

SYNETIC
THEATER

SNOW maiden

DEC 1 - 23



@SyneticTheater



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.*

SYNETIC THEATER PRESENTS

DEC 1- 23, 2022

SNOW maiden

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Irina Tsikurishvili~

RESIDENT COMPOSER

Koki Lortkipanidze*

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Aleksandr Shiriaev

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Phil Charlwood

COSTUME DESIGNER

Kasey Brown

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Peter Leibold VI

SOUND ENGINEER

Matthew Datcher

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

Malory Hartman

STAGE MANAGER

Kaitlyn Shifflett

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Mark Carmouze

TOUR/COMPANY MANAGER

Hester Kamin

Alex F. Keen Master Electrician

Susannah Cai Lighting Board Programmer & Operator

Lorenzo Miguel Lighting Board Programmer & Operator
Stand In

Lily Valentin Stitcher & Emergency Repair

Meghan Emanuel Assistant Stage Manager

~Founding Choreographer *Company Member

Snow Maiden is generously sponsored by

amazon

This production runs approximately 45 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.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I'd like to welcome you all to Synetic Theater's holiday production of *Snow Maiden* – the timeless tale of a girl made from snow and the traditional granddaughter of Grandfather Frost.

I first saw *Snow Maiden* as an animated television film when I was a child, and it's stayed with me ever since. The Snow Maiden is a central figure in many fairytales, and has taken dozens of forms over the years. For centuries, she has inspired artists as diverse as Hans Christian Andersen and Igor Stravinsky, but as usual with Synetic, we're offering our own new spin on the story.

Previous adaptations of this legend all feature dark and complex themes of love, betrayal, jealousy, intrigue, and ultimately tragedy, but our version explores something much simpler: Our need for companionship, the heartbreak when it's taken away, and the joy of having it returned. As we all come together this holiday season, *Snow Maiden* seems the perfect story celebrate and remember just how precious friendship and community truly are.

I'd like to thank our wonderful cast and crew for their extraordinary efforts during this production. We hope you have as much fun watching it as we had creating it, and that when you hear caroling and other holiday songs this year, you will remember our story.

Madloba,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Tsikurishvili'.

Irina Tsikurishvili FOUNDING CHOREOGRAPHER AND
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAST

SNOW MAIDEN

Maryam Najafzada⁺

THE BOY

Vato Tsikurishvili⁺

UNDERSTUDIES

Irene Hamilton⁺, Jacob Thompson

⁺Company Member

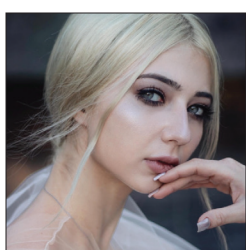
SYNOPSIS

A lonely boy wakes up in his cabin high in the mountains one frosty morning, to discover it has snowed during the night. Bundling himself up, he runs outside to play, finally building a girl out of snow — a girl who magically comes to life.

The boy and the Snow Maiden play together in the mountains. He teaches her to hunt for fireflies, she teaches him to skate. The boy takes his new friend home, then quickly leaves to get her some hot chocolate. When he returns, the boy is devastated to find the Snow Maiden gone, leaving nothing behind but melted snow.

The next morning, it seems to have all been a dream. The boy plays in the snow alone, but then discovers a real girl, also playing nearby. The two of them build a snowman together.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Maryam Najafzada (SNOW MAIDEN) graduated from the Baku Choreography Academy and is a classically trained dancer originally from Baku, Azerbaijan. She has numerous dance credits with the Azerbaijan Opera and Ballet Theater, Azerbaijan Musical Theater, and Manassas Ballet Theatre including *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Thumbelina*, *La Bayadere*, *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Seven Beauties*, among others. She was recently on Synetic's stage as the Horse Spirit in the production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Roxanne in *Cyrano De Bergerac*, Lady Ann in *Richard III*, Miranda in *Tempest*, and Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, Raven in *Madness of Poe*, Smeraldina in *Servant of two Masters*, Deer in *Host & Guest* and Dracula's wife in *Dracula*. Maryam also directed and performed with Synetic Motion Pictures and was part of "The Decameron" series project as well as other short films. Maryam is a choreographer and teaches ballet, character dance, and pantomime.

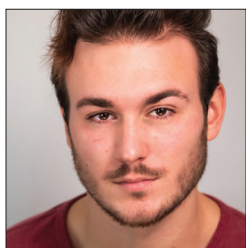


Vato Tsikurishvili (THE BOY) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Vato Tsikurishvili is an award-winning actor, choreographer, and educator with more than a decade of experience imparting Synetic Theater's unique style to audiences and students of all ages. Performing with his parents, Synetic co-founders 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.

UNDERSTUDIES



Irene Hamilton is a company member at Synetic Theatre, where she has performed in *Treasure Island*, *Snow Queen*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Shhakespeare 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 is ecstatic to be a part of this production with Synetic Theater after performing in *Dracula*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Tempest*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Shakespeare Revue*. Jacob is a graduate of George Mason University where he earned a degree in Musical Theatre. Recent credits include the roles of "Dude" in Who What Where Theatre Co.'s production of *Spills*, "Mason" in Project Elle's production of *What Wasn't*, and a variety of other roles at GMU including most recently "Sir Toby" in *Twelfth Night*.

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 (DIRECTOR, 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 (MANAGING DIRECTOR) 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.

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.

Aleksandr Shiriaev (PRODUCTION DESIGNER) is a theater designer based in Washington, D.C./Maryland area. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Aleksandr studied Graphic Design at Moscow Art-Industrial Institute 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 Costume Designer of Synetic's *Servant of Two Masters*, Props Designer for *Dracula* and lots of cross stitching and paper folding.

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.

Kasey Brown (COSTUME DESIGNER) is currently in her second year as a MFA Candidate for costume design. Her recent work includes designing *Gross Indecency: the three trials of Oscar Wilde* at Virginia Commonwealth University. Other credits include working as the costume design assistant on *Once on this Island* at Constellation Theater and *Kinky Boots* at Onley Theater. Upcoming, she will be designing VCU's production of *Rent!* If you are instrested in seeing more of her work, follow her on Instagram @kc.costumedesign

Peter Leibold VI (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a lighting and projection designer based in New York City. Peter has worked across the country at theatres including The Kennedy Center, Signature Theatre, Ford's Theatre Society, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Andy's Summer Playhouse, The Spoleto Festival, and many more. Peter won the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance award for Best Lighting for his work with Orange Grove Dance at Andy's Summer Playhouse and was a finalist for Live Design's Design Achievement Awards, also for his work with Orange Grove Dance. See more of his work at www.peterleibold.com.

Matthew Datcher (SOUND ENGINEER) is glad to be making his Synetic Theater debut. He is a DC-based audio-visual and technology professional. His designs have been heard in *Sophisticated New Ones* at Unexpected Stage Company, *A Raisin in the Sun* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, *Closer* at Cogent Theater Collective, *Disgraced* and *Radio Golf* at Peace Mountain Theatre Company, *Doubt* and *Hobson's Choice* at Quotidian Theatre Company, and *Native Gardens*, *Back of the Throat* and *Like the Last* (also appeared as Marcus) at Silver Spring Stage.

Malory Hartman (ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER) is happy to be back with Synetic. Her previous Synetic ALD credits include *Snow Queen* and *Madness of Poe*. Recent New York Credits: *Bard Overboard* with Extra Credit Ensemble. Recent Local Designs: *Oliver, Jr.* and *1776* at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School; and *Circle Mirror Transformation* and *The Audience* at Edmund Burke School.

Kaitlyn Shiflett (STAGE MANAGER) is currently a junior pursuing a BFA in theater performance at George Mason university. She is a proud alum of the Synetic Teen Company as she was casted in Teen *Romeo and Juliet* in 2020 as Lady Capulet. She last appeared in CUA's MainStage production of *Hamlet* [Claudius] and would like to extend her gratitude to all of the friends and teachers who helped her get to where she is today.

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!

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Debra Levay
Wes MacAdam

Beryl Neurman
Marina Oberlander
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Kathleen Smith
Violeta Talandis
Peter Threadgill

პერცხლი

Vertskli (Silver)

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Stephanie Byrd
Mark & Pamela Fiumara
Ed Gramlich
Jaclyn Nelson
Winkle Nemeth
Susan Volman
Vera Zolotarskaya

ბრინჯაო

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

Synetic Theater is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

A promotional poster for the play 'War of the Worlds'. The background features a man in a blue, form-fitting suit with glowing orange cables or wires running across his chest and arms. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left creating a bright vertical beam. The overall color palette is dominated by blue and orange.

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