

#### **SYNTHESIS**

Combining distinct elements to form a whole

#### **KINFTIC**

Pertaining to or imparting motion: active, dynamic, energetic

#### **SYNETIC**

a dynamic synthesis of the arts



NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 26, 2021

# CINDERELLA

DIRECTED AND ADAPTED BY

Maria Simpkins

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Janine Baumgardner\*

RESIDENT COMPOSER

Konstantine Lortkipanidze\*

SCENIC DESIGNER

**Aleksandr Shiriaev** 

COSTUME DESIGNER

Moyenda Kulemeka

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ian Claar

SOUND DESIGNER

JJ Nichols

PROPS DESIGNER

**Emily Carbone** 

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Katerina Moser

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

J.P. McLaurin

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Raymond Simeon** 

STAGE MANAGER

Claire Fogle

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER/WARDROBE

Briana J. Padgett

CREATIVE PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Justin J. Bell\*

SPECIAL THANKS - Emily Whitworth, The Washington Ballet

This production runs approximately 60 minutes and will be performed without an intermission.

\*Synetic Company Member

The 2021/22 season is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Arlington Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development & the Arlington Commission for the Arts, National Landing Business Improvement District, and JGB SMITH.









**STEPSISTER** 

#### **Covenant Babatunde**

PRINCE

Pablo Guillen

VALET

Irene Hamilton\*

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Karina Hilleard

CINDERELLA

**Maria Simpkins** 

**STEPFATHER** 

**Robert Bowen Smith\*** 

**UNDERSTUDIES** 

Joshua Cole Lucas\*

**Amber Smithers** 

\*Synetic Company Member

#### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**



**Covenant Babatunde (STEPSISTER)** received a B.A. in Creative Writing and a minor in Musical Theatre at the University of Mary Washington. She is a DMV choreographer and dancer, who has presented work at several

venues along the East Coast. She can now add actor to her list of accolades, as this performance will be her theatrical debut. She's presented work in concerts hosted by Glade Dance Collective, Light Switch Dance Theater, and Synetic Theater. She's been a resident choreographer and dancer for Next Reflex Dance Collective and is working on a future commissioned piece as a quest artist: "A Good Artist is Well-Rounded." Her work as a choreographer/dancer has only fed her development as an actor.



National School of Dramatic Arts in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He has also appeared at Prometheo Theater at Miami Dade College, U.S.A. His most recent shows include "GO" at Teatro de la Luna, and Snow Queen, The Miraculous Magical

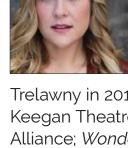
Pablo Guillen (PRINCE) studied at the

Balloon, and The Tempest at Synetic Theater. Irene Hamilton (VALET) is a new



company member at Synetic Theater. She has performed with Synetic in Treasure Island (Black Dog/Tommie), Snow Queen (Dream Princess), Shhhakespeare Revue (Miranda/Lady Macbeth/Helena), Phantom of the Opera (Understudy

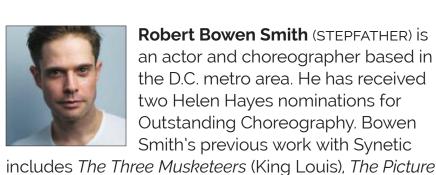
Ensemble/ Young Phantom), and *The Miraculous* Magical Balloon. She also participated in the Body of Mind Film Lab ("Brothers Grimm and Other Tales") and The Decameron. Additionally, she has performed in the Kennedy Center Concert Reading Series (Voir Dire), and the Madison New Works Laboratory (Divided: The Musical/Basement Demons and Trailer Saints). Irene graduated from James Madison University with a B.A. in Theatre, where she was a two-time Irene Ryan Scholarship finalist. Karina Hilleard (FAIRY GODMOTHER)



madness champion in 2013, and is thrilled to be returning to Synetic after her debut in Treasure Island as Trelawny in 2019. Other local theatre credits include Keegan Theatre Company; Top Girls (Marlene), Theater Alliance; Wonderful World of Dissocia (Lisa, Helen

is a multiple Helen Hayes Award nominee, was crowned monologue

Hayes Nomination - Outstanding Lead Actress, Best Ensemble), Constellation Theatre Company: Equus (Nurse/Hesther u/s - Helen Hayes Nomination - Best Play); Shakespeare Theatre Company: Tartuffe (Dorine u/s); Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: Richard II (Duchess of York). International credits include -Bristol Old Vic: Heresies (Leah); Theatre Royal: No Blind Faith (Emma); Hammerpuzzle Theatre: Agamemnon (Clytemnestra). A native Brit - Karina holds a 1st Class B.A. Honors degree in Acting from Bath SPA and is the Performing Arts Chair at Landon School in Bethesda, MD. karinahilleard.com & karinafaye@insta. Maria Simpkins (CINDERELLA) Visit the Creative Team section in the playbill for this artist's biography.



Robert Bowen Smith (STEPFATHER) is an actor and choreographer based in the D.C. metro area. He has received two Helen Hayes nominations for

Outstanding Choreography. Bowen Smith's previous work with Synetic

of Dorian Gray (Basil), The Wizard of Oz (Wizard), Hunchback of Notre Dame (Gringoire), Island of Doctor Moreau, and Three Men in a Boat. Selected other work includes Ripcord (Keegan Theater), Reykjavik, Neverwhere (Rorschach Theater), The Raid (Theater Alliance), Collaborators, Rameau's Nephew, Happy Hour (Spooky Action Theater), Escape from Peligro Island (Imagination Stage), and Love's Labours Lost (American Shakespeare Center). Bowen Smith has choreographed for 1st Stage, Imagination Stage, Theater Alliance, and

Spooky Action Theater. You can follow his work at @mottopuck on Instagram & Twitter or on his website robertbowensmith.com. **UNDERSTUDIES** Joshua Cole Lucas (UNDERSTUDY) is originally from the Shenandoah Valley where he studied dance and theater



worked with Synetic in their education programs and behind the scenes for several years. Performing credits with Synetic include The Tempest (Stephano), Snow Queen (Kai), The Phantom of the Opera (ensemble), "Day 6, Story 4" of The Decameron, and The Shhhakespeare Revue.

since his early childhood. He has

Amber Smithers (UNDERSTUDY) is a D.C. Theatre Practitioner who specializes in harm reduction. Smithers is excited to be working with Synetic Theater! Recently, Smithers worked with We Happy Few on a collaborative piece

called Meet Me In the Nunnery. Smithers has been blessed to work with many local theatres. Psalm 32:8

## **CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**

Maria Simpkins (DIRECTOR/ADAPTOR) was most

recently seen at Synetic in Joy, The Decameron, and Snow Queen. D.C. credits: Into The Great Unknown, Discovery Theater; The Winter's Tale, The Wheel; Cat in the Hat, Adventure Theater. Some regional credits include: For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, touring; Pushing Sue Aside and Never Been Touched, Charlevoix Gallery Theatre: In the Blood at Yong Fenix Fellowship. Maria is a movement-based theatrical artist. She defines herself as a Creativist, a person who constructs spaces for positive change. Upcoming: Digital Reading of Edward II, Brave Spirits. Janine Baumgardner (CHOREOGRAPHER) is a personal trainer and multi-disciplinary artist. Synetic Theater: Shhhakespeare Revue, The Phantom of the Opera, The

Mark of Cain, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, Alice in Wonderland, Much Ado About Nothing, The Island of Dr. Moreau, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet... the rest is silence, and Twelfth Night. Other performance credits: A New Nation with Convergence

Theatre, Hello, My Name Is... with The Welders, Rite of Spring with Pointless Theatre Co., A Dream Within a Dream... Madness with Through the 4th Wall, Mortal Tongues, Immortal Stories with Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company, and various works with Nancy Havlik's Dance Performance Group. During the pandemic, Janine created, choreographed, and starred in two short films produced by Synetic: "Princess and the Caterpillar" and "Sweet Basil." She choreographed the musicals Chicago and A Chorus Line for George Mason High School. Janine earned a B.F.A. in Dance from George Mason University, where she studied modern dance, ballet, salsa, African dance, and choreography. Konstantine Lortkipanidze (RESIDENT COMPOSER) is a native of Tbilisi, Georgia, and has composed original music for 14 Synetic Productions and has received 5 Helen Hayes nominations for his sound designs and received 1 award. He has also composed original music for films including First Steps, Essay (both directed by Paata Tsikurishvili), and Marage. His compositions for theater include work for Hunter from the Sun, Guest of the Night, Mimikria, Labyrinth, and The Decameron. His work has been performed at music festivals across Europe, including the Maqs Ophulos

festival in Germany and the International Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam. Mr. Lortkipanidze received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Tbilisi

Aleksandr Shiriaev (SCENIC DESIGNER) is a scenic designer based in Washington, D.C./Maryland area. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Aleksandr studied Graphic Design at Moscow Art-Industrial Institute

State Conservatory.

and moved to the United States, where he found a new passion for designing for theater. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Theater/Entertainment from North Carolina Wesleyan College, NC, and a Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. His recent credits include lots of cross stitching and paper folding. Moyenda Kulemeka (COSTUME DESIGNER) REGIONAL: Signature Theatre: Detroit '67; 1st Stage: The Brothers Size; Trying; GALA Hispanic Theatre: La tía Julia y el escribidor; Exquisita Agonia; La vida es sueño; Como agua para chocolate; En el tiempo de las mariposas; La foto; Mosaic Theater: Fabulation; Caine Lyric Theatre: A Raisin in the Sun; Adventure Theatre: Tinker Bell; NextStop Theatre: East of Eden; Singin' in the Rain; Fallen Angels. D.C. AREA: Rorschach Theatre: Distance Frequencies: Transmission; Working in DC: Working, A

Musical; The Welders: Switch; The In Series: From U Street to the Cotton Club; We Happy Few: Macbeth; The Dog in the Manger; Pericles; Young Playwright's Theatre: Three Cheers to Grace. moyendadesigns.com

Ian Claar (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a lighting designer and staged violence/intimacy choreographer and has been involved in theatre and the performing arts for nearly 20 years. He has a degree in Design and Technical Theatre from Christopher Newport University, is an Actor/Combatant with the Society of

American Fight Directors, and is the Managing Director of the Noble Blades, a stage combat troupe. Previous designs include Ada and the Engine (Avant Bard), Matilda (Levine Music Theatre), Overtures (Signature Theatre), Grand Concourse (Prologue Theatre), My Father's Dragon (Synetic), Topographies (Human Landscape/Space Time Dance), and Anon(ymous) (Theatre Prometheus). Website: LightsAndFights.com JJ Nichols (SOUND DESIGNER) is a D.C.-based sound designer and is thrilled to be a part of the design team for Cinderella. They have worked with Synetic on The Tempest, The Snow Queen, JOY as well as for Studio Theatre, Constellation Theatre, and Arena Stage. Outside of theatre JJ is a freelance audio editor and their work can be heard with Invisible Not Broken Podcast Network, Penny For a Tale Network and Twitch Plays DnD. For booking please email JJ.Nichols724@gmail.com Emily Carbone (PROPS DESIGNER) is thrilled to be working on her first production with Synetic Theater!

Other prop work includes Temple Theaters: Side Show, Avista Custom Theatrical Services: Props construction intern. Stage management credits: Philadelphia Young Playwrights: New Voices Festival. Emily also works as a performer and teaching artist. Education: B.A. in Musical Theater from Temple University. Many thanks to the fabulous production team and cast at Synetic!

Katerina Moser (ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER) is a Costume Designer and Communicator located in the D.C. area. She graduated from James Madison

Excellence during her senior year. She specializes in historical costumes with a creative twist, never

University with a B.A. in Theatre and Communications in May 2020. Kat's background is in costume design, having received a KCACTF award for Costume Design

shying away from a can of spray paint or a hot glue gun. Kat spent her summer as the Marketing and Communications Intern with Working in DC. She was thrilled to unite her love for design and communications in her first D.C. theatre project. Kat is ecstatic to be making her assistant designer debut with Synetic Theater. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Jason, and her JMU professors! Go Dukes! Find out what Kat Moser is up to on Instagram @moser\_kat & kmoser282.wixsite.com/mysite J.P. McLaurin (ASSOCIATE PRODUCER) is a founding member of Boots on the Ground Theater and a graduate of Coastal Carolina University. In addition to his studies at CCU, he has worked and trained at the Guthrie Theater, the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and the SITI Company with director Anne Bogart. In 2019, he served as the inaugural Allen Lee Hughes Leadership and Business Fellow

at Arena Stage. His work as a producer has been featured in the Washington Post, the LA Times, and The Post & Courier. Recent directing credits include "Fire Mountain" (Los Angeles Central Public Library, Raze the Space); Grounded (Piccolo Spoleto Festival Selection, BOTG); Assassins (Asst. Director, Theater

Latté Da); Hamlet (Asst. Director, Park Square Theatre);

Three Sisters, Marisol (CCU); "Catatonic" (Atlantic Stage's New Voices PlayFest); and The Giving Tree

(Fine Arts Center, SC).

Raymond Simeon (PRODUCTION MANAGER) A Cuban-American originally from Miami, Florida, Raymond is a graduate of Barry University and Marymount University, holds an M.B.A. and an M.H.R.M. Raymond also has an educational background in the arts through continued certifications and courses, including "The Cycle: Management of Successful Arts and Cultural Organizations" through The University of Maryland, and "Theatre and Globalization" through Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU). In addition to his role at Synetic Theater, he holds the position of Production Manager with the Washington Improv Theater, having been the production manager and designer for numerous shows and festivals since 2016. Previously an Intern with Ford's Theater, and a Fellow at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Claire Fogle (STAGE MANAGER) Is thrilled to be joining Synetic for her second production with the company! Claire is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and earned her B.F.A. in Stage Management in May 2019. Born and raised as a military brat, she has enjoyed living all over the globe, including England, Germany, and many years spent in Florida. She has continued to travel in her professional career, with favorite credits including Shhhakespeare Revue with Synetic Theater, What the Jews Believe at Berkshire

Theatre Group, School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play with The Goodman Theatre, and Titanic performed at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando. Briana J. Padgett (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is a D.C. native and a recent graduate from SUNY Purchase's Conservatory of Theatre Arts. Over her four years at Purchase, Briana studied under industry professionals and broadway stage managers. Over this period, they were able to shadow, work under, and learn from these individuals. Their education prepared them for their internship with Dance Place (2018), later offering the opportunity to work on New Releases (2018), and

Dance Africa in 2018/2019. They then began work with Sitar Arts Center (2019). Upon their graduation amid the pandemic, they decided to come home and avail their work to their community. They've also had the privilege to work on many virtual productions this past year and are immensely excited to be a part of their first in-person show post-grad! Phil Charlwood (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) has been building sets and props for Synetic Theater for over a decade. He has designed the Helen Hayes Awardnominated sets for The Island of Dr. Moreau and King Lear and designed the sets for RMT's West Side Story

and AMS's The Producers. Mr. Charlwood also works with local schools to develop their technical drama

programs.

#### SYNETIC LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

Paata Tsikurishvili (DIRECTOR, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Paata is an innovative, award-winning international artistic director, director, and educator with more than 30 years of experience fusing the classical elements of drama, movement, dance, pantomime, and music. Since Synetic Theater's founding in 2001, Mr. Tsikurishvili has received an impressive 25 Helen Hayes Award Nominations and has won the awards 9-times. Together with his wife and co-founder Irina, he was named "Washingtonian of the Year" in 2013. Mr. Tsikurishvili has directed and performed in Hamlet ... the rest is silence. The Master and Margarita, The Crackpots, Dracula, Host and Guest, Frankenstein, and The Island of Doctor Moreau. He has directed over 60 productions including Salomé, Bohemians, Jason and the Argonauts, The Dybbuk, Faust, Frankenstein, Macbeth, Animal Farm, The Fall of the House of Usher, A Christmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet, Carmen, Dante, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Antony and Cleopatra, Othello, King Arthur, King Lear, Don Quixote, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, The Three Musketeers, Alice in Wonderland, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Jekyll & Hyde, The Taming of the Shrew, The Tempest, As You Like It, and The Man in the Iron Mask. Synetic's inaugural production, Hamlet ... the rest is silence received 3 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Director, Outstanding Resident Play, and Outstanding Choreography. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained hundreds of actors in movement techniques through Synetic Theater and has taught at leading universities such as American University, Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University. Before moving to the USA he co-founded Mimodrama Theater in Germany and has toured worldwide.

Irina Tsikurishvili (CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDING ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Ms. Tsikurishvili is a 33-time Helen Hayes Award Nominee and has won the award 14 times for her outstanding choreography and acting. Irina has choreographed almost all Synetic Theater's productions including The Crackpots, Dracula, Host and Guest and Frankenstein, Island of Doctor Moreau, Salomé, Bohemians, Jason and the Argonauts, The Dybbuk, Faust, Frankenstein, Macbeth, Animal Farm, The Fall of the House of Usher, A Christmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet, Carmen, Dante, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Antony and Cleopatra, Othello, King Arthur, King Lear, Don Quixote, Othello, Twelfth Night, Much Ado about Nothing, Three Musketeers, Alice in Wonderland, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Jekyll & Hyde, The Taming of the Shrew, The Tempest, As You Like It, and many more. Ms.Tsikurishvili has taught at Georgetown University, where she choreographed Lysistrata. She continues to run intensive movement workshops and train Synetic cast members. With her husband Paata, she is the co-founder of Synetic Theater and co-founder of Stanislavsky Theater Studio. Paata & Irina were named Washingtonians of the Year in 2013. Irina Graduated from Chabukiani National Ballet Academy in Tbilisi Georgia and holds B.F.A. in Performing Arts. Jason Najjoum (MANAGING DIRECTOR) is the Managing

Paata holds an M.F.A. in film directing from Tbilisi

Institute of Theater and Film in Tbilisi, Georgia.

State University and a B.F.A. in acting from The State

Director of Synetic Theater, leading all fundraising, finance, operations, strategy, and external relations efforts for this flagship cultural organization of National Landing. Previously, he served Yale Repertory Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, and New York Theatre Barn in various arts administration roles, including producer, general manager, and casting director. Jason's arts experience is augmented by several transformative experiences in the private sector, including at McChrystal Group, a global advisory services and leadership development firm, and at Bridgewater Associates, the world's leading hedge fund. Jason earned an M.F.A. in Theater Management and M.B.A. from Yale University, and an undergraduate degree from Emory University. Jason is Co-Chair of the Equity Committee of the National Landing BID and is an active member of Resource

Generation. Jason is a native of Northern Virginia, and currently resides in Washington, D.C. with his pup, Mia.

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## ბრილიანტი

Brilianti (Diamond)

\$5,000+

Tim Carlton Hanna & Michael Haskett

Stephanie King

Dana & Ray Koch

Diane Dippold MacIntosh

Julianna Mahley

Claire & David Maklan

Sandra Mason

Ryan Merkel

Allison

& Mark Foster Ruckh

Alan Savada

& Will Stevenson

Jeffrey

& Mary Jo Schragg

Ann Tunstall

## ბროლი

#### **Broli (Crystal)**

#### \$2500

Teresa Ball

& Fabian Preza

Bonnie & Jere Broh-Kahn

Michael & Erna Kerst

Cynthia Wolloch

& Joseph Reid

## პლატინა

#### Platina (Platinum)

#### \$1000

Dean Amel

Kyle & Alan Bell

Thomas Booth

Sandra Cummins-Haid

Gary & Loretta Harris

Judy Honig

Nancy Limprecht

Julie Rios

David & Julie Zalkind

## ქრო

#### Okro (Gold)

#### \$500

Jo Allen

Gail Cali

Thomas Dority

Carol Fuller

Alec & Patricia Guroff

Julia Holcomb

Tamara Kalandiya

Debra Levay

Beryl Neurman

Blair & Sally Ruble

Kathleen Smith

Sheri Stroud

Tessa van der Willigen

## 3ერცხლი

#### Vertskli (Silver)

#### \$250

Janice Crawford

Richard Fichera

Pamela & Mark Fiumara

Cameron Fletcher

Matthew Gamser

& Anke Zaremba

Ed Gramlich

Frederic Hill

David Martinson

Winkle Nemeth

Nick Newwlin

Alex & Marina Osinovsky

David Ramer

Malcolm Richardson

Peter Rothschild

Carole Stover

Steve Verna

## ბრინჯაო

#### Brinjao (Bronze)

#### \$100

Adele Baker

Ina Bedke

Sandra Borden

Tim & Trish Carrico

Bobbi Curry

Louis Delair Jr.

Diana Escolar

Denise Funkhouser

Richard Grimes

Alison

& Thomas Holzman

Catherine Irwin

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**Brandy White** 

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please email mandi@synetictheater.org with corrections.

#### A NOTE FROM TRACY SAYEGH GABRIEL

Welcome to the ever-growing urban center of National Landing, where creativity and innovation are taking shape across our diverse neighborhoods of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard.

We are evolving as a story of technology, sustainability, resilience, and community. These themes are illustrated through our focus on economic recovery and strengthening small businesses with grants, reimagining highways and multimodal airport connections to become the most accessible and connected downtown, and building a more welcoming organization and inclusive community through dynamic and responsive programming, events, and policies.

With more than \$11 billion in public and private investment in the works and the arrival of Amazon and the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, our district looks forward to vast developments that will evolve our public parks, increase access to education and amenities, and build upon the arts with anchor institutions like Synetic Theater. The National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) seeks to help shape this development and steward the neighborhood's evolution towards the vision that all stakeholders share.

The National Landing BID strives to support the groundbreakers buying a ticket to the show along with tastemakers who already have a seat. As we look ahead to the joy of a momentous holiday season and new year, together, we play synergetic parts in the generation of what's to come. Our future stage is set.

Thank you for coming out and experiencing Synetic Theater's dynamic physical artistry that is sure to exhilarate the soul. Please enjoy the show!

#### **Tracy Sayegh Gabriel**

PRESIDENT + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National Landing Business Improvement District





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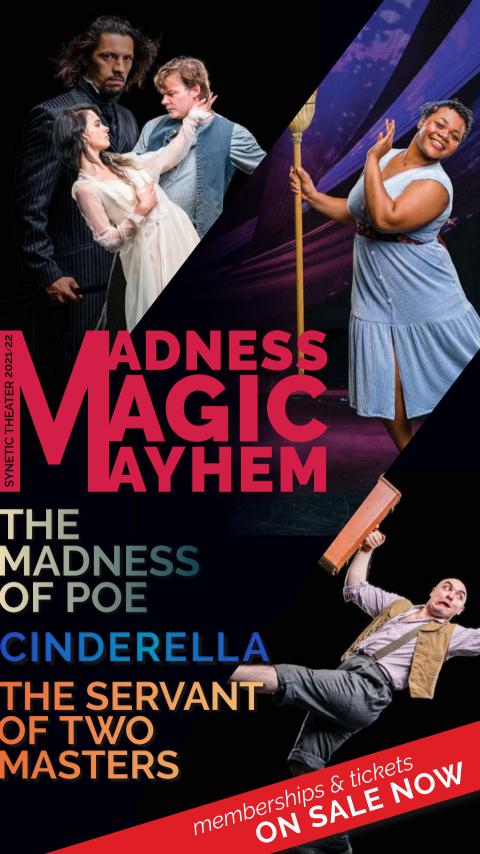
FOILED FABLES ages: 8-15 session 1: June 20 - 24 session 4: July 25 - 29

PECULIAR THINGS ages: 8-15 session 2: June 27 - July 8 session 3: July 11 - 22 session 5: August 1 - 12 session 6: August 15 - 26

ACTING CONSERVATORY high school age (rising freshman - graduating senior) June 27 -July 15

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