

JUL 31 - AUG 2

Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre

THE IMMIGRANT



25th SYNTHETIC
THEATER
YEARS OF MASTERWORKS

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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

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

THE IMMIGRANT

Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre
JUL 31 - AUG 2

CO-DIRECTOR/CO-ADAPTER

Paata Tsikurishvili+

CO-DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

Irina Tsikurishvili~

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Irakli Kavsadze+

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Vato Tsikurishvili*

RESIDENT DRAMATURG/CO-ADAPTOR

Nathan Weinberger+

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Amy Kellett

STAGE MANAGER

Khue Duong

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Hansin Arvind

SET DESIGNER

Phil Charwood

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Joshua Cole Lucas*

COSTUME DESIGNER

Erik Teague

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Channing Tucker

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Rukiya Fields

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Brian S. Allard

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Dean Leong

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR/LIGHT PROGRAMER & OP

Kerstin Fagerstrom

RESIDENT COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGN

Koki Lortkipanidze+

AUDIO ENGINEER

Levi Manners

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Aaron Kan

CREATIVE TEAM

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

***This show is graciously underwritten
by Hans Kaper***

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.

+Founding Company Member ~Founding Choreographer

*Company Member



arlington arts

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

Liam Klopfenstein

ENSEMBLE

Nutsa Tediashvili*

ENSEMBLE

Joshua Cole Lucas*

ENSEMBLE

Zana Gankhuyag*

ENSEMBLE

UNDERSTUDIES

Rodin Alcerro

Kaitlyn Shifflett*

⁺Founding Company Member

^{*}Company Member

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 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,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, sweeping 'S' shape and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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.

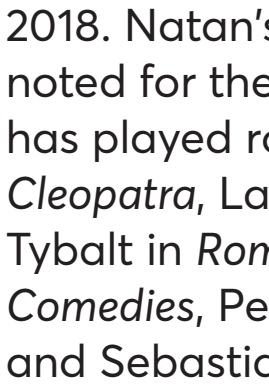
CAST BIOGRAPHIES



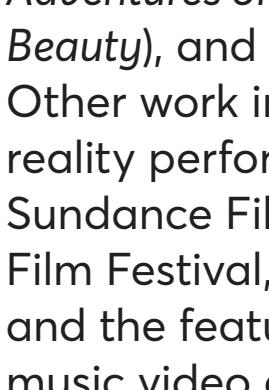
Vato Tsikurishvili (Little Fellow) a native of the Country of Georgia, Vato Tsikurishvili is an award-winning actor, choreographer, and educator with more than a decade of experience imparting Synetic Theater's unique style to audiences and students of all ages. Performing with his parents, Synetic co-founders 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 (Hetty) graduated from the Baku Choreography Academy and is a classically trained dancer originally from Baku, Azerbaijan. Synetic stage credits include *Sleepy Hollow* (Horse Spirit), *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Roxanne), *Richard III* (Lady Anne), *The Tempest* (Miranda), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Christine), *The Madness of Poe* (Raven; assistant choreographer), *The Servant of Two Masters* (Smeraldina; choreographer), *Dracula* (Wife), *Host & Guest* (Deer, Ensemble), *The Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden), *Bloom* (Sister; choreographer), *Romeo and Juliet* (Ensemble, Juliet U/S), *Hamlet... the rest is silence* (Ophelia), *Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus* (Gaia), and *Antony & Cleopatra* (Octavia). Maryam also directed and performed with Synetic Motion Pictures and was part of *The Decameron* series project as well as other short films.



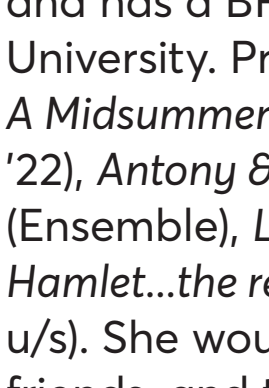
Natan-Maël Gray (Ensemble, U/S Little Fellow) a 19-year-old actor, divides his time between the United States and Canada. In The D.C area, Natan has been affiliated with Synetic Theater since 2018. Natan's performances are particularly noted for their agility and expressiveness. He has played roles such as Ptolemy in *Antony & Cleopatra*, Laertes in *Hamlet...the rest is silence*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Berika in *Little Comedies*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*. His training, inspired by the Lecoq method, also includes skills in circus arts, fencing, dance, boxing, ballet, gymnastics, piano, and swimming. In Canada, Natan-Maël has the privilege of working with the eminent director Robert Lepage on the project *Patient 0* that will come to fruition in the winter of 2027.



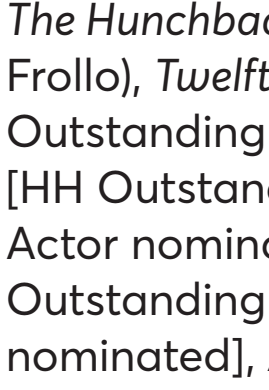
Zana Gankhuyag (Ensemble) is a Mongolian-American actor aiming to inspire greatness and challenge the status quo in film and theater. He is thrilled to be back at Synetic Theater, where his previous roles include Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*), Feste (*Twelfth Night*), the Shadow (*The Adventures of Peter Pan*), the Prince (*Sleeping Beauty*), and the Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*). Other work includes *ANTI-GONE*—a mixed-reality performance showcased at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival, and the British Film Institute—and the feature *Historical Film*. Some of his music video appearances 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.



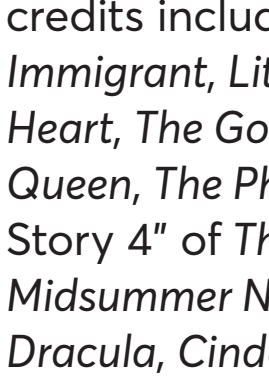
Nutsa Tediashvili (Ensemble) is a native of the country of Georgia, (k-ART-veli).Synetic Theater; *Beauty and Beast* (Sister), *Dracula* (Mina), *Host and Guest* (Zviadauris Wife), *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Hermia), *Servant of The Two Masters* (Beatrice), *The Madness of Poe* (Madeline), *Richard 3.0* (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).



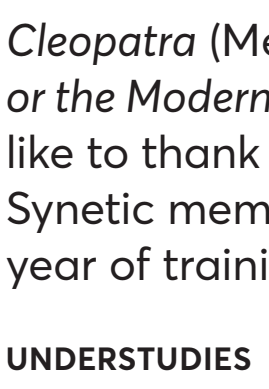
Stella Bunch (Hetty's Sister/ Ensemble) is grateful and excited to bring back *The Immigrant*. She is a proud alum of the Synetic Teen Company and has a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University. Previous Synetic credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck '25, Titania '22), *Antony & Cleopatra* (Mardian), *Frankenstein* (Ensemble), *Little Comedies* (Tasiko), and *Hamlet...the rest is silence* (Ensemble/Ophelia u/s). She would like to thank her parents, friends, and the Tsikurishvili family for all of their support and mentorship!
IG: @stellabunch



Philip Fletcher (The Producer) is a Synetic Theater Founding Company Member who has appeared in over 40 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].

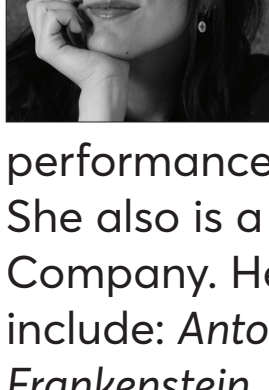


Joshua Cole Lucas (Ensemble) is a DC based actor, dancer, teaching artist, and theatrical carpenter. He has worked primarily with Synetic Theater, credits include: *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Immigrant*, *Little Comedies*, *Hamlet*, *The Telltale Heart*, *The Golden Fish*, *The Tempest*, *Snow Queen*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, "Day 6, Story 4" of *The Decameron*, *Shakespeare Revue*, *Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Host and Guest*, *Dracula*, *Cinderella* (understudy), and *Servant of Two Masters* (understudy).

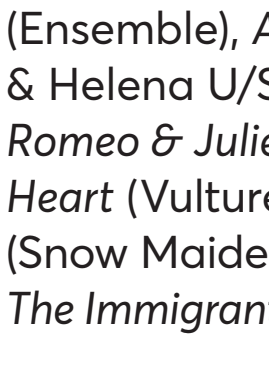


Liam Klopfenstein (Ensemble) is honored to take part in this revival production of *The Immigrant*. Previous Synetic credits include: *Antony & Cleopatra* (Messenger/Ensemble), *Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus* (Ensemble). He would like to thank his family, friends, and fellow Synetic members for their support in this past year of training and growth.

UNDERSTUDIES



Rodin Alcerro (U/S Ensemble) 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.



Kaitlyn Shifflett (Understudy) is thrilled to be a part of yet another production with Synetic Theater. Kaitlyn is currently pursuing a BFA in theater performance at George Mason University. She also is a proud alum of Synetic's Teen Company. Her past Synetic acting credits include: *Antony & Cleopatra* (Ensemble), *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* (Ensemble), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Flute & Helena U/S), *Hamlet* (Ens. Gertrude U/S), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Vulture), *Golden Fish* (Wife), *Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden U/S), *Dracula* (Wives & Mina U/S), *The Immigrant* (U/S), and *Host & Guest* (U/S).

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.

Ben Cunis (MANAGING DIRECTOR) An 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 (USC) School of Cinematic Arts, where he produced, directed, performed and stunt coordinated on many films. Several of Ben's 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 *The Nutcracker*.

Nathan Weinberger (ADAPTATION / RESIDENT DRAMATURG) 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*, *Sleepy Hollow*, and *The Immigrant* 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*.

Khue Duong (STAGE MANAGER) is thrilled to be stage managing this production. This is Khue's fourth show with Synetic Theater. Previous productions include *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Immigrant*. 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.

Hansin Arvind (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is delighted to be back with Synetic Theater after working on *Hamlet... the rest is silence*. Other local credits include Constellation Theatre Company: *Head Over Heels*, *Is God Is*, *Orlando*; Theater J: *Prayer for the French Republic*, *This Much I Know*; Arts on the Horizon: *Off the Page*; NextStop Theatre: *In the Heights*. Hansin works as both a performer and assistant stage manager in the DC area. He has a BA in theatre from George Mason University.

Phil Charlwood (SET DESIGN) 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*. Phil also works with local schools to develop their technical drama programs.

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: Synetic Theater: *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, and *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus*; 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*; Constellation Theatre: *The 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*.

Rukiya Fields (WARDROBE SUPERVISOR) arrived in DC in 2016 to attend Howard University's musical theatre BFA program. Since 2022, Rukiya has been a full-time costume designer and wardrobe technician in the DMV area. Her design credits include: *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, *Séneca - The Library Mouse*, *Héctor el Niño Eléctrico*, *CHOKE*, *Érase Una Vez*, *Frida Libre*, and *The 22+ Weddings of Hugo* at Gala Hispanic Theatre; and *Tambo & Bones* at Spooky Action Theatre. Other notable theatres she frequents as a costume technician are Constellation Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, Folger Theatre, Round House Theatre, Mosaic Theatre Company, and Signature Theatre NYC.

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

Dean Leong (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a Lighting Designer from the Washington DC area. Design credits include: *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea*; *Sleeping Giant* and *So Late Into The Night* (Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Lighting Design) with Rorschach Theater Co. *Silent Sky* and *I Know How To Curse* with Perisphere Theater. *Webster's Bitch!* with The Keegan Theatre. *Mary Stuart* with Chesapeake Shakespeare Co. *Pete the Cat* with Imagination Stage. Associate and Assistant Design credits include: *My Mama and the Full Scale Invasion* with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Frankenstein*; *The Immigrant* and *Romeo & Juliet* with Synetic Theater. He would like to thank his wife and daughter for their constant love and support.

Kerstin Fagerstorm (LIGHTING SUPERVISOR, PROGRAMMER, AND BOARD OP) is delighted to be working with Synetic again! Her lighting credits include operas, dramas, musicals, children's theater, circus performances, black box productions, and a show with an all robot cast. She hopes you enjoy the show and will applaud wildly. She would like to thank her parents for supporting all of her endeavors!

Koki Lortkipanidze (RESIDENT COMPOSER) is a native of Tbilisi, Georgia, and has composed original music for many Synetic productions. He has received five Helen Hayes Award nominations for his sound designs and one award. He has also composed original music for film, including *First Steps*, *Essay* (both directed by Paata Tsikurishvili), and *Mirage*. 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 Max Ophuls festival in Germany and the International Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam. Koki received his bachelor and master's degrees from the Tbilisi State Conservatory.

Additional Stage Crew

Sub Assistant Stage Managers

Sub Light Board Operator

Sub Wardrobe Supervisor

Electricians

Carpenter

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This donor list is current as of 7/15/26, covering the dates between 7/15/2025 & 7/15/2026. If you see the need for any corrections, please contact ben@synetictheater.org.

ნკელოზი

Angelozi (Angels)

\$10,000+

Amazon
The Arlington Commission for the Arts
The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
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ბრილიანტი

Brilanti (Diamond)

\$5,000-\$9,999

Timothy Carlton	The Nora Roberts Foundation
Pamela Fiumara	Blair & Sally Ruble
Sara Hope Franks & Michael Moore	Alan Savada & Will Stevenson
John Hauge	Jeffrey Schragg
Lynn Horning	Ann Tunstall
Myron Lehtman	

ბროლი

Broli (Crystal)

\$2500-\$4,999

Nancy DeKieffer	Mytrang Nguyen
Tracy Fisher	Margaret & Carl Pfeiffer
Carol Fuller	Cynthia Wolloch & Joseph Reid
Eugene Kenney	
Thomas Kerst	

პლატინა

Platina (Platinum)

\$1000-\$2,499

Irwin & Lyuba Arias	Sandra Hoexter
Marjorie Balzer	Michael Kerst
Marilynn Bianco	Renee Klish
John Chamberlin	Sam Lippman
Sandra Cummins-Haid	Molly & Bill Lynch
Mary Duffy	Ryan Merkel
Suzanne Grinnan	Dennis & Patricia Miller
Katherine Hale	Christy Pino
Gary & Loretta Harris	Peter Rothschild
Madeline Helbraun	Patrick Sheehan
Brooke Higdon	Julie & David Zalkind

ოქრო

Okro (Gold)

\$500-\$999

Anonymous	Gina Lee
Donald Adams	Bernhard Liese
Nancy Beckley	Jane Mann
Ann Bonneville	Douglas Marshall
Timothy Carrico	Adele Mouzon
Oya Celasun	Jonathan Nelms
Jane Coughran	Richard Norland
C. Maury Devine	Marina Oberlander
Carol Dunahoo	Judith Rivlin
Cathe Fadel	Arlene Farber Sirkin
Margaret Gaffen	Peter Threadgill
Mark Greene	Dean Trackman
Marc Hutchinson	Mr. & Mrs. Tsai
Mark Klopfenstein	Susan Yamada

ვერცხლი

Vertskli (Silver)

\$250-\$499

Jesse Abraham	Winkle Nemeth
Elizabeth Bruce	Sherry Nevins
Elizabeth Cohn	Timothy Nixon
Diana Decker	Joseph O'Hare
Jenny Heimberg	Wendy Ehrenkranz
Aili Huber	Patterson
Patricia Jackman	Thomas Philson
Robert Kimmins	Sharon Rennert
Deborah Kirkman	Eugene Rich
Abby Lynch	Corinne Smith
Wesley MacAdam	Kathleen Smith
John Merchant	Tessa van der Willigen
Mark Moscato	Sandra Wheeler
Peter Neal	Gail Yano

ბრინჯაო

Brinjao (Bronze)

\$100-\$249

Paul Allard	William Johnson
David Atkins	Eugene Kenney
Lisa Backer	Jenufa Kent
Jonah Bea-Taylor	Shelley Klein
Julia Belcher	Barry Kunz
Kyle Z. Bell	Karen Lee
Mary Josie Blanchard	Patrice Linehan
Thomas Booth	Josephine Liu
Tim Christenson	Jason Loewith
Randolph Clarke	Tracy Lush
Michael Cline	Kathryn Lyness
Steven Clyburn	Robert Lyness
Sarah Cochran	Julia Marshall
Dipanwita Das	Keith Miller
Joanna Devine	Catherine Moore
Debra Diener	Alex Osinovsky
William Drawbaugh	Marvin & Emiline Ott
Barry Epstein	Daniel Parr
Lori Farnsworth	B. T. Peele III
Ellen Goldberg	Duane Pennebaker
Gary Gortenburg	Burnett Peters
Lisa Greenhill	Kathy Preisinger
Lorna Grenadier	Gail Pritchard
Martha Griesheimer	John Regan
Alec Guroff	Mary Sellen
Sarah Guroff	Natalia Simakova
Kirby Heller	Martha Sneed
Peter Hesse	Lynn Soukup
Valeska Hilbig	Christa Speekmann
Julia Holcomb	Scott Sterl
Carol Holmes	Allison Stockman
Thomas Holzman	Carole Stover
Debbie M. Jackson-Lammers	Jessica Tava
Debbie Jackson	Eugene Tillman
	Diane Winslow