

The University of Utah Department of Theatre presents



XANADU

BOOK BY Douglas Carter Beane
MUSIC & LYRICS BY Jeff Lynne & John Farrar
DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER David Eggers

Based on the Universal Pictures film
Screenplay by Richard Danus & Marc Rubel

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Ahrens, Don Vickery,
Tara Smith/B. Swibel, Sara Murchison,/Dale Smith and Cari Smulyan

February 14-23, 2025
Meldrum Theatre
theatre.utah.edu/tickets
801-581-6961

The University of Utah Department of Theatre Presents

XANADU

BOOK BY **Douglas Carter Beane**

MUSIC & LYRICS BY **Jeff Lynne & John Farrar**

Based on the Universal Pictures film
Screenplay by Richard Danus & Marc Rubel

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Ahrens, Don Vickery,
Tara Smith/B. Swibel, Sara Murchison,/Dale Smith and Cari Smulyan

Scenic Designer

JOSIE HURTLEY

Lighting Designer

ELLIOTT MOORE

Sound Designer

PORTER CHARLESWORTH

Costume Designer

MAE HINTON-GODFREY

Properties Designer

ARIKA SCHOCKMEL

Dramaturg

SYDNEY CHEEK-O'DONNELL

Asst. Director & Asst. Choreographer

CARINA PURDY

Stage Manager

BELLA DIXON

Music Director

TREVOR JEX COON

Producer

CHRIS DUVAL

Intimacy Director/Dialects

SARAH SHIPPOBOTHAM

Director & Choreographer

DAVID EGGERS

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

*There will be a 10-minute intermission.
Video or audio recording of this performance by any
means is strictly prohibited.*



*American Sign Language interpretation will
be provided during the 2nd Friday evening
performance and talkback for every show.*

COMPANY

IAN FERNANDEZ ANDERSEN.....	Sonny
ALEXA SHAHEEN.....	Kira
JAKE ENGLESTAD.....	Danny
JORDAN CRUZ.....	Melpomene; U/S Kira
TALIA THORPE.....	Calliope
JACK ANDERSON.....	Terpsicore; Tubes; Centaur
ELLA MEI WILLIAMSON....	Biker; Thelxiepeia (Siren); Medusa; Melete
ALEC FOOTE.....	Thalia; Tubes; Hermes; Cyclops; U/S Sonny
RUBY WOLTER.....	Algaope (Siren); Andrews Sister, Arche
MARIA MOESINGER.....	Peisonoe (Siren); Hera; Aoede
SYDNEY RUDEL.....	Molpe (Siren); Eros (Cupid); Aphrodite; Thelxinoe
ELLA HAYES.....	Euterpe; U/S Calliope
ISA SIMMONS	Erato; Andrews Sister; Thetis; U/S Melpomene
HARRISON TIMM.....	Swing; U/S Danny
CARINA PURDY	Swing
ELLE DENLEA.....	Offstage Vocalist
GRACE CHAVEZ.....	Offstage Vocalist
ASHLEY MALIA RODRIGUEZ.....	Offstage Vocalist

THE DIRECTOR WISHES TO THANK:

Eric Sciotto, Erin Speer, Chris DuVal, Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell,
Sarah Shippobotham, Trevor Jex Coon, Josie Hurtley, Kyle Becker,
Halee Rasmussen, Porter Charlesworth, Elliott Moore,
Mae Hinton-Godfrey, Arika Schockmel, Bella Dixon & the entire SM team,
and Carina Purdy, the wearer of many hats.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Why this show now? In a word: *joy*. *Xanadu* is all about joy. It doesn't take itself seriously, at all. In fact, it pokes fun at its own source material, the 1980 film of the same name. The musical has great tunes, a funny book, and roller skating! What could be more fun than that? Bonus: it wooshes in and wooshes out, at about 90 minutes in length.

For audiences, *Xanadu* offers a brief much-needed respite from the stresses of life, from the weight of our individual and collective burdens. For students here at the U, the show offers a chance to work on a specific kind of comedy in which characters are earnestly and fully committed to their objectives, no matter how far-fetched or ridiculous they may seem, even inside an extreme parody. It transports all of us to a special time in American history and pop culture, when leg warmers ruled, and disco was thumping, all with a tongue-in-cheek approach.

And yet, under the draped Greek togas, at its core, *Xanadu* is a story about the greatest joy of all: loving and being loved. For some us, like Clio, that kind of *Xanadu* is worth sacrificing immortality; for others, like Sonny, it makes us want to open a roller disco. And for all the people whose names you see in this program, it makes us want to put on a show!

The company and I thank you for coming to see our show, and we earnestly hope it brings you tremendous joy!

Skate on,
David Eggers
Director & Choreographer

THE BAND

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

- TREVOR JEX COON..... Keyboard 1/ Conductor
- ALEX MARSHALL.....Keyboard 2
- CHRISTOPHER KAUKALI..... Guitar
- TATE COPE..... Drums

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- “I’m Alive” – Muses and Clio/Kira
- “Magic” –Sonny, Kira and Muses
- “Evil Woman” – Melpomene, Calliope and Sirens
- “Suddenly” – Sonny and Kira
- “Whenever You’re Away From Me” – Danny Maguire, Kira and Young Danny
- “Dancin’” – Andrews Sisters, The Tubes, Kira/Kitty, Sonny and Danny
- “Strange Magic” – Sonny, Kira, Melpomene, Calliope and Eros
- “All Over The World” – Full Company
- “Don’t Walk Away” – Full Company

ACT II

- “Opening-Act II” – Muses and Clio/Kira
- “Fool” – Kira, Melpomene and Calliope
- “The Fall” – Sonny and Muses
- “Suspended in Time” – Kira and Sonny
- “Have You Never Been Mellow?”– Zeus, Hera, Aphrodite, Thetis, Cyclops, Medusa and Centaur
- “Xanadu” – Full Company

DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

A Trip to Xanadu

*I thought maybe for one moment I could make all the arts converge in one place,
Painting, music, dancing and maybe even athletics...Yes, I would like to open a roller disco.*
-Sonny, Act I, Xanadu

It's awful, but I did it. And it's there. Maybe for all time. Maybe for a long time, maybe for a short time, but it's there. No wonder those dealing with mortality delight so in creation.
-Kira/Clio, Act I, Xanadu

You think that just because there are two wars and a depression it is not time for art?
-Kira/Clio, Act I, Xanadu

I have a confession. Before August of 2024, I had never seen, read, or listened to the musical Xanadu or the movie on which it was based. I'm old enough to remember when roller disco was the thing and people wore leg warmers without irony while "making it burn" to Jane Fonda's Workout Record (this was before even VHS tapes!). So why had I missed the film that produced multiple chart-topping hits and the musical that followed 25 years later? I don't know. But when I did finally see it, I was stunned. What was this strange magic? Who came up with it? Had they been skiing down a mountain of cocaine while writing it? Why couldn't I stop thinking about this nonsensical mess of a film? I needed to know everything immediately.

Unleashed on the world in 1980—the same year as 9 to 5, The Shining, Raging Bull, Ordinary People, and Airplane!—Xanadu had everything: a big budget, huge stars, great music, and roller disco. Unfortunately, the one thing it didn't have was a good script.

Originally conceived as the story of a commercial artist who falls for a rock star's girlfriend, screenwriter Marc Rubel set Xanadu in Venice Beach. There, alongside surfers and sunbathers, skaters could be seen dancing along the Ocean Front Walk during the roller boogie fad of the late 1970s. But when Rubel involved studio executives

in developing the script for Warner Bros., his simple California love story with a splash of roller skating began its long transformation into something monstrous, like a creature in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

The producers of *Xanadu* moved from Warner Bros. to Universal and hired a new screenwriter; Rubel was pushed off the project. Now *Xanadu* would be a musical fantasy and Olivia Newton-John wanted to be part of the renaissance of the movie musical. This changed everything... again. *Xanadu* was no longer a low-budget roller disco/musical fantasy with unknown actors. Olivia Newton-John was one of the biggest stars in Hollywood, still riding the wave of her success in *Grease* (1978). The budget ballooned in proportion with her fame, and more big names followed: Jeff Lynne of the Electric Light Orchestra signed on to write songs, as did Newton-John's collaborator John Farrar. But the real coup occurred when the legendary Gene Kelly agreed to join the cast. There was just one catch: he wouldn't dance. Fortunately, he took a shine to the film's choreographer, a young Kenny Ortega (*High School Musical*), and changed his mind.

Through all of this, the producers never managed to cobble together a decent script. That left Robert Greenwald, the film's very green director, to fill its gaping plot holes with a series of unhinged musical numbers. These build to the mind-blowing finale, "*Xanadu*," which features a veritable circus and what appears to be team of roller skaters led by the ageless Gene Kelly gliding serenely through the chaos in a tuxedo. It is awful. And it is delightful. And it's there.

It is *Xanadu*.

Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell, PhD
Dramaturg

COMPANY & CREATIVE TEAM

CAST

IAN FERNANDEZ ANDERSEN

(Sonny) is a junior in the MTP and is excited to perform in the first musical in the Meldrum. His most recent credits are Ernst in *Spring Awakening* (Babcock Theatre), Henry in *Newsies* (Sundance) and Rapunzel's Prince *Into the Woods* (Babcock Theatre). Ian would love to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support. It means a lot. @ian_m_andersen

JACK ANDERSON (Terpsicore; Young Danny; Tubes; Centaur) is a junior in the MTP from Santa Clarita, California. Recent roles include Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Studio 115), Albert in *Newsies* (Sundance Summer Theatre), Spongebob SquarePants in YTU's Production of *The Spongebob Musical* (Kingsbury Hall), a Swing in *Cabaret* (Babcock), and a Swing for *In Pieces: A New Musical* (Babcock). He would like to thank his family and friends for encouraging him to keep up his dedication to his work and for all of their love and support over the years.

GRACE CHAVEZ (Offstage Vocalist) is from Sandy, Utah and is currently a Sophomore in the MTP! Grace has recently been seen as Ensemble in *Fate? A New Musical* (Grand Theatre) Mal in *Descendants the Musical* (Sandy Arts Guild) and Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Jordan High School). Grace would

like to thank her parents for all the love and support! Grace is a College of Fine Arts Scholarship Recipient.

JORDAN CRUZ (Melpomene, u/s Kira) is a senior in the MTP, and is originally from Southern California. Since starting college in 2021, Jordan has performed in 5 productions with Pioneer Theatre Company: *Elf*, *The Prom*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, and most recently as Francine in *Jersey Boys*. Following *Xanadu*, Jordan will work under Eric Sciotto as the Assistant Director and Choreographer for *Bat Boy* with the Salt Lake Acting Company. She'd love to thank her family, friends, and professors for helping her grow and discover who she is as a performer. @jjjordanncruzz

ELLE DENLEA (Offstage Vocalist) is a sophomore in the MTP program. Originally from Southern California, Elle made her U debut last season as an emergency cover in *Everybody* as a Danse Macabre Dancer and is excited to return to the stage! Favorite credits include Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Marian Paroo in *The Music Man*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* (ESCAPE Theatre) and Rizzo in *Grease* (Saugus High School Summer Workshop). She wants to thank her family and friends for all of their support over the years. Elle is the proud recipient of the Keith and Amy Engar Scholarship.

JAKE ENGLESTAD (Danny) is a Senior in the MTP. His recent theatrical appearances include: Georg in *Spring Awakening* (Babcock), Swing in *The Lightning Thief* (Babcock), Steward in *Into The Woods* (Babcock) and Man #3 in *Hello Girls* (Hale Orem). Jake is exstatic that he gets to spend his last semester at the U with such an amazing and zany group of people! Thanks Mom and Dad!

ALEC FOOTE (Thalia/Tubes Singer/Hermes/Cyclops/Sonny U/S) was raised in Fruitland, Idaho and is a sophomore in the MTP. Favorite performance credits include Ancestor in *The Addams Family* (Hale Centre Theatre), Flotsam in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Pickleville Playhouse), Topher in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Starlight Mountain Theatre), and Max in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Starlight Mountain Theatre). Alec would like to thank his parents and siblings for their continued support in his academic and artistic endeavors.

ELLA HAYS (Euterpe; u/s Calliope) is a junior in the MTP and thrilled to be a part of *Xanadu*! Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Ella was last seen in the Royal Theatre's production of *Spongebob the Musical* (Pearl) and on the big screen in a short film called *Hell Station* (POV Film Festival). Other recent credits include *Ocean Filibuster* in Kingsbury Hall (Ocean Ensemble) and *Fate?* at the Grand Theatre (Rosy Alternate). She would

like to thank her family and friends for all of their wonderful support and hopes you enjoy the show!

MARIA MOESINGER (Ensemble; Hera) is a junior in the MTP. Most recently, she was seen in *The Savior of the World* (Tirzah) with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Prior to her college education, Maria performed in *Urinetown* (Hope Cladwell), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet) at Ogden High School. Maria would like to give a big thank you to her entire family for their love and support.

CARINA PURDY (Assistant Director, Assistant Choreographer, Dance Captain, and Swing) is a sophomore in the MTP and is overjoyed to be a part of such a magical musical as *Xanadu*! Carina recently got to help University of Utah's *Spring Awakening* as Assistant Choreographer and is so excited to be back creating! Other recent work includes Lagoon Amusement Park's *Smoke and Mirrors* and *Hackenslash* (dance captain) and University of Utah's *Everybody* as Everybody's dream. Carina would love to thank her family and friends for their endless support. A special thanks to David Eggers, Trevor Jex, and the *Xanadu* team for allowing her to be a part of this journey and getting to learn from such talented people.

ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ (Offstage Vocalist) is a freshman in the MTP from North Carolina. This is Ashley's first time performing with the University of Utah Department

of Theater. She recently worked on Deck Crew for *The Heart of Robin Hood* (Meldrum Theater) and *Spring Awakening* (Babcock Theater). Ashley is currently the Assistant Director of *The 25th Annual Puttnam County Spelling Bee* with Open Door Productions. She would like to thank the creative team for giving her the opportunity to perform as a freshman.

SYDNEY RUDEL (Eros, Aphrodite, Molpe) is a junior in the MTP and thrilled to be part of her first production at the U! She is originally from Denver Colorado and has lived there her whole life. Past credits include Margo (*Bright Star*), Ellie (*Freaky Friday*), and Lorraine (*All Shook Up*). She is grateful to continue pursuing her passion for the arts. She would like to thank her parents, friends and professors for their endless love and support. A recipient of the Barbara M. Bannon Endowed Fund.

ALEXA SHAHEEN (Kira) is ecstatic to be a part of her first University of Utah production. Her most recent Utah credits include *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The Musical!* (Salt Lake Acting Company), *Nightmare Cabaret* (Lagoon), *Close Encounters in The Beehive* (Salt Lake Acting Company), and *SpongeBob The Musical* (Kingsbury Hall, Youth Theatre at the U). Alexa is a native Oregonian currently in their third year in the MTP. Alexa is incredibly grateful for their family, friends, and professors' unwavering love and support through all her artistic endeavors!

ISA SIMMONS (Erato, Andrews Sister, Thetis, u/s Melpomene) is an Orlando, FL native and senior in the MTP. Her favorite credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* at HCT (Ensemble/Chava u/s) as well as *42nd Street* (Ann Reilly/Dance Captain) and *Cinderella* with CenterPoint Legacy Theatre. After *Xanadu*, Isa will close out her time in Utah playing Miss Bassett in the regional premiere of *Finding Neverland* at Hale Centre Theatre. Big thanks to Mom, Dad, the Denver Nuggets, and strawberry acai refreshers for getting her through these 4 years! She is a proud Utahna B. Meilstrup Scholarship recipient.

HARRISON TIMM (Swing/U.S. Danny) is a third year student in Utah's ATP. Originally from Moorhead, Minnesota, Harrison has loved studying and performing theatre during his time in Salt Lake City. Recent credits at the U include *Seussical* (Horton), Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Ensemble), and *Spring Awakening* (Otto). Harrison would like to extend a big thank you to all friends and family that have supported him in his journey, and hopes you enjoy the show!

TALIA THORPE (Calliope) is a Junior in the MTP. Recent roles include Patrick in *SpongeBob The Musical* at Youth Theatre at the U. Prior to attending the U, Talia spent many summers at Stagedoor Manor, where she was part of the original cast of the MTI High School adaptation of *The Prom*. She also

attended Denver School of the Arts where she performed in *A Chorus Line*, *9 to 5*, and *Shrek the Musical*. She would like to thank her dad and mom, her friends near and far, and all her wonderful mentors over the years. Enjoy the show!

ELLA MEI WILLIAMSON (Biker; Thelxiepeia; Medusa) is thrilled to be performing in her first university musical! She is a junior in the MTP originally from Seattle (and yes, she loves the rain!) A few favorite credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Peter Quince), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (White Rabbit), *SpongeBob Jr.* (Asst. Choreographer), and *R&H Cinderella* (Gabrielle). Ella Mei is a teacher at Youth Theatre at the U, a proud alum of Blue Dog Dance Studio, and a Studio Ghibli lover. She would like to thank her friends, family, and professors for their endless love, support, and humanity. She is a Keith and Amy Engar Scholarship recipient.

RUBY ELISE WOLTER (Andrews Sister, Aglaope) is a sophomore in the MTP and is from Nashville, TN. Utah credits include *Ocean Filibuster* (Pearl Damour Productions) and the UofU Youth Theatre's production of *SpongeBob*. Ruby can be heard in the MTI recordings of *Something Rotten Jr.* (Portia), *9 to 5 Jr.* (Kathy), and *Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.* (Featured Ensemble). Favorite stage credits include *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Urinetown* (Hope Cladwell), and *No, No, Nanette!* (Nanette) In her free

time, Ruby enjoys tap dancing, writing articles for BroadwayWorld.com, and running her instagram account @audition.tips! She is a proud recipient of the Utahna B. Meilstrup Scholarship.

CREATIVE

IO CARLING (2nd Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore in the Stage Management program. Io's credits include: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (PA, Studio 115), *Drowsy Chaperone* (Backstage crew, Grand Theater), *Amal and the Night Visitors and Other Holiday Favorites* (ASM, Grand Theater). Io's next production is: *Dream Girls* (2nd ASM, Grand Theater). Io is excited for their shows to come!

SYDNEY CHEEK-O'DONNELL (Dramaturg) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Utah. She has been engaged in new play dramaturgy since 1995, when she served as the dramaturg for the world premiere of *Smash* by Jeffrey Hatcher. Since then she has worked on new plays and remounts in professional and educational settings in New York, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Salt Lake City. In addition, she researches the application of theatre techniques in non-traditional places, like healthcare settings and STEM education, and teaches theatre history, critical theory, dramatic literature, new play development, and dramaturgy. Sydney has served in a variety of leadership

roles including Chair of Theatre and Associate Dean for Research for the College of Fine Arts at the U of U. She is currently a member of the Academic Senate and the Vice President of the University of Utah chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Sydney earned a PhD in Theatre History and Dramatic Criticism from the University of Washington's School of Drama and received her undergraduate degree from Carleton College in Minnesota.

TREVOR JEX COON (Music Director) Trevor is in his ninth year working in the Musical Theater department at the University of Utah and his fifth as a music director. Previous productions under his direction include *Illyria*, *Songs For A New World*, *Nine*, and *Cabaret*. He is also a local jazz and pop/ rock musician and enjoys cooking, hiking, and camping in the desert. He would like to extend his thanks to Anaïs Chantal, Melonie Shore, Alex Marshall, and his loving parents for the support and opportunities that got him to where he is today.

PORTER CHARLESWORTH (Sound Designer) is a third year in the PADP Sound program. Porter's credits include: *[Title of Show]* (Sound Designer, The Grand Theatre), *Into The Woods* (Assistant Sound Designer, Babcock Theatre), *Everybody* (Sound Designer, Babcock Theatre), *The Heart of Robin Hood* (Sound Designer, Meldrum Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Set Designer, Babcock Theatre).

BELLA DIXON (Stage Manager): is a graduating senior in the stage management program. Her past credits at the U include: *Uncommon Thread* (Marriott Center for Dance, SM), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Studio 115, SM), *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Babcock Theatre, 1st ASM), *The Old Man and The Old Moon* (Babcock Theatre, 2nd ASM), and *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* (Babcock Theatre, PA) Some of her outside credits include: Ballet West: *Dracula* (Capitol Theatre, SM Intern), *A Hero's Journey* (SLAC, SM), Ririe-Woodbury: *Groundworks* (Rose Wagner PAC, SM Intern), *Big Brother: Season 25* and *Season 26* (Production Support PA). She recently lost her home and community in the Palisades fire earlier in January. Through these challenging times she would like to thank everyone who has kept her afloat. @bellavdixon

DAVID EGGERS (Director and Choreographer) As Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, David teaches acting for 2nd year students, Senior Showcase for 4th year students, and has directed *Into the Woods*, *Cabaret*, *And the World Goes 'Round*, and *Nine* at the U. Most recently, he served as Associate Director and Associate Choreographer for the world premiere of the musical *My Best Friend's Wedding* at Ogunquit Playhouse, alongside Tony Award winning Director/Choreographer Kathleen Marshall. Last spring, he Directed and Choreographed the

musical *Nice Work If You Can Get It* at Coachella Valley Rep, in CA, a show for which he was Associate Choreographer when it premiered on Broadway. Other Broadway creative credits: Associate Director / Associate Choreographer *In Transit*; Associate Director *Living on Love*; Associate Choreographer *Anything Goes*. He's also worked creatively at Kennedy Center, Hollywood Bowl, Signature Theater, Boston Pops, Paper Mill Playhouse, among others. He grew up roller skating in Indiana, graduated from Northwestern University, and enjoyed a career as a performer in ten Broadway musicals before moving into creative work and teaching. Follow @ProfEggers

MAE HINTON-GODFREY (Costume Designer) is a recent graduate from the University of Utah. Her previous costume design credits include *Macbeth* (Studio 115), *Night Witches* (virtual), *Liminal* (Studio 115), *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Babcock Theater), and *The Lightning Thief* (Babcock Theatre) Other design credits include Props Designer for *Matilda Jr.* (Kingsbury Hall), Assistant Puppet Designer for *The Heart of Robin Hood* (Meldrum Theatre), and Assistant Props Designer for *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* (Babcock Theatre). Mae would like to thank her mother for helping her hope survive and keeping her dreams alive.

JOSIE MAYE HURTLEY (Scenic Designer) is a designer and carpenter with a passion for telling stories through the worlds they take place in. Her studies in the PADP (Set Design Emphasis) have equipped her to blend traditional techniques with cutting-edge tech to create spectacular, yet personal worlds. You can see more of her work at *Himitsu Station*, an immersive escape experience opening soon in downtown Salt Lake, and her debut short film *Anastasis*, a sci-fi story exploring the complicated love between a young trans woman and her father.

TRIN JONES (Production Assistant) is a freshman in the Stage management Program. Some of Trin's past credits include *SpongeBob the Musical* (Stage Manager, Highland High School), *Little Women* (Assistant Stage Manager, Highland High School), *Big Fish the Musical* (Stage manager, Highland High School), *Fortress* (Head Dramaturg, Highland High School), *Circle Dreams around (the Terrible Terrible Past)* (Intern SM, BLK BOX Lab), *The Heart of Robin Hood* (crew, University of Utah), *Spring Awakening* (crew, University of Utah).

CLAIRE MILA (Production Assistant) is a freshman in the Stage Management Program. Claire's most recent stage management position is *Freaky Friday: One Act Edition* as a Student Calling Stage Manager at Hale

Centre Theatre Sandy. Claire's other technical positions include Sound Technician for *Spring Awakening* at the Babcock Theatre, and Run Crew for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at The Grand Theatre. Claire would like to thank their sister Annaliese for supporting and being there for them throughout their theatre experience.

ELLIOTT MOORE (Light Designer) is excited to work with the University of Utah on their second Meldrum Theatre production. Elliott is a student studying Light and Sound Design through the U's Performing Arts Design Program. He has worked as a theatre electrician for the University and Salt Lake Acting Company. Additionally, he has programmed lights for various companies.

IREY OVIATT (1st Assistant Stage Manager) is a Junior at the University of Utah. Some of their work includes Stage Managing *Hairspray* (Draper Arts Council) and *Singin' in The Rain* (Draper Arts Council). She also worked on *Cabaret* (University of Utah) as a PA and *The Tempest* (University of Utah) as the Second Assistant Stage Manager. IreY has also had the opportunity of working as the First Assistant Stage Manager on *A.L.I.C.E* (University of Utah) in its world premier. She also extends her love to her sister, Kennedy, for being her best friend throughout her theatre journey.

SARAH SHIPPOBOTHAM

is a dialect coach, intimacy choreographer, director, actor, and Professor at the University of Utah. Trained as a Voice/Dialect Coach at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London, coaching credits include eighteen seasons with the Shaw Festival (Canada), over 30 productions for Pioneer Theatre Company (Utah), and 7 months in New Zealand as a Dialect Coach on *The Hobbit* films. Trained as an actor in Wales, Sarah has acted with the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival for three seasons, appeared at Pioneer Theatre Company and at Salt Lake Acting Company. Her one-person show – *Can I Say Yes to That Dress?* – received its world premiere at Salt Lake Acting company, September 2023.

ARIKA SCHOCKMEL

TAMI LEE THOMPSON (Hair & Makeup Design) Previous credits include: *Spring Awakening* (University of Utah); *Souvenir*, *Jersey Boys*, *Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose* and *A Christmas Story* (Barter Theater); *Jelly's Last Jam*, *The Underpants*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bluish*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Tick, Tick.... Boom!*, and *The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid*

Tales (Alliance Theater); *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Da, Born Yesterday*, *Twelfth Night*, *Inherit The Wind*, and *The Philadelphia Story* (Asolo Theater); *Twelfth Night*, *Coriolanus*, and *King Lear* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); Bertolt Brecht's *The Life of Galileo* (University of Notre Dame); and *42nd Street* (Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts).

DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE's play "The Nance" opened on Broadway starring Nathan Lane, where it received five Tony nominations and won three. It was filmed for PBS "Live from Lincoln Center" and was shown in movie theaters and then broadcast on PBS.

Beane's previous play "The Little Dog Laughed" opened on Broadway where it was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play and won a Tony award for Julie White. It then opened in the West End at the Garrick Theater where it starred Tamsin Grieg and Rupert Friend and Gemma Arterton and was nominated for the Olivier for Best New Play.

His other plays include "Fairycakes" starring Mo Rocca, Jackie Hoffman, Ann Harada, and Julie Halston, "Shows for Days" featuring Patti Lupone and Michael Urie, "The Country Club" starring Cynthia Nixon and Amy Sedaris, "Mr. & Mrs. Fitch" which starred John Lithgow and Jennifer Ehle, "Music From a Sparkling Planet" and "As Bees in Honey Drown" which won the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner

Award and an Obie award for its star, J. Smith Cameron. His first play "Advice From A Caterpillar" was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle award and was made into a film starring Cynthia Nixon and Timothy Oliphant. It received the Aspen Comedy Festival Best Feature award.

He wrote the film, "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" which starred Patrick Swayze, John Leguizamo, Wesley Snipes, Robin Williams and Stockard Channing.

A respected practitioner of musical theater his adaptation of "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella" ran on Broadway for two years and was also nominated for Tonys for both Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical Revival. His musical stage version of the film "Xanadu" also ran on Broadway for two years and was nominated for a Tony for Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical. It received the Drama Desk Award for best book of a musical and the Outer Critics Circle Best Musical award. Beane's new book for the musical "Sister Act" ran on Broadway for two years and was nominated for the Tony for Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical. It opened in London this summer with Jennifer Saunders as Mother Superior. He wrote the book for the Broadway musical, "Lysistrata Jones" and received both the Drama Desk and Tony nomination for Best Book of a musical.

He wrote the book to the stage adaptation of MGM's "The Bandwagon" which was produced at the Old Globe and Encores and he's written the summer show for the Rockettes and Radio City Music Hall. His libretto for "Die Fledermaus" debuted at the Metropolitan Opera and is in their repertoire.

He is married to composer Lewis Flinn and they have two children Cooper and Gabrielle who like theater but don't want to do it.

JEFF LYNNE formed the Electric Light Orchestra, or E.L.O., in the 1970 s. The group gradually developed from cult favorites into one of the 70s' leading recording acts, scoring international success with several platinum-selling albums, including A New World Record and Out Of The Blue. Lynne's dual talents as a composer and producer ensured the group's status but, sensing an artistic sterility, he abandoned his creation in 1986. The artist then assumed an increasingly backroom role, but won praise for his production work with George Harrison (Cloud Nine), Randy Newman (Land Of Dreams) and Roy Orbison (Mystery Girl) and he has also contributed his distinctive production qualities to much of Tom Petty s recent output. Lynne's work with Orbison coincided with his position as 'Otis Wilbury' in the Traveling Wilburys, an informal 'supergroup' completed by Orbison, Harrison, Tom Petty

and Bob Dylan. This particularly prolific period was also marked by his work with Brian Wilson on the ex-Beach Boys' first long-awaited solo album. In recent years, Lynne has produced the Beatles lost tapes, notably Free as a Bird and Real Love . He co-produced Paul McCartney's Flaming Pie in 1997.

PRODUCTION STAFF & ADVISORS

KYLE BECKER..... Technical Director / Scenic Mentor
HALEE RASMUSSEN.... Asst. Technical Director / Scenic Charge Artist
JENNIFER JACKSON..... Sound Mentor / Audio Supervisor
MICHAEL HOREJSI..... Master Electrician & Lighting Mentor
AMBER BIELINSKI... Production Manager & Stage Management Mentor
IREY OVIATT..... 1st Asst. Stage Manager
IO CARLING..... 2nd Asst. Stage Manager
TRIN JONES..... Production Assistant
CLAIRE MILA..... Production Assistant

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Julia Witesman, Hanna Richards, Sierra Loertscher, Lynn Brisco

CREW

Ava Neudeck, Mason McCarth, Andrew Liddell, Siwoo Kim,
Jett Thompson, Duncan Van Hecke, Sierra Loertscher, Hanna Castillo,
Colby Carpenter, Charlie Baytieh, Sofia Candela, Micah Wixom,
Taylier Jacobs, Luke Williams, Ava Dixon, Juan Gomez, Lexie Kewish,
Elizabeth Birkner, Sammy Dorfman, Makayla Palos, Dodge Hyatt,
Veda Parker

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

TENURE-LINE FACULTY

Samantha Briggs (Assistant Professor)
Dr. Gretchen Case (Associate Professor)
Dr. Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell (Associate Professor)
Chris DuVal (Professor / Chair)
David Eggers (Assistant Professor)
Alexandra Harbold (Assistant Professor)
Dr. Kimberly Jew (Associate Professor)
Sarah Shippobotham (Professor)
Tim Slover (Professor)
Robert Scott Smith (Associate Professor)
Erin Farrell Speer (Assistant Professor)
Brenda Van der Wiel (Professor)
A. Raheim White (Assistant Professor)
Gage Williams (Professor)

CAREER-LINE FACULTY

Margo Andrews (Associate Professor, Lecturer)
Kyle Becker (Professor, Clinical)
Amber Bielinski (Associate Professor, Clinical)
Dr. Lynn Deboeck (Associate Professor, Lecturer)
Hugh Hanson (Associate Professor, Lecturer)
Michael Horejsi (Associate Professor, Clinical)
Jennifer Jackson (Associate Professor, Clinical)
Dr. Brian Manternach (Associate Professor, Clinical)
David Schmidt (Associate Professor, Lecturer)

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Karen Azenberg (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Jacque Lynn Bell (Adjunct Associate Professor)
Nathan Brian (Adjunct Instructor)
Emily Castleton (Adjunct Instructor)
Zac Curtis (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Nicholas Dunn (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Jane England (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Dr. Jennifer Erickson (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Steven Faulk (Adjunct Instructor)
Greg Hatch (Adjunct Professor)

Penelope Marantz-Caywood (Adjunct Associate Instructor)
Kelby McIntyre-Martinez (Adjunct Associate Instructor)
Christine Moore (Adjunct Assistant Instructor)
Jamie Baer Peterson (Adjunct Assistant Instructor)
Matthew Whittaker (Adjunct Assistant Professor)
Dr. Marilee Wilson (Adjunct Assistant Professor)

STAFF

Sara Clark (Lighting and Sound Lead Technician)
Jessica Dudley-Rodriguez (Program Manager)
Colleen Hirst (Accountant)
Alex Marshall (Music Director)
Wendy Massine (Costume Shop Manager)
Halee Rasmussen (Assistant Technical Director)
Arika Schockmel (Properties Master)
Sophie White (Office Manager)

EMERITUS

Jerry Gardner (Associate Professor Emeritus)
Xan Johnson (Professor Emeritus)
Bob Nelson (Professor Emeritus)
Richard Scharine (Professor Emeritus)
Barbara Smith (Associate Professor, Lecturer Emeritus)



OUR DONORS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Theatre is grateful to our donors for making the following scholarships available to our students:

Equity in Theatre Arts
Robert Hyde Wilson Scholarship
Etta Keith Eskridge Scholarship
Victor Jory Scholarship
Utahna Meilstrup Theatrical Scholarship
Keith M. and Amy L. Engar Scholarship
Frank M. Whiting Scholarship
Ralph E. and Winnifred S. Margetts Scholarship
Marian D. Harrison Scholarship
Lee & Audrey Hollaar Technical Scholarship
The Barbara M. Bannon Endowed Fund
The Richard T. and Lonna Brown Scholarship
Sandi Behnken Scholarship
The Christine Macken Memorial Scholarship
The John Ballard and Karen Miller Scholarship
Libby S. Hunter ATP Scholarship
Meggie DeSpain Memorial Scholarship
Lady Bracknell Scholarship
Zelie Pforzheimer Scholarship
David E. Jones Memorial Scholarship
The David and Shalee Schmidt MTP Scholarship
The Elizabeth Hunter Scholarship



College of Fine Arts
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

SPONSORED IN PART BY FINE ARTS FEES

The Department of Theatre acknowledges and thanks the following donors for their generous support during the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

INVESTORS

\$2,500 and up

John Ballard and Karen Miller, MD

Susan Stoddard Heiner and Blake T. Heiner

BENEFACTORS

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous

Tiffany Howard

Bianca and Rusty Shepard

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

PATRONS

\$500 - \$900

Adobe Systems Inc

Jerome and Beth Boresow

Dell Computer Corporation

Debora Threedy, JD

FRIENDS

\$200 - \$499

Nicholas and Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell, PhD

Ashby S. Decker and Anne Cullimore Decker

Michael Evans

David Hall, JD and Stephani Hall

Hugh and Leslie Hanson

Michele and Lawrence Holzman

Thomas* and Jennifer Jackson

Carolyn Morrow, JD

Richard Scharine, PhD and Marilyn Scharine

Robert Smith

FANS

Up to \$199

Anthony Angelo

Evan Beesley

Jennifer L. Campagna

Zizheng Cao

Heather Cheng

Nicholas Cockrell

Sherry Cordova

Alexander Dolphin
Tyler Eldridge and Elizabeth Quigley, MD
Claudia Escobar
Fred Franzwa
Jodi and Dane Graham
Kristine Hansen
Jennifer Haymond
Cynthia Hendrix
Carey Hilbert
David Hill, JD and Erika Hill
Julie and Daniel Horning
Jacy Job
Brian Jurena
Quincy Lawson
Miriam Leany
Andy Luo
Mark Macey
Brian and Erika Manternach
Mary-Margaret Marcantonio
Magda McDonald
John and Kimberly Miller
Suzanne and Chuck Miller
Jordan Nelson
Wilma and Kenneth* Odell
Ross Owen and Larry Herndon
Christi Petrucka
Mary Helen Pitman
Christopher Prince
Natalie Regan
Connor Rickman
Kathy Simmons
Erin Farrell Speer
Jessie and Brian Strike
Julie Tang
The Purrington Family Trust
Julianne Turner
Nicole Vernon

An asterisk () denotes a donor who is deceased.*

*Our intent is to recognize and thank all of our donors for their support.
If, however, there is an error, please notify the Department of Theatre at
801-581-6448.*

SHOW YOUR LOVE

Donate to the University of Utah
Department of Theatre.





Just add art.

artspass.utah.edu





PIONEER
THEATRE
COMPANY

Beautiful

The Carole King Musical

Book by Douglas McGrath

Words and Music by Gerry Goffin & Carole King, Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

Music by Arrangement With Sony/ATV Music Publishing

Orchestrations, Vocal and Incidental Arrangements by Steve Sidwell

Additional Music Arrangements by Jason Howland

A co-production with Geva Theatre

February 14–March 1

Simmons Pioneer Memorial Theatre

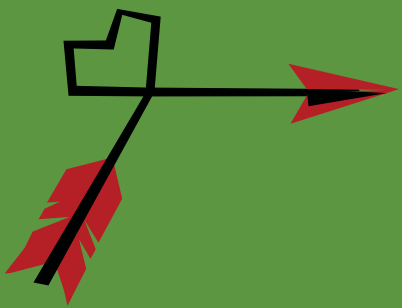
U Students: Get two \$5 tickets with your UID

U Staff: Get 50% off with your UID



TODD COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY
toddcollinsweddings.com

2024



THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD

SEPTEMBER 17 –
OCTOBER 7



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

OCTOBER 25 –
NOVEMBER 3



SPRING AWAKENING

NOVEMBER 8 – 17

2025



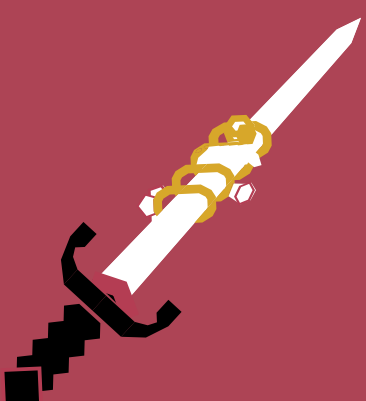
XANADU

FEBRUARY 14 – 23



CHARTING NEVERLAND

MARCH 17 – 22



YOU ON THE MOORS NOW

APRIL 4 – 13