCU, previously being a Swing in RENT and Oskar in LET THE RIGHT ONE IN. He is also on the BIPOC improv team Black, Brown and Honey! Jovan would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him as he pursues his dreams and gets his education in theatre!



ELIANA MILLER

Eliana Miller (Ensemble) is a second-year student pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and is thrilled to be making her VCU mainstage debut! Previous credits include SALT productions of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Leonardo) and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU (Penelope u/s). Eliana thanks her lovely friends and family, and the educators at VCU Theatre. @eliana_.miller



PARKER NELSON

Parker Nelson (Cruella de Vil) is a senior pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. She was last on the mainstage in JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, but other local credits include GOLD: THE MIDAS MUSICAL at Virginia Rep and HAIRSPRAY at Homefront Players. Thank you for four years of singing, laughing, and growing! parkerenelson.com



KATHERINE NGUYEN

Katherine Nguyen (Carlos) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Her credits include: LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (VCUarts Theatre), UNCLE TOM: DECONSTRUCTED and WHITESPLAINING (The Conciliation Project). She is an aspiring singer/songwriter referred to as rine on all streaming platforms! She would like to thank her family and friends. Contrary to her character, she loves dogs and has two really cute ones. @rinew1n



JESSICA PAIN

Jessica Pain (Audrey) is a senior graduating with a BFA in Theatre Performance/Musical Theatre. Previously seen on the mainstage in RENT! and JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, and THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES and ROMEO AND JULIET (SALT). They are also making their professional debut in XANADU at RTP. Forever thanks to her supportive friends and family, LYAAFNMW <3 @j.apain :)



AUTUMN PAPCZYNSKI

Autumn Papczynski (Maleficent) is a second-year student pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. Previous VCU credits include Joanne U/S and Seasons of Love soloist in RENT. Other credits include 13 THE MUSICAL at Virginia Repertory and various other Theatre on Ice performances. Shoutout to her puppy Max! For more, follow Autumn @autumnpapczynski on insta :)



ETHAN PAYNE

Ethan Payne (Chad) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Performance. This is his first official production with VCU Theatre. Credits include the Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre's production of ROMEO AND JULIET (Paris). Previous credits before coming to VCU include productions such as BRIGHT STAR (Jimmy Ray), JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (Grasshopper), and WEST SIDE STORY (Tony).



ELLE REEVES

Elle Reeves (Fairy Godmother U/S) is a second-year student pursuing their BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. This is their first mainstage production at VCU and they performed in SADIE HAWKINS CABARET (SALT). They'd like to thank their parents, Dan and Jenn.



MICHELLE ROUX

Michelle Roux (Queen Belle) is a Senior BA Theatre major with minors in Musical Theatre and Education. Her previous VCU credit includes RENT! (Homeless man/ensemble). Another recent credit includes SALT's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING as Verges. Michelle wants to thank all of her professors and friends who have given her the confidence to follow her dreams. Follow her on instagram @michelle_t_m



MATHIEU SALIBA

Mathieu Saliba (Ben) is finishing his first year at VCU, studying Theatre Performance. He is thrilled to play Ben in his first VCU mainstage musical! He recently was an ensemble member in SALT's 21 CHUMP STREET. He wants to thank his parents and girlfriend for all their love and support. @Mathieu_Saliba



AVA VAN AMERINGEN

Ava Van Ameringen (Fairy Godmother) is a senior pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Performance. Her previous VCU credits include MUSEUM (SALT) and SMOKEFALL (SALT). Other recent credits include VCU Cinema projects EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN (dir. Maddy Wade) and DREAMSCAPE 2068 (dir. Brock Cooper). You may recognize her from VCU's improv team, "The Stepkids". HI MOM AND DAD I LOVE YOU! @ava.vanameringen



JULIA VON FAHNESTOCK

Julia von Fahnestock (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is a second-year student pursuing the BA in Theatre with a minor in Musical Theatre and Education. She has previously worked as the Associate Choreographer for VCU'S RENT. She is excited to be performing in her first mainstage with DESCENDANTS. Hi family, love you! @julia_vf on insta, muah <3

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THE ARTISTIC TEAM

DESIRÉE DABNEY

Desirée Dabney (Director) is an experienced professional actor, singer, director, producer, and theatre educator/ activist. Desirée received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting (May 2014) from Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University and her Master of Teaching from University of Richmond. As she adds more high level degrees and certificates in 2024 Desirée always says she will remain a student to learn while she continues teaching theatre arts. Desirée has received awards in recognition of her accomplishments. In 2022, she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Shenandoah University. In 2023, Desirée was selected for Richmond's Style Weekly's Top 40 under 40. She was featured in the Distinguished Black History Tribute on NBC12 that recognized her as the 1st Black Woman as Head of Musical Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University and the 1st Black Woman to develop theatre curriculum for Richmond Public Schools and the Virginia Department of Education. Desirée is also an award winning director for the Richmond Critics Awards production of HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU. Her 2023 inaugural production of the iconic musical, ROOTS, as Head of Musical Theatre was an overwhelming success with sold-out performances! As "Professor Dabney," Desirée is currently the Head of Musical Theatre, School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University. She also serves as a Board Member for Fine Arts Education (Theatre)/ Virginia Department of Education and the Yes And Theatrical Company. She is a Shuler Awards Adjudicator in Georgia and Owner/Executive Director of Theatre Diva Productions. Desirée is committed to providing opportunities for performers in the Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) community so that all performers will be seen and heard!

MARA SMITH

Mara Smith (Music Director) is a musician and educator from Richmond, Virginia. She is a graduate of VCU Music and teaches a variety of performing arts throughout the Richmond area. Recent theatre credits include THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, FINDING NEMO JR., PETER PAN JR. (Music Director), SPAMALOT, RENT, and MEAN GIRLS (Keyboard 2). She writes and performs for her musical project finfeather (@finfeathermusic) and serves as a keyboardist and vocalist in Richmond bands Paint On It and The Wayward Leaves.

CHRISTINE C. WYATT

Christine C. Wyatt (Choreographer) is a VCU Dance & Choreography Alumna. Christine has been teaching dance in Richmond for 10 years. She has choreographed many shows in the Richmond community and is happy to add DESCENDANTS to her resume. She thanks Desirée Dabney for the invitation to create, collaborate, and inspire. Kudos to the cast for giving their all and DANCING while singing their hearts out.

GABRIEL BEARD

Gabriel Beard (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a third-year student pursuing his BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Lighting Design and Technology. Previous VCU credits include LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (Head Electrician) and SCHOOL GIRLS (Asst. Lighting Designer). Other lighting design credits include THE THANKSGIVING PLAY (Cadence Theatre), CARRIE THE MUSICAL (Cadence Theatre), and PLACEBO (Yes, And!). For more, check out his website gabrielabeard.com.

DEBBIE BERGHAHN

Debbie Berghahn (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Costume Design and Technology. Her previous works include Draper for THE IMAGINARY INVALID, Assistant Costume Designer for RENT, Wardrobe Supervisor for JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, and stitching for most mainstages. She would like to thank her parents for being supportive and her sister for being the best friend she could ask for.

JESSLYN BOWERS

Jesslyn Bowers (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third-year student pursuing their BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management. Previous VCU credits include PA on LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (Dir. Wes Seals), and PA on SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY (Dir. Katrinah Carol Lewis). They would like to thank their friends and family near and far for their continued support.

NATE CAIN

Nate Cain (Lighting Designer) is a fourth-year student working on their BFA in Theater with a concentration in Lighting Design and Technology. Previous VCU credits include SCHOOL GIRLS (Lighting Designer), GROSS INDECENCY (Assistant Lighting Designer), and LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (Assistant Lighting Designer). They want to thank their family and friends for their support.

NICOLE COWANS

Nicole Cowans (Dialect Coach) is Assistant Professor of Voice and Speech at VCU. Together with the cast, she passionately collaborated to infuse the story's characters with authenticity and depth through creative vocal expression. Guiding them through the intricacies of voice, Nicole worked with the cast to unlock layers of emotion and authenticity, enriching the narrative with depth, dimension, and variety. Beyond her role as Assistant Professor of Voice and Speech at VCU, Nicole Cowans is a dynamic entrepreneur, performance artist, and creative; elevating her teaching with real-world expertise. Explore more about Nicole's multifaceted talents and endeavors at www.NicoleCowans.com.

BETH DAVIS

Beth Davis (Vocal Lessons) is passionate about empowering singers to unlock their full potential. Before joining the faculty at VCU in 2021, she taught in several other university, theatre and studio settings since 2007. She also continues to perform locally. Beth holds a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College and a Master of Music from California State University, Northridge. @bethdavismusic

DASIA GREGG

Dasia Gregg (Scenic and Projection Designer) graduated from VCU in 2018 with a BFA in Theatre and concentration in Scenic Design. Some recent credits include Animator for THE DRAGON KING'S DAUGHTER (The Kennedy Center), Scenic and Projection Designer for MARTHA MITCHELL CALLING (VaREP), Asst. Projection Designer for CINDERELLA (Flat Rock Playhouse), and Assoc. Projection Designer for ON YOUR FEET! THE MUSICAL (Gala Hispanic Theatre).

STEPHANIE "TIPPI" HART

Stephanie "Tippi" Hart (Intimacy & Fight Director) is an Assistant Professor of Movement at VCU. Her work as a fight and intimacy director has been seen in the Richmond area on such works as LET THE RIGHT ONE IN, ANON(YMOUS), MACBETH3, RENT, and GROSS INDECENCY at VCU; 4000 DAYS, SUGAR IN OUR WOUNDS, LOG CABIN, COLLECTIVE RAGE: A PLAY IN 5 BETTIES, and ROCKY HORROR SHOW at Richmond Triangle Players; HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE; A SOLDIER'S PLAY at Swift Mill Creek Theatre; and as Intimacy Coordinator on the second season of Apple TV's SWAGGER. Tippi is working on her Doctorate in Theatre where her research is rooted in the care of performers when they are required to portray trauma on the stage. She is thankful to everyone for the opportunity to work on this fun show.

EMILY JAMES

Emily James (Dramaturgy) is currently enrolled in the MFA Theatre Pedagogy/Performance program. She has a BFA in Theatre Stage Management from Shenandoah Conservatory and has worked professionally in DC, Cincinnati, and Richmond, VA. Thank you to Desiree, a fellow SU Alum and pilates warrior queen, for this amazing opportunity to truly embrace my inner Disney Adult.

RAMSEY KNAB

Ramsey Knab (Assistant Technical Director) is pursuing their BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Scenic Design and Technology. It is in their first time in such a position and its been fun. They have worked on other VCU productions such as IMAGINARY INVALID (Props Charge) and SCHOOL GIRLS (Paint Charge).

MELANIE MICHELLE KISER

Melanie Michelle Kiser (Assistant Costume Designer) is a Junior scenic and costume design student at VCU and is so excited to be a part of yet another mainstage here! Her previous work at VCU includes props designer for ANON(YMOUS), paint charging THE IMAGINARY INVALID, blood coordination for LET THE RIGHT ONE IN, wardrobe head for RENT, props for SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY, and stitching and building positions in both the costume and scene shop.

CARISSA K. LANSTRA

Carissa K. Lanstra (Production Stage Manager) is a fourth-year student pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management. Previous credits ASM for THE NUTCRACKER (Richmond Ballet), ASM for IMAGINARY INVALID(VCUarts Theatre), and ASM for ANYTHING GOES (Tent Theatre). She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and her dogs for always being there to cuddle :) <https://smlanstra.wixsite.com/mysite>

ALIA RADABAUGH

Alia Radabaugh (Costume Designer) is a senior pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Costume Design and Technology. Although she's stitched for every mainstage since MEN ON BOATS, this is her first time designing at VCU. Thanks Kendra, Cindy, Maura and my three cherubim assistants. Check out @aliamakesthings on Instagram for much more!

DUNCAN SCARPA-FRIEDMAN

Duncan Scarpa-Friedman (Associate Projection Designer) is a third-year student pursuing his BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Lighting Design and Technology. Previous VCU credits include THE IMAGINARY INVALID (Assistant Lighting Designer) and SCHOOL GIRLS (Head Electrician). He has also designed projections for installations, including LOCOSTASIS for IMPASSAGE at The Anderson Gallery. For more design and technical work, visit his website at <https://dunk.nz/>.

SOPHIA SCOTTO

Sophia Scotto (Sound Associate) is in her final year of school pursuing her BA in Cinema with a Sound Design Minor. This is her first theatre production, but she has previous experience working as a Sound Mixer and First Assistant Director on films. Sophia is also a member of VCU's film club, New Surge. For more of her work, go to SophiaScotto.com.

PRESTON SPENCE

Preston Spence (Technical Director) graduated from VCU's BFA program in December 2004. He is glad to be back on the East Coast after having resided in San Diego, CA, where he worked as joint staff for the UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance and the La Jolla Playhouse.

BRIGID TAMAS

Brigid Tamas (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a third-year student pursuing her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Scenic Design and Technology. Her previous VCU Theatre credits include Assistant Technical Director for RENT, Paint Charge for LET THE RIGHT ONE IN, and Actor in WHITESPLAINING.

ANGELA MAE VIVALDI

Angela Mae Vivaldi (Co-Sound Designer) is an alumni of VCUart Theatre's BFA with a concentration in Stage Management program with a minor in Sound Design. VCU credits include MEN ON BOATS (Associate Sound Designer/Foley Artist), SPRING AWAKENING (Assistant Sound Designer), and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (A2). Other credits include CARRIE and ANNIE JR. (Cadence Theatre Company) and FOOTLOOSE (West End Academy of Dance).

THOMAS VECCHIONE

Thomas Vecchione (Co-Sound Designer) an IATSE Local 87 member, has an impressive resume, having worked on live broadcasts, streams, satellite downlinks, and of course live concerts, theater, and other shows. He transitioned from house audio guru to Production Manager at the Altria Theater, recently nominated for a Pollstar award as one of the best theaters in the country. He's also the force behind Leviathan-AVC, creating bespoke audio, video, and network solutions for live productions. This venture stands out as Thomas's domain for innovative technical solutions, where he blends expertise and creativity to exceed client expectations. With nearly twenty years of experience, Thomas's journey from studying Theater at Virginia Commonwealth University to exploring video, 3D animation, technical direction, production management, and IT has been diverse. His ability to handle anything tech-related has made him indispensable in the field. As a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, Thomas has had the unique joy of molding young minds in the ways of theater sound. He's mentored brilliant students through the design and rehearsal process, watching them grow from wide-eyed novices to seasoned pros who probably still text him for advice. Thomas revels in the knowledge that he's contributed to the world more than just great sound systems – he's helped launch careers. And if that's not worth bragging about, what is?"

JULIE VO

Julie Vo (Sound Assistant) is a fourth-year student pursuing her B.A. in Cinema and a minor in Sound Design. Previous VCU credits include IMAGINARY INVALID (Sound Associate) and various other films produced by the VCU Arts Cinema Program. She wanted to give a special thanks to her professors Eunjin Cho and Thomas Vecchione for this opportunity.

KRISTEN WOOLRIDGE

Kristen Woolridge (Assistant Director) is a fourth-year student pursuing her BA in theatre. Previous VCU credits include RENT! (dresser). Other recent credits include SHREK THE MUSICAL (Lynn Theatre) and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Lynn Theater). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support. For more, follow Kristen @ Kristenclove

CASEY WORLEY

Casey Worley (Assistant Director) is a MFA (Pedagogy & Performance) student. Previously, he has directed LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, ADDAMS FAMILY, and OUR TOWN (Radford High School). Recent acting credits include GREATER TUNA and 'TIL DEATH DO US PART (New River Theatre Guild). Special thanks to his family for being his support system!

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

CREATIVE

Assistant Directors - Kristen Woolridge, Casey Worley

Assistant Choreographer - Bobbie Fluitt

Dramaturgy - Emily James

Faculty Dialect Coach - Nicole Cowans

Faculty Intimacy Director - Stephanie "Tippi" Hart

Faculty Vocal Advisor - Beth Davis

COSTUMES

Assistant Costume Designers - Erin Allen, Debbie Berghahn,
Melanie Kiser

Wardrobe Supervisor - Alix Beck, Nyla Jackson

Dressers - Ricky Branch, Noelle Brown, Andi Landrum, Mae Molina,
Eli Wilcox, Leyia Williams, Antony Zheng

Drapers - Erin Allen, Emily Cosma, Tallie Pugh

Wig Supervisor - Sam French

Costume Technician - Erik Mayes

Faculty Costume Shop Manager - Jill Parzych

Faculty Design Supervisor - Kendra Rai⁺

LIGHTING

Assistant Lighting Designer - Gabriel Beard

Head Electrician - Reid Hardymon

Assistant Head Electrician - Cassie Keating

Moving Light Technician - Wyatt Moffett

Assistant Moving Light Technician - Griffin Hardy

Lighting Programmer - TJ Washington

Light Board Operator - Adri Ulm

Follow Spot - Kurt Hoffman, Kai Jenkins

Electricians - Gabriel Beard, Zeke Blottner, Michael Crevoisier, Griffin Hardy, Reid Hardymon, Frankie Harell, Ava Harper, Cassie Keating, Jeunga Lee, Wyatt Moffet, Duncan Scarpa-Friedman, Vivien Smith, Adri Ulm, T.J. Washington.

Staff Lighting Technician - Weston Corey

Faculty Supervisor - BJ Wilkinson

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Assistant Stage Manager - Jesslyn Bowers

Production Assistants - Madelyn Resnick, Annika Smith

Faculty Supervisor - Bonnie Brady^{*}

SOUND

Associate Sound Designer - Sophia Scotto

Sound Design Assistant - Julie Vo

Production Sound - Justice Craig

A1 - Kendal Davis

A2s - Merlin Frazier, Breanna Swain

Sound Board Operator - Kendal Davis

Sound Work Study Assistants - Maggie Root, Duncan Scarpa-Friedman, Alexis Waters

Staff Sound Technician - Weston Corey

Faculty Supervisor - Thomas Vecchione⁰

SCENIC

Assistant Scenic Designer - Brigid Tamas

Associate Projections Designer - Duncan Scarpa-Friedman

Assistant Technical Director - Ramsey Knab

Props Designer - Ben Burke⁰

Scenic Charge - Sophie Solomon Resplandy⁰

Set Construction - The Students of: Practicum, Stagecraft, Welding for the Theatre, Intro to Tech Theatre, and select students of THEA 100: Technical Production

Lead Carpenters - Ben Burke⁰, Sophie Solomon Resplandy⁰

Work Study Carpenters - Ben Strassler, Madeleine Warren, Thao-Vy Nguyen, Jakob Tyree, Jay Van

Scene Shop Assistants - Sarai Vance, Marcus Johnson, Kalin D'Reaux-Rodgers, Shaelin Sullivan, Lana Waters

Scene Shop Foreman - Kevin McGranahan

Faculty Technical Director - Preston Spence⁰

Faculty Design Supervisor - Chris Raintree

RUN CREW

Hattie Eubanks, Alex Huff, Rebekah Lee, Richelle Moore, Max Patterson, Maggie Root, Simon Skinner, Benjamin Strassler

FRONT OF HOUSE

House Manager - Ty Campbell

Box Office - Vivian Dao, Samantha Douthit, Jazlie Kain-Knox

Box Office Supervisor - Michelle Anderson

Front of House Supervisor - Jamie King

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, AGMA, or SAG

⁺ Member of United Scenic Artists, 829

⁰ Member of IATSE International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

VCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

FACULTY AND STAFF

Bonnie McCoy *	Department Chair
Dr. Aaron Anderson ^	Graduate Program Director
Sharon Ott ^	Artistic Director Acting/Directing
Mary Beth Adams	Speech
Michelle Anderson	Administrative Coordinator
Nia Banks	Fundamentals of Design
Sabrina Becker	Musical Theatre History
Jenn Bianchi	Improv
Doug Blackburn	Speech
Bonnie Brady*	Head of Stage Management
Kasey Brown	Fundamentals of Design
Ben Burke °	Lead Carpenter, Scene Shop
Chelsea Burke	Guest Director, Senior Showcase
Elizabeth Byland	Head of Improv, Medical / Applied Improv
Jessica Casey	Administrative Affairs Coordinator
EJ Cho	Sound Design
Weston Corey	Lighting & Sound Technician
Nicole Cowans	Voice and Speech
Maura Cravey°	Costume Construction
Desirée Dabney	Head of Musical Theatre
Beth Davis	Vocal Lessons
Emily Hake	Scene Painting
Tippi Hart^	Movement
Baylee Holloran	Voiceover Acting
Katie Holland	Movement
Katie Jackson	Intro to Drama
Vanessa Jackson	Speech
Sally Kessler	Advanced Patterning
Jamie King	Box Office Manager
Dr. Keith Byron Kirk ^^	Theatre Pedagogy
Karen Kopryanski *	Head of Voice and Speech
Xiaolin Lan	Makeup, Figure Drawing
Brian Letscher	Desktop A/V

VCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

FACULTY AND STAFF

Amber Martinez	Live Theatre Now / Speech
Emily Mattison	Head of Undergraduate Performance
Erik Mayes	Costume Shop Technician
Shaun McCracken	Academic Affairs Coordinator
Kevin McGranahan	Scene Shop Foreman
Elle Meerovich	Musical Theatre
Elyssa Mersdorf	Voice and Speech
Janel Miley	Academic Advisor, Acting
Dr. Jesse Njus	Theatre History, Dramatic Lit
Jill Parzych	Costume Shop Manager, Costume Construction
Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates ^{**}	Acting, Directing, Black Theatre
Kendra Rai ⁺	Head of Design/Tech, Head of Costume Design
Chris Raintree	Head of Scenic Design
Sim Rivers	Intro to Performance
Harrison Runion	Voice and Speech, Speech
Wes Seals ^{**}	Acting
Sophie Solomon Resplandy ⁰	Lead Carpenter, Scene Shop
Preston Spence ⁰	Technical Director
Mariah Taghavie-Moghadam	Live Theatre Now / Speech
David Emerson Toney	Performance, Playwriting
Thomas Vecchione ⁰	Sound Technology
Kendall Walker	Dramaturgy
B.J. Wilkinson	Head of Lighting Design

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, AGMA, or SAG

⁺ Member of United Scenic Artists, 829

[^] Member of SDC, the Union of Stage Directors & Choreographers

^{^^} Associate Member of SDC, the Union of Stage Directors & Choreographers

⁰ Member of IATSE International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

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Every year talented VCU Department of Theatre students benefit from the generosity of your donations to our scholarships. The department has a variety of funds that contribute to student success. Criteria for award recipients vary and cover undergraduate and graduate students of merit, students from different disciplines of theatre, students of color and students with financial need. There are many more deserving students who need your help, and your donation could make all the difference.

Thank you to all the alumni, family, faculty, staff and supporters who have made these scholarships possible over the years.

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FEBRUARY 2025

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