

MAR 3 - APR 2

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



@SyneticTheater



SYNETIC  
THEATER

## ABOUT **SYNETIC** THEATER

### **SYNTHESIS**

*Combining  
distinct elements  
to form a whole*

### **KINETIC**

*Pertaining to  
or imparting motion:  
active, dynamic, energetic*



### **SYNETIC**

*a dynamic synthesis of the arts*

## **MISSION**

*Synetic creates unforgettable  
visceral narrative experiences  
for every audience by  
blending visual techniques  
and movement from around  
the world and training  
multidisciplinary artists  
of all ages.*



MAR 3- APR 2, 2023

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

DIRECTOR/ADAPTOR

**Ben Cunis**

CO-DIRECTOR/FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

**Vato Tsikurishvili\***

CHOREOGRAPHER

**Irina Tsikurishvili~**

CO-ADAPTOR

**Peter Cunis**

ORIGINAL MUSIC

**Clint Herring & Andrew Gerlicher**

ADDITIONAL MUSIC/RESIDENT COMPOSER

**Koki Lortkipanidze\***

SOUND DESIGN

**Ben Cunis and Vato Tsikurishvili\***

ADDITIONAL SOUND DESIGN

**Konstantin Lortkipanidze\*, Paata Tsikurishvili\*,  
& JJ Nichols**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Phil Charlwood**

PUPPET DESIGNER

**Zana Gankhuyag**

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGNER

**Kendra Rai**

REMOUNT COSTUME DESIGNER

**Delaney Theisz**

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

**Kasey Brown**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Brian Allard**

SOUND ENGINEER

**JJ Nichols**

PROPS DESIGNER

**Joshua Lucas\* & Meghan Emanuel**

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Ian Claar**

STAGE MANAGER

**Samantha Leahan**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Mark Carmouze & Yaritza Pacheco**

**Alex F. Keen** ..... Master Electrician

**Susannah Cai** ..... Lighting Board Programmer & Operator

**Courtney Wood** ..... Stitcher & Draper

**Joshua Lucas\*** ..... Assistant Stage Manager

**Taylor Aragon** ..... Costume Painter

\*Founding Company Member ~Founding Choreographer

\*Company Member

*This production runs approximately 90 minutes.*

Synetic Theater is honored to call Arlington, Virginia home. We wish to acknowledge that long before this land was ever known as Arlington, it was home to the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We honor the original inhabitants of this land as we continue our mission to provide an inclusive and diverse artistic space.

The 2022/23 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.

## CAST

BELLE

**Irina Kavsadze**

BEAST

**Zana Gankhuyag**

EMMERANNE

**Rachael Small**

JEAN PAUL

**Irakli Kavsadze\***

MAGNIFICENT

**Philip Fletcher\***

CLAUDETTE

**Nutsa Tediashvili<sup>+</sup>**

MARIE

**Irene Hamilton<sup>+</sup>**

AVENANT

**Jacob Thompson**

ENSEMBLE

**Osama Ashour**

ENSEMBLE

**Lev Belolipetski<sup>+</sup>**

## UNDERSTUDIES

Osama Ashour, Adrienne Elion, Tony Amante  
Maia Potok-Holmes, Vato Tsikurishvili<sup>+</sup>

\*Founding Company Member \*Company Member

\*Teen Company Alumni



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

To recall a play we created in 2014 is like visiting a foreign country. The world is different now. We are different now. We are older, and we have had to weather storms and witness things we never saw coming 8 years ago. Movements, pandemics, awakenings, capitols stormed, wars begun and ended, marriages, deaths, births. We have seen beauties and beasts.

The story feels different. The edges are sharper, the forest is darker. But the magic still sparkles brightly.

As the play has emerged in its new form (every Synetic show asks to be made anew, we can't help it), a theme has emerged. It is fundamental to the original story that Belle learns to see beneath the surface appearance, to see the good in someone who cannot even see his own humanity. What has surprised me is the relevance of how she does it. It is through courage.

It takes courage to stand in front of something frightening and look it in the face. It takes courage to look beneath our first assumptions about people, to weather our fears. It takes courage to cross the threshold, walk into the darkness, and set to work on the debts of our forebears. Love requires courage.

So does art. We did not expect to be doing this play in this moment, but when Paata was in a serious accident in December, we knew that the way Synetic answers a crisis is to make something beautiful. This has been our response. It has taken effort, coordination, late nights, a few mistakes, and a lot of brilliant people to bring this storybook to life. I hope you enjoy setting off into the forest with us, and that it gives you energy to cross your own thresholds, find out what awaits you, and face it with courage and love.

**Ben Cunis** DIRECTOR/MANAGING DIRECTOR

## SYNOPSIS

Emmeranne tells of a prince who fell in love with her in the forest. His parents discovered them and hunted her as a witch, burning the forest along with Emmeranne. But her magic kept her alive. She killed the prince's father and put his castle under a curse, transforming the prince into a Beast, doomed to live as a monster until the day he finds true love.

In a nearby village, Belle lives a humble life with her father Jean Paul, once a wealthy merchant, and her older sisters, Claudette and Marie, who are smitten with the handsome Avenant, though he is only interested in Belle. One day, Jean Paul learns that one of his missing treasure ships has returned. Delighted, Jean Paul prepares to meet his ship at the harbor, promising his daughters that he will return with anything they desire. Claudette and Marie ask for fine clothes and jewelry. Belle asks only for a single rose.

When he arrives at the harbor, Jean Paul finds his ship empty. Despondent, he wanders into the dark forest and loses his way. He takes shelter in a mysterious castle, where he finds a perfect red rose for Belle. He picks the rose, alerting the lord of the castle—the enraged Beast.

Jean Paul begs the Beast to allow him to go home and bid farewell to his family. The Beast agrees, giving Jean Paul until sunrise to return with the rose. At home, Jean Paul tells his daughters what happened. Belle takes the rose and secretly goes to the castle in his stead.

At the castle, Belle flees to the woods on seeing the Beast. She is attacked by wolves, but the Beast rescues her, bringing Belle back to the castle to recover.

Over time, Belle and the Beast form a close, if unlikely, friendship. His spirit renewed, the Beast excitedly shows Belle the many wonders of the castle. Jean Paul, meanwhile, is distraught at the loss of his daughter and, heartbroken, falls ill.

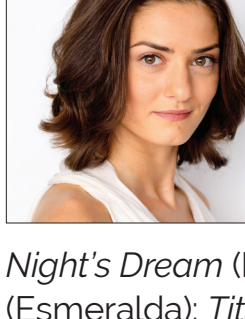
Determined to keep them apart, Emmeranne shows Belle the Beast's magic mirror, which reveals her father's sickness. The Beast allows Belle to leave with the rose. Unbeknownst to Belle, the rose carries the Beast's heart. When she departs, he starts to die.

Belle returns, restoring Jean Paul with the rose's magic. She tells her sisters and Avenant about the castle. Claudette and Marie persuade Avenant to go to the castle and rob the Beast of his treasures.

Belle finds the Beast's magic mirror. She sees him dying and decides she must return to the castle. As Belle hurries back, Avenant arrives at the castle and attacks the Beast. Belle appears just as Avenant stabs him. She sends Avenant away, then kisses the dying Beast. Having given and received true love, the Beast transforms back into a prince. Defeated, Emmeranne disappears into the forest.



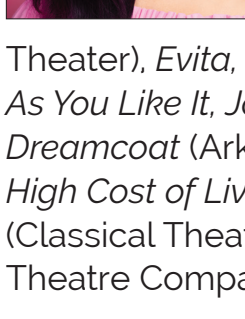
## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



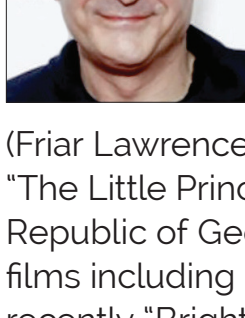
**Irina Kavsadze** (BELLE) is so excited to be back on the Synetic stage after four years. She recently graduated from Art of Acting Studio-Stella Adler. Synetic credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet); *Hamlet* (Ophelia); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia); *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Esmeralda); *Titus Andronicus* (Lavinia).



**Zana Gankhuyag** (BEAST) is a Mongolian American actor aiming to inspire greatness and challenge the status quo in film and theater. He is thrilled to be back at Synetic Theater as Beast. Previous Synetic shows include *Romeo* (*Romeo and Juliet*), *Feste* (*Twelfth Night*), *Shadow* (*Adventures of Peter Pan*), and *Prince* (*Sleeping Beauty*). Other work include *ANTI-GONE*, a mixed-reality performance previously showcased at Sundance Film Festival 2020, Tribeca Film Festival 2021, and British Film Institute. He recently wrapped his first feature film titled *Historical Film*, set for release this year. Some music videos he's been in include "Candy" by Rosalía, "Cyberpunk 2077" by Run the Jewels, and "Run" by OneRepublic. He attributes his successes to this company and the maestros that have shaped his artistry.

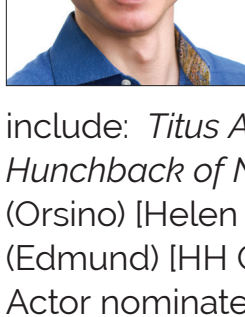


**Rachael Small** (EMMERANNE) is thankful to be joining the cast of *Beauty and the Beast*. Past Synetic: *Dracula*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Tempest*. Regional: *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Young Frankenstein* (Arkansas Public Theater), *Evita*, *Death of a Salesman* (Arkansas Rep), *As You Like It*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Arkansas Shakespeare). NYC: *Platonov*, *High Cost of Living* (Columbia Stages), *The Tempest* (Classical Theater of Harlem). MFA Shakespeare Theatre Company's ACA at GWU.



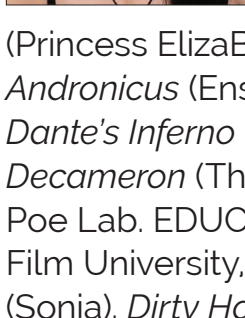
**Irakli Kavsadze** (JEAN PAUL) is a Founding Company Member. His credits include: *King Lear* (King Lear); *Macbeth* (Macbeth); *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom); *Romeo and Juliet*

(Friar Lawrence); and many more. In 2018 he directed "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry in the Republic of Georgia. He has also appeared in multiple films including "Crime has Happened" and most recently "Brighton 4th" which received the award for "Best International Narrative Feature Film" at Tribeca Film Festival in 2021. He has received 10 Helen Hayes nominations for acting and sound design with Synetic Theater and has received 2 Helen Hayes Awards for sound design.

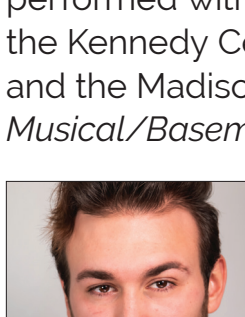


**Philip Fletcher** (MAGNIFICENT) is a Synetic Theater Founding Company Member who was last seen as Arthur Holmwood in *Dracula* and has appeared in over 50 new and remount Synetic productions. Highlights

include: *Titus Andronicus* (Titus Andronicus), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Claude Frollo), *Twelfth Night* (Orsino) [Helen Hayes Outstanding Ensemble], *King Lear* (Edmund) [HH Outstanding Ensemble and Supporting Actor nominated], *Othello* (Iago) [HH Outstanding Ensemble and Lead Actor nominated], *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) [HH Outstanding Ensemble], *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio) [HH Outstanding Ensemble], *Carmen* (Lucas) [HH Outstanding Ensemble Nominated], *Macbeth* (Witch) [HH Outstanding Supporting Actor], and *Hamlet...the rest is silence* (King Hamlet's Ghost/Player King) [HH Outstanding Ensemble].



**Nutsa Tediashvili** (CLAUDETTE) is a native of the Republic of Georgia, (k-ART-veli). DC AREA; Synetic Theater: *Host and Guest* (Zviadauris Wife) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia) *The Madness of Poe* (Madeline) *Richard 3.0* (Princess ElizaBeth) *My Father's Dragon* (Ensemble) *Titus Andronicus* (Ensemble) *The Taming of the Shrew* (Bianca) *Dante's Inferno* (Lost soul). FILM: Synetic Theater: *Decameron* (The Enchanted Pear Tree), *Body of Mind: Poe Lab*. EDUCATION: Shota Rustaveli Theater and Film University, BFA: *The Seagull* (Masha), *Uncle Vanya* (Sonia), *Dirty Hands* (Olga), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Martirio), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stella)



**Irene Hamilton** (MARIE) is a company member at Synetic Theater, where she has performed in *Treasure Island*, *Snow Queen*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Shakespeare Revue*, *Cinderella*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dracula* and more, including virtual

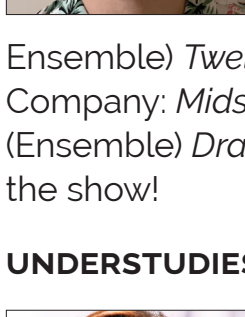
works for the Body of Mind Laboratory. She has also performed with Arts on the Horizon (*Birds of a Feather*) the Kennedy Center Concert Reading Series (*Voir Dire*), and the Madison New Works Laboratory (*Divided: The Musical/Basement Demons and Trailer Saints*).



**Jacob Thompson** (AVENANT) is ecstatic to be back at Synetic as Avenant in this production of *Beauty & the Beast*, marking his eighth show with Synetic. Previously, he attended George Mason University where he studied acting, earning his B.F.A. in 2021.

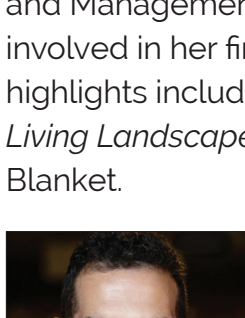


**Osama Ashour** (ENSEMBLE/ UNDERSTUDY) is an actor from the DC metro area. He recently attained his MFA at the University of Alabama. He is currently working as a teaching artist with Signature Theatre's Educational department. He has previously worked with Texas Shakespeare festival and The Winnepesaukee Playhouse. Some of his favorite roles include *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Jess), *Disgraced* (Amir), and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Dr. Caius). This is his first production with Synetic Theater, and he is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Beauty & The Beast*!

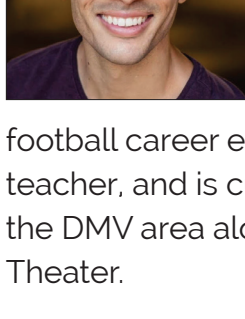


**Lev Belolipetski** (ENSEMBLE) is a proud Teen Company alumni, and excited to work on his fourth production with Synetic's mainstage. Previous credits include: Synetic Teen Company: *Hamlet* (Horatio/Player King/ Ensemble) *Twelfth Night* (Feste/Ensemble) Synetic Company: *Midsummer* (Lysander) *Host and Guest* (Ensemble) *Dracula* (Ensemble). Lev hopes you enjoy the show!

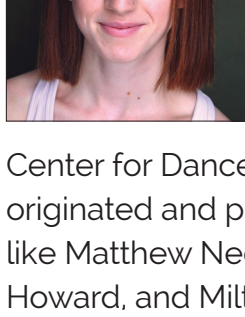
## UNDERSTUDIES



**Adrienne Elion** has been involved in the arts her whole life, starting onstage at 8 months in her mother's arms. As a wandering soul, she has traveled across America for training and performances, as well as travelled internationally for workshops and research. She graduated from Shenandoah University's undergraduate programs in Dance and Physics, and has a Master's Degree in Performing Arts Leadership and Management. She is thankful and excited to be involved in her first Synetic production. Recent performance highlights include MOMIX's *VIVA MOMIX*, Shana Simmons's *Living Landscapes*, and Beth Gill's *Yolk & Grove* with the Blanket.



**Tony Amante** is an American actor who grew up in Southern California playing football through college. Tony took acting and film classes through school and began performing in front of the camera and on stage once his professional football career ended. Tony is a full time kindergarten teacher, and is currently performing on indie film projects in the DMV area alongside his understudy position at Synetic Theater.



**Maia Potok-Holmes** is overjoyed to be working on her first Synetic show. Originally from Philly, Maia is lifelong dancer having trained at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Steps on Broadway, Goucher College, BalletNova Center for Dance, and Washington Ballet. Maia has originated and performed roles in works by choreographers like Matthew Neenan, Diane Coburn Bruning, Christian von Howard, and Milton Myers. She also performs with Gin Dance Company and Therese Gahl & Company. Other credits include: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Imagination Stage), *West Side Story* (Players Theatre), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Players Theatre), and *Suor Angelica* (Goucher Theatre).



**Vato Tsikurishvili** A native of the Republic of Georgia, Vato Tsikurishvili is an award-winning actor, choreographer, and educator with more than a decade of experience imparting Synetic Theater's unique style to audiences and students of all ages. Performing with his parents, Synetic co-founders Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili, since the age of 4, Mr. Tsikurishvili also has an extensive athletic background, having trained in fencing under Olympic coach Vladimir Nazlymov and in gymnastics with his grandfather, the world- renowned Olympic coach Arnold Kvetenadze. Performing credits include lead and supporting roles in dozens of Synetic productions: *Host and Guest*, *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *King Arthur*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Home of the Soldier*, *The Tempest*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Hamlet... the rest is silence*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Dante's Inferno*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Sleepy Hollow*. His recent work as fight choreographer includes *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Dante's Inferno* and *The Man in the Iron Mask* as well as *Titus Andronicus* and *The Adventures of Peter Pan*, for which he was also Assistant Director and Co-Director, respectively. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained Synetic company members, travels throughout the DMV area teaching stage movement to students of all grade levels, serves as an instructor at Synetic Studio, and, alongside Irina Tsikurishvili, trains the Synetic Teen Company.



## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### **Paata Tsikurishvili** (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 & 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. Paata holds an M.F.A. in film directing from Tbilisi State University and a B.F.A. in acting from The State Institute of Theater and Film in Tbilisi, Georgia.

**Irina Tsikurishvili** (CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDING ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Ms. Tsikurishvili is a 58-time Helen Hayes Award Nominee and has won the award 14 times for her outstanding choreography and acting. Irina has choreographed all Synetic Theater's productions including *The Crackpots*, *Dracula*, *Host & Guest*, *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 BFA in Performing Arts.

**Ben Cunis** (DIRECTOR, MANAGING DIRECTOR/ADAPTOR) Artist, filmmaker, teacher and arts administrator Ben Cunis first joined Synetic Theater in 2006 as a recent alumnus from the Drama program at the Catholic University of America. He started training under Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili and in 2007 performed as Macduff in *Macbeth*. He spent ten years, all told, at Synetic Theater working as an actor, fight choreographer, teacher, Director of Development, Artistic Associate, director, and writer. He has received three Helen Hayes Awards for his work as a fight and action choreographer, along with additional awards as a part of the ensembles of *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet...The Rest is Silence*.

From 2012-2017, Ben worked as the Development Associate for Hope Connections for Cancer Support in Bethesda, Maryland. In 2016, he moved to Los Angeles where he pursued his MFA in Film and TV production at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where he produced, directed, performed and stunt coordinated on many films. Several of Mr. Cunis' films are heavily influenced by his time at Synetic and have seen festival runs, including the Telluride Horror Show, the Golden State Film Festival, the Macabre Faire Festival, the Knoxville Horror Show, the Jack Oakie Comedy Festival, and the Artemis Women in Action Festival. Upon graduation, Ben was hired to teach directing at USC and was soon promoted to Lead Faculty on the foundational graduate course, Production I. He also co-founded the Virginia-based production company, Granite Kiss Creative, and worked with Lunacy Productions' Stu Pollard to create Trunacy, a non-profit dedicated to helping local indie filmmakers in Kentucky and the Midwest. Originally from Plymouth, New Hampshire, Ben lives with his wife, Betsy Summers, who he met while she was stage managing at Synetic on Lilia Slavova's *Nutcracker*. They have two children and two cats.

**Peter Cunis** (CO-ADAPTOR) studied playwriting at Providence College and first started working with Synetic in 2011. His co-writing credits at Synetic include *Genesis Reboot*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask*. His short horror fiction has been published by Grinning Skull Press and In Between Altered States. He currently teaches and performs regularly at the Providence Improv Guild, where he was the artistic director for three years and the director of their interactive horror show, *Redrum*.

**Vato Tsikurishvili** (FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER) is a native of the Republic of Georgia and an award-winning actor, choreographer, and educator with more than a decade of experience imparting Synetic Theater's unique style to audiences and students of all ages. Performing with his parents, Synetic co-founders Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili, since the age of 4, Mr. Tsikurishvili also has an extensive athletic background, having trained in fencing under Olympic coach Vladimir Nazlymov and in gymnastics with his grandfather, the world-renowned Olympic coach Arnold Kvetenadze. Performing credits include lead and supporting roles in dozens of Synetic productions: *Host and Guest*, *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *King Arthur*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Home of the Soldier*, *The Tempest*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Hamlet... the rest is silence*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Dante's Inferno*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Sleepy Hollow*. His recent work as a fight choreographer includes *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Dante's Inferno* and *The Man in the Iron Mask* as well as *Titus Andronicus* and *The Adventures of Peter Pan*, for which he was also Assistant Director and Co-Director, respectively. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained Synetic company members, travels throughout the DMV area teaching stage movement to students of all grade levels, serves as an instructor at Synetic Studio, and, alongside Irina Tsikurishvili, trains the Synetic Teen Company.

**Koki 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 State Conservatory.

**Phil Charlwood** (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/SCENIC DESIGNER) has been building sets and props for Synetic Theater for over a decade. He has designed the Helen Hayes Award-nominated 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.

**Delaney Theisz** (COSTUME DESIGNER) is excited to be joining Synetic Theater. She holds a BFA in Costume Design. Her design credits include *Taming of The Shrew* (Upcoming), *Macbeth*3, *Revels 2023*, *God of Carnage*, and associate designer of *Venus In Fur*. She wants to thank her family and friends for supporting her throughout her career. Website: Delanytheisz.com

**Brian Allard** (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, and opera. His lighting designs have been seen on stage throughout Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, and New York, as well as internationally. He has designed at the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln Theatre, the New Victory Theatre, the Smithsonian Institution, the Ailey Citigroup Theater, and the CityDance Center at Strathmore. Brian has been nominated for four Helen Hayes Awards, winning for Synetic Theater's *Titus Andronicus*. He has worked on more than 100 museum exhibits with the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Museum of the American Indian, National Civil Rights Museum, Lockheed Martin, and the National Institutes of Health. Brian also programs lights for permanent architectural installations, including M&T Bank Stadium and Washington's Golden Triangle Business Improvement District.

**JJ Nichols** (SOUND ENGINEER) 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.

**Ian Claar** (ASSOCIATE 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.

**Samantha Leahan** (STAGE MANAGER) is excited to return to Synetic Theatre. She was last here as an Assistant Stage Manager for the critically acclaimed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last summer. DMV Credits - *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* (Imagination Stage), *Maz & Bricks* (Solaz Nua), *Show Way The Musical* (Kennedy Center TYA). Berkshire Theatre Group - *Seascape*, *Dracula*, *White Christmas*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Outside Mullingar*. She is a proud UNCSA Graduate and member of Actor's Equity. She is thankful for all the love and support from her partner, Dominic, her family, and her friends. @SMSam413.

**Mark Carmouze** (PRODUCTION MANAGER) Born and raised in Miami, FL to Cuban parents, Mark has been a theatrical professional for the past 2 decades. Mark attended college at Florida school of the arts and Greensboro College earning a bachelor's in Directing/Stage Management. One of his first roles was at nearby Olney Theater, but most of his career has been based in New York City. He has previously worked at The Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public Theater; Playwright's Horizons; Signature Theater; The McKittrick Hotel; and most recently Roundhouse Theater. In 2020, he began directing and producing virtual theatre under his company No Small Part. His aspirations are to help lead and inspire a future generation of theater audiences and professionals. He is thrilled to be part of the Synetic family!

**Yaritza Pacheco** (PRODUCTION MANAGER) is a multidisciplinary artist & designer and is excited to return to Synetic as their Production Manager. Sound Design: *Jardin Salvaje* at Gala Hispanic Theatre, *Servant of Two Masters* at Synetic Theatre, *The Mountaintop* at Nextstop Theatre Company, *Ada and the Engine*, *Hamlet*, and *The Wolves* at Catholic University of America. Set Design: *Tic Tic Boom* at Monumental Theatre Company. In her spare time Yaritza runs her own art business, Yesterday's Present. They would like to thank their friends, family, and partner for all their support. Yaritza has her Bachelors in Theatre and Studio Art from Radford University. Yaritzapacheco.com @yesterdayspresent



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*Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please email [development@synetictheater.org](mailto:development@synetictheater.org) with corrections.*

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Carrie Comper in the 2019 Seattle Repertory Theatre Production of *Shout Sister Shout!* Photo by Bronwen Hough.