

# THE MIRACULOUS MAGICAL BALLOON



2021  
SEPTEMBER 10-11

@SyneticTheater



SYNETIC THEATER PRESENTS

# THE MIRACULOUS MAGICAL BALLOON

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2021

LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATER

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

**Irina Tsikurishvili**

CREATED AND ORIGINALLY PERFORMED BY

**Paata Tsikurishvili**

TOUR MANAGER

**Mandi Lee**

RESIDENT COMPOSER

**Konstantine Lortkipanidze**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

**J.P. McLaurin**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Phil Charlwood**

PERFORMERS

**Joshua Lucas**

**Maryam Najafzada**

*Special thanks to Judie Lee*

The Miraculous Magical Balloon *runs approximately 35 minutes  
and will be performed without an intermission.*

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Joshua Lucas** (ACTOR) is originally from the Shenandoah Valley where he studied dance and theater since his early childhood. He has worked with Synetic in their education programs and behind the scenes for several

years. Performing credits with Synetic include *The Tempest* (Stephano), *Snow Queen* (Kai), *The Phantom of the Opera* (ensemble), and "Day 6, Story 4" of *The Decameron*.



**Maryam Najafzada** (ACTOR) is a Synetic company member. Previous shows include *The Phantom of the Opera* (Christine), *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Horse Spirit), *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Roxanne), *Richard III* (Lady Ann),

*The Tempest* (Miranda), *Sleeping Beauty* (u/s Briar Rose), *Adventures of Peter Pan* (u/s Tinker Bell), *Titus Andronicus* (u/s Lavinia), *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (u/s, Performed Ensemble) as well as performing with Synetic's Outreach program. In addition, Najafzada holds Ballet Credits in the USA and Azerbaijan at the Manassas Ballet Theatre and Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theater. Other credits include: *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *La Bayadere*, *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Seven Beauties* and others at the Azerbaijan Musical Theater. She trained professionally in Ballet at Baku Choreographic Academy. Other education and certifications include: Theatre and Film from The Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Georgia. She also teaches Ballet Dance, Character Dance and Stretching.

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

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

**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 and Guest*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. He has directed over 60 productions including *Salomé*, *Bohemians*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, *The Dybbuk*, *Faust*, *Frankenstein*, *Macbeth*, *Animal Farm*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Carmen*, *Dante*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *King Arthur*, *King Lear*, *Don Quixote*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Synetic's inaugural production, *Hamlet ... the rest is silence* received 3 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Director, Outstanding Resident Play, and Outstanding Choreography. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained hundreds of actors in movement techniques through Synetic Theater and has taught at leading universities such as American University, Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University. Before moving to the USA he co-founded Mimodrama Theater in Germany and has toured worldwide. Paata holds an MFA in film directing from Tbilisi State University and a BFA in acting from The State Institute of Theater and Film in Tbilisi, Georgia.

**Jason Najjoun** (MANAGING DIRECTOR) Jason is the Managing Director of Synetic Theater, leading all fundraising, finance, operations, strategy, and external

relations efforts for this flagship cultural organization of National Landing. Previously, he served Yale Repertory Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, and New York Theatre Barn in various arts administration roles, including producer, general manager, and casting director. Jason's arts experience is augmented by several transformative experiences in the private sector, including at McChrystal Group, a global advisory services and leadership development firm, and at Bridgewater Associates, the world's leading hedge fund. Jason earned an MFA in Theater Management and MBA from Yale University, and an undergraduate degree from Emory University. Jason is Co-Chair of the Equity Committee of the National Landing BID and is an active member of Resource Generation. Jason is a native of Northern Virginia, and currently resides in the Eckington neighborhood of Washington, DC with his pup, Mia.



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A woman with short curly hair, wearing a blue sleeveless dress with a dark belt, is smiling and posing. She holds a large broom in her right hand and has her left hand raised in a gesture. The background is a vibrant purple with diagonal light streaks.

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