

2024-25 Season
PITT STAGES proudly presents



As You Like It

A Musical Adaptation of
William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*

Written and Adapted by
Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery

Director: **Tom Pacio**
Music Director: **Becki Toth**
Music and Lyrics by **Shaina Taub**

Friday, 4.4.25
through
Sunday, 4.13.25



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

"Where's a Forest of Arden when you need one?"

- Alexis Soloski, *New York Times*, 2017

Our production of Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery's heartfelt adaptation of Shakespeare's classic comedy, *As You Like It*, was chosen for this season at Pitt Stages for many reasons. These ranged from access to heightened text, exploring challenging design prospects, and honoring the growing interest in musical theatre performance in the department, among others. From my perspective as the director, the most compelling reason was the focus this play places on community and healing. New York Times theatre critic Alexis Soloski began their review of the original 2017 production with a line from the play, "All are welcome here." As you will read in the well-crafted note from our Pitt student dramaturgs (Dugan & Smith), the original production of this musical was created for, by, and with members of the community to respond, illuminate, and offer a place of healing for all involved and all who came to see. The creators of this production sought to include as many individuals from as many different communities as possible in the show: thereby expanding the circle of the "theatre makers" and "theatre goers" beyond the reach of New York's Public Theater to push the boundaries and potential of the form. This updated version of a staple of dramatic literature offers, "a utopian vision of a society that favors acceptance over division, honesty over obfuscation, grace over meanness." It is our great hope that our production is no different.

The process of creating *As You Like It* at Pitt was overwhelmingly collaborative and could not have happened without each and every name you will read in this program. We shifted from design conversations about Shakespeare's pastoral landscapes to the power of street art in our own city's Strip District; we chose to look at the wrestling scene through a lens of a fandom that is uniquely Pittsburgh; we worked hard to include as many voices as possible in the story you will see today. The musical's opening song, "All the World's a Stage," pulled from the most iconic line of this play, is an invitation to recognize the magic the theatre can have to transport us somewhere, to experience the adventures of the characters we find there, and to invite us to an empathy in ourselves that may have not been reachable otherwise.

On behalf of the cast, crew, creative team, designers, faculty, staff, and students who made this production possible, we invite you to our Forest of Arden for a brief moment, to our brand of magic made of Shakespeare's words, Taub's music, and the countless generous choices made by all involved here at Pitt. We offer this story, this Arden, as a place to escape, to fall in love, and to heal- if only for a short time out of your day. So, without further adieu, "To Arden!"

- Tom Pacio, Director





Dramaturgy Note

William Shakespeare is one of the most well known playwrights of all time. His famous words, "All the world's a stage," were first written in his play *As You Like It*, a pastoral comedy that manages to discuss the calm and restorative life away from the royal court in a comedic and light-hearted manner. Since the first American performances of Shakespeare's plays in the 1730s and 1740s, *As You Like It* has been a mainstay in American stages and schools.

Shaina Taub turns the five act play into a ninety minute musical, mixing music styles and tones to reach as many people as possible. Whether you're a fan of country, Latin, pop, or several other represented genres, you'll find something to like in Taub's all-encompassing score. Taub also puts an emphasis on simplifying the language. While it's fortunate we don't live in 1590s London, Shakespeare's close attention to poetic structure and use of archaic language makes the dialogue of his plays far less approachable in our modern day. Taub, in the spirit of community, has toned down the dense, Shakespearean language in the music to modern speech while still keeping faithful to the message of the original play. As a compromise, the spoken dialogue comes nearly word-for-word from the original play, just truncated for more streamlined scenes, so the Shakespeare aspect isn't entirely lost.

At its core, *As You Like It* is a show about community, and finding the good in people. The original show, first performed at The Public Theater in 2017, ran casting on the principle that everyone can perform, no matter their level of theater experience. Pitt Stages' production is keeping this spirit alive by featuring several performing student groups of all kinds from around campus, giving them each a night to perform alongside the cast.

Of course, you can't discuss *As You Like It* without talking about Arden, an old forest that stood on the West Midlands of England. Arden, the land the principles flee to is central to the theme of community. As Duke Senior sings, "In Arden, we shall answer to adversity with kindness." Arden is a magical forest of refuge that houses anyone in exile who needs a place to live.

Shakespeare grew up right next to the forest of Arden. The magical land of kindness and acceptance that much of the main cast is forced to flee to at the beginning of the show was Shakespeare's childhood backyard. Even if the physical forest of Arden no longer exists, at least at the same capacity as it used to, we all still have a place and community where we feel most at home. The lesson this show teaches us is that kindness and love, in their many forms, conquer all.

This particular adaptation premiered in early autumn, 2017, a famously tumultuous moment for immigration legislation. At the same time an order to have undocumented immigrants crossing the borders tried and held in ICE detention centers, the Public was commissioning Taub to write this musical. In many ways, Arden can be directly compared to a sanctuary city of our world. *As You Like It* is a show with themes of love, acceptance, and, most importantly, community at its heart.

- Sarah Dugan and Ryder Smith, Dramaturgs

AS YOU LIKE IT

A Musical Adaptation of William Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT

Adapted by Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery

Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub

Originally commissioned and produced by The Public Theater

Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director

Orchestrations and Band Arrangements by Mike Brun

Playwright Biographies

Shaina Taub

Raised in the green mountains of Vermont, Shaina Taub is a New York-based songwriter and performer. She has won the Jonathan Larson Grant, the Fred Ebb Award and the Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award and has an ongoing concert residency at Joe's Pub. Taub has starred in her musical adaptations of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and As You Like It at the Public Theater's Delacorte in Central Park, commissioned for their groundbreaking Public Works initiative. She's currently writing a musical about the American women's suffrage movement and she's writing lyrics for the upcoming musical of The Devil Wears Prada, with music by Sir Elton John. Taub's work was featured in Lincoln Center's American Songbook concert series and she recently made her Carnegie Hall debut performing her music with the New York Pops. She wrote songs for and co-starred in Bill Irwin and David Shiner's Old Hats, directed by Tina Landau at the Signature Theatre and A.C.T. She earned a Lucille Lortel Award nomination as Mary in the off-Broadway run of Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812, and appeared in the original cast of Hometown at New York Theatre Workshop. Her songs have been performed by Audra McDonald and Sutton Foster, and she wrote the theme song for Julie Andrews' Netflix series Julie's Greenroom, performed by Sara Bareilles. Her two albums, Visitors and Die Happy are available at www.shainataub.com.

Playwright Biographies (continued)

Laurie Woolery

Laurie Woolery is a director, playwright, educator, facilitator and producer. She has worked at the Public Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory, Trinity Repertory, Goodman Theater, Cornerstone Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Denver Center, Los Angeles Philharmonic, East West Players, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Inge Center for the Arts, Plaza de la Raza/RedCAT, Ricardo Montalban Theatre, Deaf-West Theatre, Highways Performance Space and Sundance Playwrights Lab as well as the Sundance Children's Theater. Woolery has directed world premieres of plays by Tanya Saracho, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Charise Castro Smith, Marisela Trevino Orta, Aditi Kapil, K.J. Sanchez, Julie Marie Myatt, Cody Henderson, Allison Carey and others. Currently, Woolery is the Director of Public Works at The Public Theater. In the summer of 2017, with collaborators Shaina Taub and Sonya Tayeh, Woolery directed a new musical adaptation of *As You Like It* at the Delacorte Theater with 200 New Yorkers. That production was named as one of "The Best Theater in 2017" by the New York Times. Woolery teaches at Princeton, NYU, Brown, USC, Cal Arts, Citrus College, California State University at Northridge and California State University at Los Angeles. She serves on the Board of the Latinx Producers Action Network, Latinx Commons and is a founding member of The Sol Project in New York. Woolery is a proud recipient of the Fuller Road Fellowship for Women Directors of Color.



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As You Like It

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Tom Pacio

Cast

Jacques.....Shea Sweeney
 Orlando..... Kerragan Kurtz
 Oliver..... John Papadimitrou
 Rosalind.....Olivia Tran-Speros
 Celia..... Virginia Keister
 Touchstone.....Cade Teribery
 Duke Senior..... Andy Levin
 Duke Frederick..... Landon White
 Silvia..... Marie Southall
 Phoebe..... Stefania Di Michele
 Andy..... Evan Knott
 Papa Corin & Bronco..... Griffin Maley
 Mama Corin & Miss Amiens.....Olivia Wick
 Martext, The Announcer, Jacques U/S,
 Ensemble..... Eliver Russo



As You Like It

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Tom Pacio

Ensemble / Understudies

- Ensemble, William.....Gianni DelMastro
- Ensemble, Orlando U/S..... Benjamin Stolarz
- Ensemble, Oliver & Andy U/S..... Dillon Daisy
- Ensemble, Rosalind U/S..... Juliette Davoine
- Ensemble, Ceilia U/S..... Danielle Yakubisin
- Ensemble, Touchstone U/S.....Tyler Neffield
- Ensemble, Duke Senior U/S.....Jermaine Howard Jr.
- Ensemble, Duke Frederick U/S..... Agate Riley
- Ensemble, Sylvia U/S.....Chloe Brokesh
- Ensemble, Phoebe U/S..... Paulina Sanchez
- Ensemble, Miss Amiens U/S.....Akisse Morton

Production & Creative Teams

Director.....	Tom Pacio
Assistant Directors.....	Natasha Cole Samuel Couch
Music Director.....	Becki Toth
Choreographer.....	Amanda Olmstead
Assistant Music Director.....	Kyle Buchheister
Scenic Designer.....	Britton Mauk
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Andie Schultz
Costume Designer.....	Maya Jones
Lighting Designer.....	Isabel Sinnott
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Audrey Clare
Sound Designer.....	Howard Patterson
Assoc. Sound Designer.....	Marie Southall
Sound Engineer.....	Kyra Patenaude
Stage Manager.....	Talia Buonora
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Maddie Decker Jordan Kauffman, Emy Vila-Kubiak
Properties Artisan.....	Natalie Rose Mabry

Production & Creative Teams

Playwrights.....Shaina Taub
Laurie Woolery

Dramaturgs..... Sarah Dugan
Ryder Smith

Dramaturgy Mentor.....Patrick McKelvey

Faculty Advisor.....Kelly Trumbull

Fight & Intimacy.....Tonya Lynn

Musicians

Conductor, Keyboard 1..... Ben Brosche

Keyboard 2.....Victoria Murphy

Bass..... Aldo Dilanni

Percussion..... Kamran Mian

Guitar..... Samuel Couch





Cast Biographies

Chloe Brokesh (Ensemble, Sylvia U/S) is so excited to be involved in her first Pitt Stages production! At Pitt, you may have seen her in MTC's *Jekyll and Hyde* and *The Lightning Thief*. Favorite outside credits include Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!* and Lois Lane in *Kiss Me, Kate!* A sophomore dual-major in Music (vocal performance) and Applied Developmental Psychology with a minor in Theatre Arts, Chloe would like to thank her voice teacher, Lauren Upchurch, as well as her incredible family and friends. She hopes you "Silvia" the show!

Dillon Daisy (Ensemble, Oliver & Andy U/S) is a sophomore here at the University of Pittsburgh, currently studying Film and Media with a minor concentration in Theatre Arts. Dillon has been involved with theatre here at Pitt since his freshmen year, taking part in 24 hour plays (through Redeye Theatre Club) annually, as well as supporting other amazing theatre based clubs such as the Performance Collaborative, and then Musical Theatre Club. Dillon is excited to be able to be apart of this amazing musical alongside all of his peers, and looks forward to continue his work with Pitt Stages in The future.

Juliette Davoine (Ensemble, Rosalind U/S) is a senior Mechanical Engineering student and is thrilled to be performing in her first production in Pitt's Department of Theatre Arts as co-dance captain, shadow dancer,

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Cast biographies continued



referee, and more. She is also a member in Pitt's Musical Theatre Club, performing in *The Lightning Thief* and *Jekyll and Hyde* over the past year. She would like to thank her family for their unwavering support and the production team for making her senior year unforgettable.

Gianni DelMastro (Ensemble, William) is a sophomore Theatre Arts Major with a minor in 7-12 Secondary Education and is ecstatic to be making his Pitt Stages debut! His past credits include the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Principal Panch), *A Chorus Line* (Cut Dancer/Pit Singer), *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Featured Dancer/Male Swing/ Gene Kelly Award Winning Dance Ensemble), and has been a part of multiple dance productions, and has also most recently been seen on-screen in a SAG-AFTRA feature film. He is so grateful to be working with this very talented cast and crew and he hopes that you enjoy this delightful production!

Stefania Di Michele (Phoebe) is a senior Theater Arts and Communications double major. She is beyond excited to be acting in her second Pitt Stages production. Stefania currently serves as the president of the Musical Theater Club here at Pitt, where you may have seen her in *The Lightning Thief* (Clarisse), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods). She wants to thank

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all of her friends and the amazing facility for making this an amazing last show at Pitt!

Jermaine Howard Jr. (Ensemble, Duke Senior U/S) is a freshman Computer Science major and intended Theater Arts minor, and this is his first Pitt Stages show. Jermaine is involved with Musical Theatre Club here at Pitt, where he most recently played the role Chiron in *The Lightning Thief* along with being in the Sinners, Scandals, and Showbiz Showcase! He was also a finalist for Best Actor in the Philadelphia Independence awards for his role of Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can*. Jermaine would like to thank his friends, family, cast and crew for an amazing first year experience and endless support, and is looking forward to help showcase the world of Arden this performance!

Virginia Keister (Celia) is so excited to perform in her first Pitt Stages production! Virginia is a sophomore Theatre Arts major/Secondary Education minor/Disability Studies certificate. Previous roles include *The Lightning Thief* (Silena), *As You Like It* (Celia), *Legally Blonde* (Delta Nu), and *Trail to Oregon!* (Son). Thank you to the wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful WONDERFUL cast and production team who made this show happen!

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Evan Knott (Andy) is a junior majoring in Communications with a certificate in Broadcasting. This is his fourth production with Pitt Stages. Previous work included *Abduction: A Musical Comedy* and *That's Not How I Remember It* (Barry). Before Pitt, Evan performed at DeMatha Catholic High School in such shows as *The Frogs* (Herakles), *1776* (McNair), *A Servant of Two Masters* (Brighella), and *Man of La Mancha* (Cervantes/Don Quixote). In addition, Evan is the current director of the Redeye Theatre Project, a 24-hour theatre program at the university. Evan would like to thank his mother and sister, in addition to his family and friends, who encourage him in shows such as this.

Kerragan Kurtz (Orlando) is excited to be part of the University of Pittsburgh's production of *As You Like It!* A senior film production major, Kerragan recently played Diva Aziza in Pitt's *Cheating Fate* and has been involved in various productions both on stage and behind the camera. He is an aspiring filmmaker and thrilled to be a part of this show!

Andy Levin (Duke Senior) is thrilled to be in his second show with Pitt Stages! He is a sophomore pursuing a Finance major and a Theatre Arts minor. His previous credit in the department was in *Spring Awakening* (Moritz). He hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as he enjoyed working on it!

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Griffin Maley (Papa Corin & Bronco) is a sophomore English Writing and Theatre dual-major, and he is absolutely thrilled to be part of his first show with Pitt Stages. Previously Griffin has been active in theatre clubs at Pitt, including Musical Theatre Club and Performance Collaborative. His performances with these groups include: *Legally Blonde*, *Jekyll and Hyde* (Sir Danvers Carew), *The Lightning Thief* (Mr. D), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug the Joiner). He hopes everyone has as much fun watching the show as he had working on it.

Akisse Morton (Hisperia, Ensemble, Miss Aimens U/S) is so excited to be performing with Pitt Stages once again! Akisse is a Theater Arts major with a double minor in Film and Business. She has been in *Trifles* (Minnie Wright) during her time at Pitt. Prior to attending Pitt, she performed in shows such as *Sonder* and *How to Be A Heartbreaker*. She is so grateful to a part of this lovely production!

Tyler Neffield (Ensemble, Touchstone & Adam U/S) is a sophomore Architecture student also pursuing a Theatre Arts minor and is excited to be back with Pitt Stages! Tyler is also involved in local community theaters such as The Theatre Factory and Main Street Theatre Company. Some of his favorite credits include *The SpongeBob Musical* (Larry the Lobster/Ensemble/Lead Dancer), *Spring Awakening*

Cast biographies continued



(Reinhold/Swing (Melchior), and *Mamma Mia!* (Sam Carmichael/Student Director). Tyler is also involved with the Musical Theatre Club here at Pitt and is eager to get back on the stage in Arden!

John Papadimitrou (Oliver) is a sophomore majoring in Finance with a minor in Theater Arts, and he is thrilled to return to the stage for his second production with Pitt Stages. Previously, he has taken on a variety of roles, including Gordon Gottlieb in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Orin Scrivello in *Little Shop of Horrors*. He is eagerly anticipating sharing this brilliant adaptation of his favorite Shakespearean play with the audience!

Agate Riley (Ensemble, Duke Frederick U/S) is proud to be performing in their second and final Pitt Stages show. They are a senior Biological Sciences and Theatre Arts double major with a minor in Chemistry and they will be graduating at the end of this semester. They have previously been in Pitt Stages' production of *Corsicana* (Justice U/S) and in two shows with Musical Theatre Club at Pitt: *The Lightning Thief* (Hades), and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Sir Archibald Proops). Agate was also the costume designer for Performance Collaborative's fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They would like to thank the production team for making this show an incredible experience.

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Eliver Russo (Martext, The Announcer, Ensemble, Jacques U/S) is very excited to be making their debut on this campus with Pitt Main Stages. Eliver is a junior Theatre Arts major and Creative Writing minor. They have been in shows including *Concord Floral* (The Fox), *The Drowning Girls* (Lead Composer and Live Musician), *Berlin Walls* (a student devised work as the Narrator), and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Dresser). Eliver is also a stitcher in Pitt's Costume shop. They would like to thank their cast and crew members for a wonderful experience and hope everyone enjoys the show!

Paulina Sanchez (Ensemble, Phoebe U/S) is a freshman education student in the C.A.S.E. program while also pursuing a Theatre Arts minor, and this is her first show with Pitt Stages! Paulina was a finalist in Gene Kelley awards for Best Actress for her role as Roxie in *Chicago*. Some of her other favorite credits include *In the Heights* (Vanessa), *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie Sheridan), and *The Addams Family* (Wednesday Addams). Paulina is also involved with the Musical Theatre Club here at Pitt, where she most recently was in *The Lightning Thief* (Luke) and the Sinners, Scandals, and Showbiz Showcase (Co-Dance Captain). Paulina is forever thankful for her family and friends' support, and she can't wait to help bring Arden to life!

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Marie Southall (Silvia) is overjoyed to have the opportunity of performing in Pitt Stages' production of *As You Like It*. Marie has worked on other projects with Pitt Stages, including the Spring '23 production of *Abduction: The Musical*. She would like to express her gratitude to her amazing castmates for all the life that they bring to this show every day, in addition to every person who had a hand in making this show possible, from the second-to-none technical team and director hats to all of the 0880/shop hour workers that worked on this show. You truly make our world on a stage, and your time and effort do not go unnoticed. Now, let's go do a show!

Benjamin Stolarz (Ensemble, Orlando U/S) is excited to perform in his third Pitt Stages production. He is currently an Industrial Engineering major and Theater Arts minor. He has recently performed in Pitt Stages' *The Inseparables* (Jordan) and *Spring Awakening* (Ensemble/Moritz U/S), South Park Theatre's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Ensemble), Performance Collaborative's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing), and Pitt Musical Theater Club's *Legally Blonde* (Emmett Forrest). He hopes the audience enjoys the show.

Shea Sweeney (Jacques) is thrilled to be returning to the stage to play Jacques, her final role at Pitt Stages. Currently in the spring semester of her senior year,

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Shea will graduate in May with a Theatre Arts major, a Music minor, and a Television & Broadcast certificate. Previous performance credits with Pitt Stages include *The 39 Steps* (Anabella/Pamela/Margaret), *Emilia* (Lord Collins/Lady Anne), *Abduction* (Ensemble, Pippa U/S), and *Spring Awakening* (Ensemble).

Cade Teribery (Touchstone) is thrilled to join another Pitt Stages production. They are a senior Theater Arts major and a Chemistry minor. With a variety of theatrical experiences, some recent highlights include *Dance Nation* (Luke), *Abduction* (Teddy), *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Princesses), *The Actor's Nightmare* (Costume Designer), and performances as a drag queen (Thiqqi Nikki).

Olivia Tran-Speros (Rosalind) is very excited to be a part of this hilarious show and cast, let alone it being her first Pitt Stages production! She is a junior Marketing major from Lancaster, PA where she has done much regional and community theater! Most recently, she was seen in MTC's *Sins, Scandals, and Showbiz Showcase* (Soloist), *Legally Blonde* (Judge), and *Frozen 24-Hour Musical* (Elsa). Big thanks to Tom, Becki, and all the cast and crew for making such an unforgettable show!

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Landon White (Duke Frederick) is a junior Film and Media major and thrilled to return to the stage after 24 years with his debut performance at the University of Pittsburgh. His past roles include (Aladdin) *Aladdin*, (Dyke) *The Valiant*, (Alfred) *Country Gothic*, multiple roles in *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, and various minor roles. After serving 20 years in the Air Force and traveling to 14 different countries, he's excited to rediscover his love for theater. Fun fact: he once ate 10 chili dogs in one sitting—just to see if he could. Landon is incredibly grateful to the *As You Like It* cast and crew for their kindness and support in helping him with the anxiety that has kept him offstage for so long. He also deeply appreciates his wife and kids for their patience, understanding, and sacrifices while he spent long hours at rehearsals.

Olivia Wick (Mama Corin & Miss Aimens) is a senior English, Theatre Arts, and Film & Media Studies triple major here at Pitt and is so excited to be in her fifth Pitt Stages production! Wick has previously performed in *Emilia* (Margaret Johnson/Mary Sidney/Hester), *Dance Nation* (Maeve), *John Proctor is the Villain* (U/S-Shelby, U/S-Ivy), and *Spring Awakening* (Adult Woman), as well as performing in MTC at Pitt's *Jekyll & Hyde* (Nellie). Last semester she transitioned into a behind the scenes role as Assistant Director for *The Inseparables*, and is so excited to get back on

Cast biographies continued



the stage again. Wick is so grateful for this cast and crew and hopes you all enjoy the show!

Danielle Yakubisin (Ensemble, Celia U/S, Dance Captain) is a senior Bioengineering major and Theatre Arts minor. She is delighted to be in her first Pitt Stages production and is also having a blast working in the electrics shop for this show. Recent credits: *The Lightning Thief* and *Sins, Scandals, and Showbiz* (MTC at Pitt). She would like to thank the cast, crew, production team, and department staff for all of their support and for making this year so enjoyable. Love always to my family and friends for cheering me on. Enjoy the show!

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Director's Biography

Tom Pacio (Director) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Acting in the University of Pittsburgh Theatre Arts Department as well as the Director of Creative Arts at Vassar College. Prior teaching experience includes New York University, The CAP21 Musical Theatre Conservatory, Vassar College, The Stella Adler School of Acting, Point Park University, and SUNY Dutchess. He has served as both Education Director and Producing Director for Vassar's Powerhouse Theater Program. Directing credits include *The Moon in Our Home*, *On the Town*, devised musicals *Looking for Someone*, and *Sympathetic Frequencies*; *Scapin*, and a reading of a new musical adaptation of *The Tell Tale Heart*. Other professional experience includes working for a bi-coastal talent agency, for several casting directors, and in the offices of the world-renowned Nederlander Organization. As a performer, Tom has toured with national companies of *Crazy for You*, *West Side Story*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *White Christmas*; he has numerous regional and stock credits and performed in *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Tom continues to be a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.



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Production Team Biographies

Talia Buonora (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to present to you *As You Like It*! Talia is a senior Theatre Arts and Communication Rhetoric major and has been a part of numerous other Pitt Stages productions. Previous stage management credits include *The Inseparables* (PSM), *Spring Awakening* (ASM & Deck Chief), and *John Proctor is the Villain* (PSM). Talia would like to thank the incredible cast and crew for their hard work, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Natasha Cole (Assistant Director) is a PhD student in the theatre and performance studies program. Prior to *As You Like It*, she served as Assistant Director for original devised works *A Great Many Things*, *Melting Mind*, and *Creation X* at OUT LOUD Theatre (Providence, RI) and *A Little Night Music* at Union Avenue Opera (St. Louis, MO)

Samuel Couch (Assistant Director) is a junior, majoring in Business and Theatre Arts. Other credits include *Cincinnati* (director), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (director/sound designer) *Krapp's Last Tape* (director), *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (director), *Sweeney Todd* (assistant director), *Our Town* (original music), *Trifles* (sound designer), *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (stage manager), and *Legally Blonde* (stage manager). Onstage, he has performed in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley Kowalski), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), and in *Rumors* (*Lenny*).

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Production biographies continued

Maddie Decker (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be working on another show at Pitt! She is a senior double major in English Writing on the fiction track and Theatre Arts. Last fall, she worked on *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (SM) and previously worked on *Corsicana* and *That's Not How I Remember It* (ASM). Her club work includes the Emmys & Oscars Showcase (ASM) for Pitt's Performance Collaborative. This spring, she worked on *The Actor's Nightmare* (Scenic Artist), as well. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Sarah Dugan (Dramaturg) is a sophomore Marketing major and Theatre Arts minor. Sarah is the current Production Manager for Musical Theatre Club at Pitt and Treasurer of Performance Collaborative. Past credits include *Spring Awakening* (Run Crew), *Legally Blonde* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Julius Caesar* (Production Manager), and they are currently a Co-Dramaturg for *As You Like It* with Pitt Stages.

Maya Jones (Costume Designer) is a senior Theatre Arts and History major and French minor. At Pitt Stages, she has previously been the costume designer for *Trifles*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Abduction*. She has also been the assistant costume designer for *Dead Man's Cellphone*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, and *Dance Nation* at Pitt Stages, and *Trouble In Mind* at Pittsburgh Public Theater. She is also a Cutter/Draper in Pitt's costume shop. She hopes you enjoy the show!

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Production biographies continued

Jordan Kauffman (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to be Assistant Stage Managing for Pitt Stages for the first time! She is a graduating this year with a Theatre major and Business minor. Last summer, she worked professionally as a carpenter and deck crew member with Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre. At Pitt, she has worked on *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Technical Director/Run Crew) and *Corsicana* (Lead Carpenter), as well as *The Lightning Thief* (ASM) with MTC. She hopes you love the show!

Tonya Lynn (Fight and Intimacy Director) is a Teaching Artist-in-Residence at the University of Pittsburgh, and also actively teaches and choreographs at Carnegie Mellon University and Point Park University. Her recent Pitt Stages credits include *Spring Awakening*, *The Inseparables*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Professionally, her credits include Pittsburgh Opera (*Il Trovatore*, *Pagliacci*, *Tosca*), the world premiere of *Storming Heaven* with West Virginia Public Theatre, and the original work *Sword Play* at Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Tonya is recognized as both Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, and currently serves on their governing body as Fight Director Representative.

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Production biographies continued

Britton Mauk (Scenic Designer) is an experienced scenic designer in regional theater, with designs for Portland Center Stage, including *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Rent*, and *Clyde's*. He has worked with Indiana Repertory Theatre on *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Long Wharf Theatre on *I Am My Own Wife*. Notable designs at Syracuse Stage include *Clyde's* and productions at CATF, Gulfshore Playhouse, and Resident Ensemble Players. In Pittsburgh, he contributed to world premieres at City Theatre and Pittsburgh Playhouse. Britton is also a mentor and advocate in the theater community, serving as co-coordinator for the USITT Gateway Program. For more information, visit brittonmaukdesign.com.

Dr. Amanda Olmstead (Choreographer) is an adjunct faculty member in the Theatre Arts Department at the University of Pittsburgh, in the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University, and in the English, Literature, and Communications Department at Golden Gate University. She received her PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, her MA in Performance Studies from New York University, and her BA in Theatre with a minor in Dance from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At Pitt and CMU, Olmstead teaches musical theatre, history, performance theory, and acting. During the summer, she is the director of Shady Side Academy's middle school summer camp, Camp Ren. Additionally, she has been the choreographer on

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Production biographies continued

several productions at Pitt and Shady Side Academy over the last eleven years (choreographing shows such as *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Chicago*, *Hair*, *Urinetown*, *Pippin*, and *Zombie Prom*). She has also recently choreographed *Newsies* and the upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid* for Montour School District. Olmstead is beyond honored to join this incredible team for *As You Like It*.

Ryder Smith (Dramaturg) is so excited to be helping with this production. They are a sophomore student studying Italian and English. Ryder has done work at Pitt as a Music Director on *The Lightning Thief* (Musical Theatre Club) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Performance Collaborative).

Marie Southall (Associate Sound Designer) is extremely honored and excited for the opportunity to associate sound design for the Pitt Stages' production of *As You Like It: The Musical*. Marie has worked on other projects with Pitt Stages, including *Cheating Fate* (Associate Sound Designer) and *Spring Awakening* (A2). She was also the Sound Designer for this season's one-act play, *The Actor's Nightmare*. Marie would like to thank the cast and crew for their support in this creative process and her sound mentor, Howard Patterson, for his teaching hand and encouragement throughout this entire process. Now, let's fill this room with some sound!

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Production biographies continued

Becki Toth (Music Director) is a professional singer, actor, director, and teacher. A familiar face to Pittsburgh's theater audiences, you may have seen her onstage with Stage 62, City Theater, Front Porch Theatricals, or CLO—favorite credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *The Light in the Piazza* (Margaret Johnson), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (The Chaperone). She is the co-composer/co-lyricist of the musical *Abduction*. In addition to her theatrical work, Becki is the Managing Director of the chamber choir Voces Solis and their counterpart Summer Singers, and is active in the Pittsburgh chamber music community as a soloist and chorister.

Becki is a member of the Theater Department Faculty here at the University of Pittsburgh where she teaches Musical Theater classes and takes joy in advising the vibrant and enthusiastic Musical Theater Club. She is also a member of the faculty for the CMU Pre-College Program where she teaches Voice Lessons and Song Coaching. Becki resides in Pittsburgh's West End with her husband, Matt.

Emy Vila-Kubiak (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of their third Pitt Stages production. They are an English Writing major and a Theater Arts minor. They have been the Light Board Operator for *Spring Awakening*, Algernon in Performance Collaborative's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and most recently Dwight in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. They are grateful to be working with so many lovely people in their last Pitt Stages show.

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Production Crew

Production Director.....	Hadley Armstrong
Technical Director.....	JC Bardzil
Assistant Technical Directors.....	Abbie Wagner Charlie Lovett-Dietrich, Parker Stephens
Director of Lighting, Sound and Projections.....	Forrest Trimble
Costume Shop Manager.....	Ricky Lyle Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Manager.....	Brittany Graham
Prop Shop Manager.....	Natalie Rose Mabry
Prop Shop Production Assistant.....	Stefania Di Michele
Scenic Production Assistants.....	Liza Brown, Kyle Buchheister
Scenic Advisor.....	Britton Mauk
Scenic Charge Artist.....	Kylie Wilson
Assistant Charge Artist.....	Julia Ferranti
Faculty Scenic Mentor.....	Alex Dollinger
Scenic Artists.....	Gianni Downs, Julia Ferranti, Audrey Clare
Painters.....	Sophia Boucher, Ciara Brand, Tchama Louis, Adidit Wadhwa, Civ Williams
Carpenters.....	Sabrina Bunca, Lottie Heerssen, Emma Mihok, Julianna Ohler, Aiden Wilt, and the Introduction to Stagecraft Class
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Claire Stemmer
Dressers.....	Logan Reynolds, Lucia Troiano, Julia Ferranti
Cutter/Draper.....	Maya Jones
Stitchers.....	Maria DelGrande, Claire Stemmer, Shannon Zelinsky, Anqi Wang, Sasha Tepp, Elisabeth Fitzgerald, Eliver Russo, and the Costume Production & Technology students
Run Crew.....	Livia Mazzarella, Abby Keller
Light Board Operator.....	Ceili Schiller
Sound Engineer.....	Kyra Patenaude
Sound Supervisor.....	Krishna Amin
Head Electrician.....	Miles Fraser
Assistant Head Electrician.....	Sam Orshan
A2.....	Glor Mancilla, Claudia Shrager
Spotlight Operator.....	Kylie Wilson, Peter O'Grady

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About Pitt Stages

Pitt Stages is the in-house production company for the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

Faculty

Department Chair..... Annmarie Duggan
Director of Graduate Studies..... Michelle Granshaw
Director of Undergraduate Studies..... Gianni P. Downs
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy..... Cynthia Croot
Head of Design, Technology, and Management..... Karen Gilmer
Head of History/Literature/Criticism..... Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance..... Ricardo Vila-Roger
Faculty..... Eve Bandi, Kathleen George, Qianru Li,
Britton Mauk, Patrick McKelvey, Tom Pacio,
Howard Patterson, Becki Toth, Kelly Trumbull

Chosky Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Natalie Mabry
Richard E. Rauh Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Tonya Lynn

Professor Emeriti..... W. Stephen Coleman, Don Mangone and
Bruce McConachie

Administrative Staff

Arts Administrative Officer..... Ashley Martin
Production Director..... Hadley Armstrong
Academic Operation Manager..... Erin Delaney
Department Coordinator..... Micky Krenek
Academic Administrator..... Connie Markiw
Graduate Student Services Administrator..... LJ Woolcock-Srolovic
Marketing and Outreach Manager..... Daniel Fleegle
Patron and Rental Services Manager..... Jeremy Seghers
Marketing and Engagement Specialist..... Nicole Sauter
Business Coordinator..... Amanda Raczkowski

Production Staff

Technical Director..... JC Bardzil
Assistant Technical Director..... Abbie Wagner
Costume Shop Manager..... Ricky Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Manager..... Brittany Graham
Director of Lighting, Sound and Projections..... Forrest Trimble

**PITT STAGES
25/26 SEASON**



TRANSFORMations

**PITT STAGES
PRODUCTIONS:**

MS. HOLMES AND MS. WATSON: APT 2B

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OCT. 24-NOV. 2, 2025

IPHIGENIA AND OTHER DAUGHTERS

By Ellen McLaughlin | Director: Payne Banister
NOV. 14-21, 2025

THE TREES

By Agnes Borinsky | Director: Natasha Cole
FEB. 20-MAR. 1, 2026

HEAD OVER HEELS

By Jeff Whitty & James Magruder
Director: Becki Toth
APR. 10-19, 2026

ONE ACT SERIES:

THE DUMB WAITER

By Harold Pinter
Director: Sam Couch
OCT. 3-5, 2025

THE BROWN OVERCOAT

By Victor Sejour
Director: Howard Patterson
FEB. 27-MAR. 1, 2026

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