

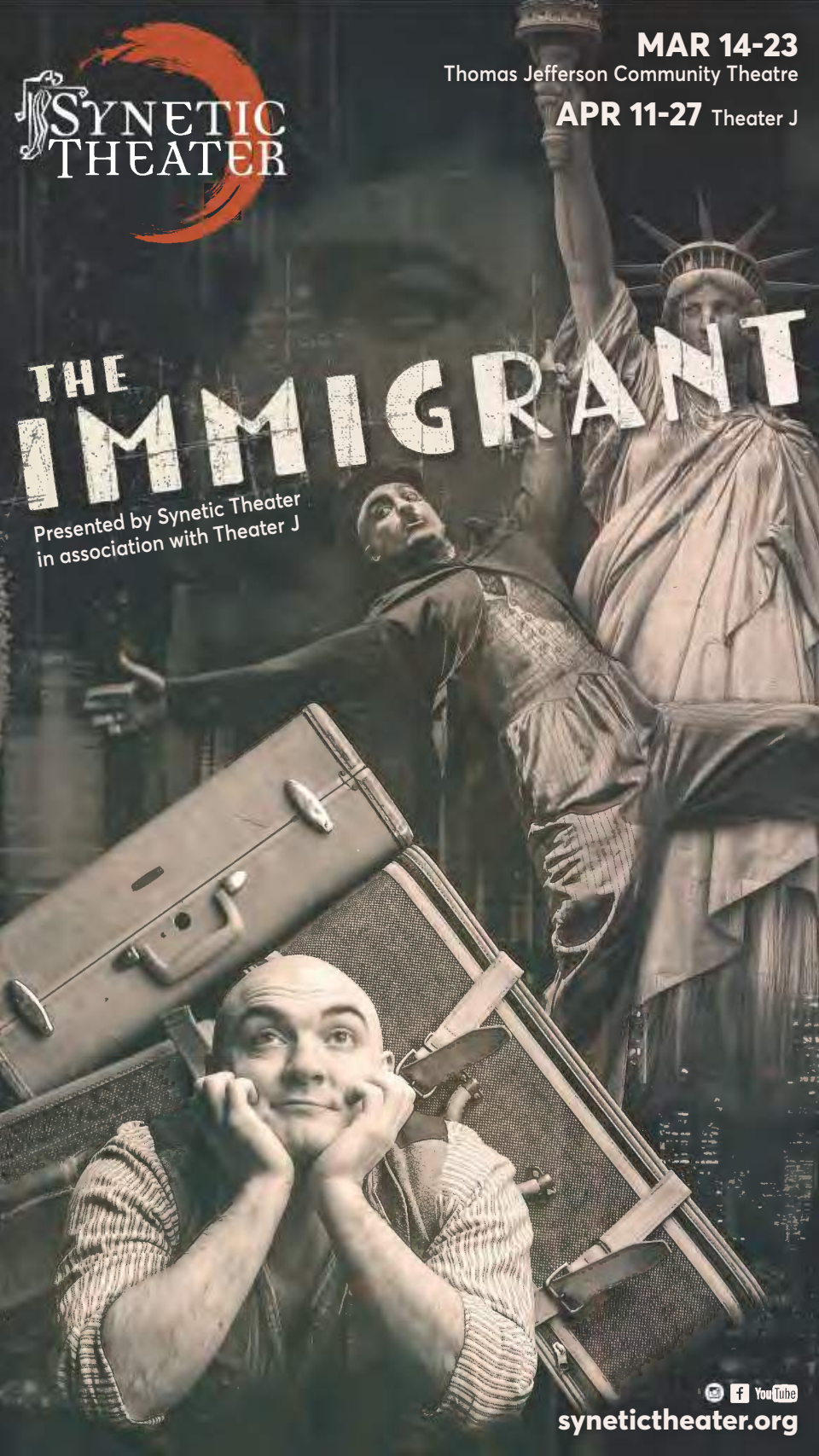


MAR 14-23
Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre

APR 11-27 Theater J

THE IMMIGRANT

Presented by Synetic Theater
in association with Theater J



synetictheater.org

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.*

THE IMMIGRANT

Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre **MAR 14-23**
APR 11-27 Theater J

Paata & Irina Tsikurishvili+

CO-DIRECTORS

Irina Tsikurishvili~

CHOREOGRAPHER

**Paata Tsikurishvili and
Nathan Weinberger+**

ADAPTATION

Brian S. Allard

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Dean Leong

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Erik Teague

COSTUME DESIGNER

Channing Tucker

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Phil Charlwood

SET DESIGNER

Tim Grant

SCENIC ARTIST

Amy Kellett

PRODUCTION MANAGER, PROPS DESIGNER

Khue Duong

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Natasha Sánchez

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Koki Lortkipanidze+

SOUND DESIGNER, COMPOSER & REMIX

Iko Kavsadze+

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Levi Manners

AUDIO ENGINEER

Katie Buchwell

STAGE MANAGEMENT COVER

Joshua Cole Lucas*

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Garth Dolan

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Susannah Cai

LIGHTING PROGRAMMER & BOARD OP

Kristin Patrick

DRAPER

Jazmyne Brooking

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Tony Ritchie and Pete Neil

CARPENTERS

**Mike House, David Ramsay
Charles Martin, Susannah Cai
and William McFatter**

ELECTRICIANS

CREATIVE TEAM

**Vato Tsikurishvili*, Maryam Najafzada*
Stella Bunch*, Natan Maël-Gray*
and Lev Belolipetski***

Additional music by **Aaron Kan**

**This show is graciously underwritten by
Rick & Vicky Hardy**

This production runs approximately 90 minutes.

This project was 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.

This program is supported in part by Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

This performance/event is made possible with support from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of the Social Impact's Local Theater Residency program.

+Founding Company Member ~Founding Choreographer

*Company Member



CAST

Paata Tsikurishvili⁺

THE IMMIGRANT

Vato Tsikurishvili^{*}

LITTLE FELLOW

Maryam Najafzada^{*}

HETTY

Stella Bunch^{*}

HETTY'S SISTER / US HETTY

Philip Fletcher⁺

THE PRODUCER

Natan Maël-Gray^{*}

ENSEMBLE / US LITTLE FELLOW

Lev Belolipetski^{*}

ENSEMBLE

Nutsa Tediashvili^{*}

ENSEMBLE

Joshua Cole Lucas^{*}

ENSEMBLE

Chris Galindo^{*}

ENSEMBLE

UNDERSTUDIES

Camille Pivetta HETTY'S SISTER / ENSEMBLE

Rodin Alcerro THE PRODUCER / ENSEMBLE

Kaitlyn Shifflett^{*} ENSEMBLE

**Special thank you to
STC, Sean McCarthy
and Catholic University.**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In adapting *The Immigrant* for the stage, we draw inspiration from Charlie Chaplin's timeless storytelling—his ability to convey so much with a single gesture or look. Chaplin's visual and physical storytelling has shaped the way we work at Synetic. We don't seek to recreate the past but to use his principles of wordless storytelling to create something uniquely our own.

Chaplin's singular brand of tragicomedy—where humor and pain live side by side—is at the heart of what we do. As critics and audiences have noted, it's our cinematic approach to storytelling that defines our work today. Our *Silent Shakespeare* series is a perfect example: 14 wordless Shakespeare adaptations, each in a different artistic style and genre, yet all rooted in Chaplin's world of visual and physical storytelling—not as nostalgia, but as a living language that speaks to the heart, body, and mind.

When Irina and I founded Synetic almost 25 years ago, we knew that building a unique identity would be a journey, not a moment. Chaplin's most famous character, his *Little Fellow*, is a perfect metaphor for that—constantly reinventing, finding new ways to survive. We've staged nearly 90 productions over the last quarter-century, always evolving, always searching for new ways to move, to surprise, to stir emotion without a single spoken word. But now, we feel it's time not just to reflect Chaplin's world in *The Immigrant*, but to reshape it in a way that only Synetic can.

The Little Fellow is more than just an adaptation of *The Immigrant*. It's a theatrical love letter to Chaplin's artistry, struggles, and humanity—a story of hope, disillusionment, and resilience, told through his signature lens of tragicomedy. And in many ways, it feels like we are telling our own story. Like Chaplin's immigrant, we arrived in a new country, faced uncertainty, and built something from nothing. His journey mirrors our own, making this production not just a tribute, but something deeply personal.

The story of *The Immigrant* and Chaplin's journey—with its ups and downs—feels so close to my heart that I decided to join the cast myself. This isn't just a show for me; it's an experience I'm living alongside my cast, one that connects my own journey with Chaplin's.

With this production, we aim to take Chaplin's iconic character and transform him—just as we have transformed. After facing the challenge of losing our theater space, we find ourselves on a new journey, one filled, like all of Chaplin's films, with humor, heartache, and perseverance. We invite you to share that journey with us, because, as the man himself said, "A day without laughter is a day wasted."

Madloba,



Paata Tsikurishvili
FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS

An elderly Immigrant stands in a dusty film studio, surrounded by hanging film strips and an old award statuette. He drops pieces of film into a burn bucket but pauses on one particular strip. As he holds it up to the light, memories come flooding back—his younger self, the Little Fellow, appearing alongside Hetty, a woman he once knew. Finding his old costume on a rack, he slides an arm into the tattered coat, bringing his character to life once more.

Years prior, a steamship prepares to depart, carrying a throng of immigrants, among them the Little Fellow. As they board, he and Hetty's hands brush for the first time, an unspoken connection forming. In the crowded dining hall, the rolling waves turn dinner into a chaotic dance, with plates sliding just out of the Little Fellow's reach. Later that night, as a storm rages, the ship is tossed mercilessly, and Hetty's sister is thrown overboard. The Little Fellow jumps in, saving her, and they are dragged back by other passengers.

Amidst the cramped conditions, Hetty's sister falls ill. A thief steals their money, leaving them desperate. The Little Fellow, stumbling upon a shell game, outwits the conman running it, reclaiming the stolen money. He secretly returns it to Hetty's sister, just as an officer arrives, ready to arrest him. Hetty intervenes, saving him. Their moment is interrupted as the Statue of Liberty appears in the distance. The immigrants rejoice, dancing in celebration of their new beginning.

Arrival at Ellis Island brings new hardships. A rigorous inspection process separates families, and Hetty's sister is torn away, leaving Hetty alone in the bustling streets of New York. The Little Fellow, disoriented by the modern world, encounters a blind flower girl who marks him with a gesture of kindness. A job opportunity presents itself, but factory work proves disastrous. He is thrown out, defeated.

The older Immigrant appears, guiding the Little Fellow back to himself, placing a clown nose on his face, passing along the tools of their shared craft. Renewed, the Little Fellow triumphantly scales the Statue of Liberty scaffolding.

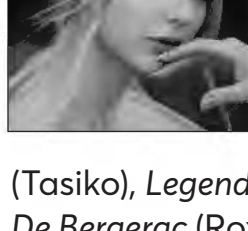
Time passes. A chance encounter reunites him with Hetty. They share a meal in a restaurant but cannot pay. A madcap escape leads them to a film producer, who sees something in their chemistry. The Little Fellow becomes a filmmaker, pouring his heart into silent comedies and biting satire. His greatest creation—a dance with a globe—mocks a rising dictator.

But the world turns against him. Accused of betrayal, he is vilified and cast out. The Little Fellow fades, replaced by the aging Immigrant. Alone, he dons his old costume one final time, disappearing into the light of the projector, leaving behind only a flickering image.



Vato Tsikurishvili A native of the Country 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: *Hamlet...the rest is silence*, *Little Comedies*, *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*, *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.



Maryam Najafzade graduated from the Baku Choreography Academy and is a classically trained dancer originally from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Synetic's stage credits: *Hamlet...the rest is silence* (Ophelia), *Little Comedies* (Tasiko), *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Horse spirit), *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Roxanne), *Richard III* (Lady Anne), *Tempest* (Miranda), *Phantom of the Opera* (Christine), *Madness of Poe* (Raven) and Assistant Choreographer, *Servant of Two Masters* (Smeraldina) Choreographer, *Dracula* (Wife), *Host and Guest* (Deer, Ensemble), *Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden), *Bloom* (Sister), Choreographer, *Romeo and Juliet* (Ensemble, Juliet U/S). Maryam also directed and performed with Synetic Motion Pictures and was part of "The Decameron" series project as well as other short films.



Natan-Maël Gray can be seen as a combination of the vibrant sun of Virginia and the resolute ice of Quebec. After several years of training in gymnastics, swimming, dance, and boxing, he has found his second home

at Synetic Theater. He started in the Teen Company in 2018. On the main stage, Natan has amassed multiple roles as an understudy and cast member notably in *Host & Guest*, *Dracula*, *Tell-Tale Heart*, *Golden Fish* and *Snow Maiden*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *Little Comedies*. At Québec, in Canada, he often has the privilege of observing the theatrical creations of actor, writer and leading stage director Robert Lepage.



Lev Belolipetski is a proud Synetic Teen Company alumni. He's excited to move some luggage and do some falls. Previous Synetic Company credits include: *Little Comedies* [Vano], *Hamlet* [Jester/Gravedigger/Ensemble],

R&J [Balthazar/Ensemble], *The Tell-Tale Heart* [Vulture], *Beauty and the Beast* [Ensemble], *Dracula* [Ensemble], *Host and Guest* [Ensemble], *A Midsummer Night's Dream* [Lysander].



Nutsa Tediashvili is a native of the Republic of Georgia, (k-ART-veli).

Synetic Theater; *Beauty and Beast* (Sister), *Dracula* (Mina), *Host and Guest* (Zviadauris Wife), *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Hermia), *Servant of The Two Masters* (Beatrice), *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* (tortured 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).



Stella Bunch is a proud alum of the Synetic Teen Company and recently graduated from Syracuse University with a BFA in Acting. Previous Synetic credits include *Little Comedies* (Tasiko),

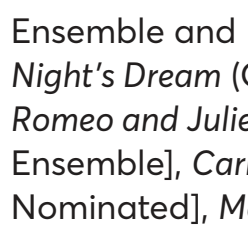
Hamlet...the rest is silence (Player Queen/Ensemble), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania). She would like to thank the Tsikurishvili family for all of their support and mentorship!

stellabunch.com IG:@stellabunch



Philip Fletcher is a Synetic Theater Founding Company Member who was last seen as the character King Hamlet's Ghost/Player King in Synetic's *Hamlet...the rest is silence*

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].

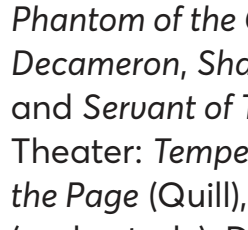


Joshua Cole Lucas is a DC based actor, dancer, teaching artist, and theatrical carpenter. He has worked primarily with Synetic Theater, credits include *Hamlet . . . the rest is silence*

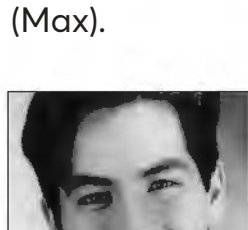
(Guildenstern), *The Tempest* (Stephano), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stout), *Dracula* (Quincy), *Host and Guest* (Ensemble), *Snow Queen* (Kai), *The Phantom of the Opera* (ensemble), "Day 6, Story 4" of *The Decameron*, *Shakespeare Revue*, *Cinderella* (understudy), and *Servant of Two Masters* (understudy). Roundhouse Theater: *Tempest* (understudy). Arts on the Horizon: *Off the Page* (Quill), *Birds of a Feather* (understudy), *Fitting In* (understudy). DC Fringe: *Pondering About My Memories* (Max).



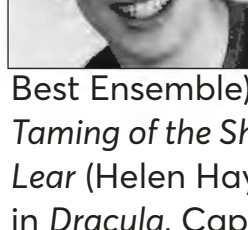
Chris Galindo is excited to return to the Synetic Stage where he has been a company member since 2008. Some Synetic roles include; Lucius in *Titus Andronicus*, Snug in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helen Hayes Award Best Ensemble), Eros in *Antony & Cleopatra*, Tailor in *Taming of the Shrew*, Bishop in *Dante*, Albany in *King Lear* (Helen Hayes Award Best Ensemble), Lead Villager in *Dracula*, Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*, Ensemble in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Mogarych in *Master in Margarita*. He has also been seen in numerous other productions with Studio Theater, Washington Shakespeare, Imagination Stage, Adventure Theater as well as commercials and independent film.



Camille Pivetta is thrilled to be returning to Synetic in such a beautiful new work. She first performed with the company this past fall, in *Hamlet...the rest is silence*. Since her summer audition, she has truly been grateful for every opportunity to move, create, and grow with this special community. camillepivetta.com.



Rodin Alcerro is an actor and playwright born and raised in Comayagüela, Honduras. He began his career in his home country before expanding his work to Spain and Argentina. Now based in Washington, DC, he has performed with Synetic Theater, Gala Hispanic Theater, First stage, and Teatro de la Luna. Rodin made his directorial debut at the Fringe Festival with his play *Pondering About My Memories*.



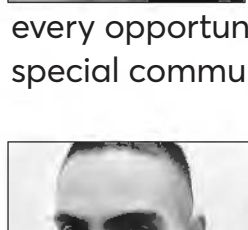
Kaitlyn Shifflett is overjoyed to be a part of yet another production with Synetic Theater. As a proud alum of Synetic Teen Company; she is currently directing this year's production of Synetic's Teen *Hamlet* (running April 6th-11th). Her past Synetic acting credits include: *Little Comedies* (Tasiko), *Hamlet* (Ensemble/ Gertrude U/S), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *The TellTale Heart* (Vulture), *Golden Fish* (Wife), *Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden U/S), *Dracula* (Wives & Mina U/S), and *Host & Guest* (U/S). Kaitlyn would like to extend her gratitude to all of her friends and mentors who have helped her get to where she is today.

@kaitlynshifflett.

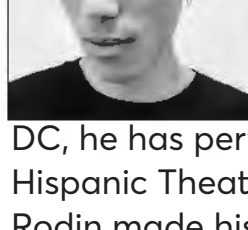
UNDERSTUDIES



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@kaitlynshifflett.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Paata Tsikurishvili (DIRECTOR, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Country 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 90 productions including *Salomé*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Madness of Poe*, *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 Country 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.

Nathan Weinberger (ADAPTATION) is a founding company member of Synetic Theater, having started with the company in 2001. He has been resident dramaturg since 2005 and has adapted many of Synetic's most successful productions, including *Dracula*, *Faust*, *Animal Farm*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Trial*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, as well as *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Richard III* for Synetic's wordless Shakespeare series. His adaptations of *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Sleepy Hollow* each received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding New Play or Musical Adaptation. He won the award for his adaptation of Synetic's *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

Brian S. Allard (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, opera, and architecture. Previously at Synetic: *Hamlet ...the rest is silence* (2024 Helen Hayes nomination), *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *Servant of Two Masters*; *Phantom of the Opera*; *Sleepy Hollow*; *Cyrano*; *Richard III*; *Mark of Cain*; *The Trial* (Helen Hayes nomination); *Titus Andronicus* (Helen Hayes winner); *Sleeping Beauty*; *Taming of the Shrew* 2017; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; *As You Like It*.

Dean Leong (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a freelance Lighting Designer from the Washington DC area. Design credits include: *The Infinite Tales*, *Museum 2040*, and *Tempered: A Cabaret* with 4615 Theatre Co. *Chemical Exile: Synthesis*, *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really*, *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea*, and *Sleeping Giant* with Rorschach Theater Co. *Fitting In* with Arts on the Horizon. *Webster's Bitch!* with The Keegan Theatre. *My Mama and the Full Scale Invasion* with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Associate). *Romeo & Juliet* with Synetic Theater Co. (Assistant). He would like to thank his wife and daughter for their constant love and support.

Erik Teague (COSTUME DESIGNER) is a Costume Designer based in the Washington, D.C. area. Originally hailing from Cartersville, Georgia, he has had the pleasure of designing costumes for opera and theatre companies across the United States. Works of note include: The Glimmerglass Festival: *Pagliacci*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *La bohème*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Odyssey*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Trouble in Tahiti*; The Atlanta Opera: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Cabaret*, *As One*; Washington National Opera: *The Lion*, *The Unicorn*, and *Me*, *The Jungle Book*; Chicago Opera Theatre: *The Nose*; Florentine Opera: *Acis and Galatea*; Opera Southwest: *Lohengrin*; New Orleans Opera: *Hansel and Gretel*; Fingerlakes Opera: *The Elixir of Love*; Signature Theatre DC: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Ragtime*, *RENT*, *Blackbeard*; Wolf Trap Opera: *The Touchstone*; The Kennedy Center: *The Mortification of Fovea Munson*, *Acoustic Rooster*, *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*; Synetic Theater: *The TellTale Heart*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Man in the Iron Mask*; Constellation Theatre: *Master and Margarita*, *The Wild Party*, *Equus*; The Center for Puppetry Arts: *Stellaluna*, *Ruth* and *the Green Book*. AWARDS: two Helen Hayes, two Suzy Bass Awards. www.erikteaguedesign.com

Channing Tucker (ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER) is a costume and puppet designer based in the DMV area and frequently assists on costume design. They most frequently design for dance, including various dance concerts for Dance Place, Dance Exchange, the University of Maryland, American University, and Howard Community College. Past designs include *The Sound of Music* (Catholic University), *Monstrous* (Howard Community College), *Sense and Sensibility* (American University), *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Puffs!* (Howard Community College), and *Risk of Play*, *Ghost Bride*, *Outbound*, *Flyin' West*, *Corpora Caelestia*, and *Tides* (University of Maryland). Channing is a past recipient of the Jim Henson Fund for Puppetry and attendant of the O'Neill National Puppetry Conference. Their long-term project is a puppet film adaptation of the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Phil Charlwood (PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR) 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.

Khue Duong (PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER) is thrilled to be stage managing this production of *Hamlet*. This is Khue's third show with Synetic Theater. Previous productions include *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Other regional credits include *The Last Drop* (SCENA Theater), *Spongebob The Musical* (Acting for Young People), and *Newsies* (Acting for Young People). Khue graduated with a BFA in Theater Performance and is a proud alum of George Mason University.

Natasha Sanchez (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is delighted & honored to join Synetic Theater for their production of *The Immigrant!* Originally from Southern California, she has enjoyed a vibrantly multifaceted artistic lifestyle as an operatic performer & advocate for musical outreach, in addition to her current parallel passion for Stage Management. Recent & favorite select credits include: Folger Theatre: *Valor*, *Agravo y Mujer!*; The Washington Ballet: *The Nutcracker*; Ford's Theatre: *A First Look: Blackbox* by Rickerby Hinds; Rorschach Theatre: *Sleeping Giant*, *Human Museum*, *Night of the Living Dead - Live!*, *Angel Number Nine*, *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea*; Constellation Theatre Company: *Desperate Measures*, *The School for Lies*.

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.

Iko Kavsadze (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & CO-SOUND DESIGN) is a Founding Company Member. His recent credits include: *Hamlet...the rest is silence* (Claudius), *The Golden Fish* (Old Man), *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Old Man), *Beauty and the Beast* (Jean Paul); *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 3 Helen Hayes Awards for sound design, most recently for *Host & Guest* 2022.

Ben Cunis (MANAGING DIRECTOR) Artist, filmmaker, teacher and arts administrator, Ben 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.

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*These donor levels span the period of 03/01/24 - 03/01/25.
If you see any corrections, please contact ben@synetictheater.org.*

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