

SYNETIC  
THEATER  
FEB 9 - MAR 24

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ROMEO  
&  
JULIET

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

FEBRUARY 9 - MARCH 24, 2024

# ROMEO & JULIET

**Paata Tsikurishvili\***

DIRECTOR

**Irina Tsikurishvili~**

CHOREOGRAPHER

ADAPTED BY

**Nathan Weinberger\* & Paata Tsikurishvili**

**Koki Lortkipanidze\***

ORIGINAL MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN

**Brian S. Allard**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Phil Charlwood**

REMOUNT SCENIC DESIGNER

**Alexa Cassandra Duimstra**

REMOUNT COSTUME DESIGNER

**Irakli Kavsadze\* & Paata Tsikurishvili**

MUSIC DIRECTION & SOUND DESIGN

**Vato Tsikurishvili\***

REMOUNT FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

**Joshua Stout**

STAGE MANAGER

**Khue Duong**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**Joshua Cole Lucas\***

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Brandon Cook**

SOUND ENGINEER

**Dean Leong**

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Susannah Cai**

LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR

**Nathan Tilley**

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

**Alex F. Keen**

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

**Yiwen Feng**

STITCHER

**Anastasia Simes**

ORIGINAL SET, COSTUME & PROP DESIGN

**Ben Cunis\***

ORIGINAL FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

*This production runs approximately 85 minutes.*

***This production is generously sponsored by National Landing BID***

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.

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

\*Founding Company Member ~Founding Choreographer

\*Company Member



arlington arts



## CAST

**Zana Gankhuyag\***

ROMEO

**Irinka Kavsadze\***

JULIET

**Tony Amante**

MERCUTIO

**Vato Tsikurishvili\***

TYBALT

**Irakli Kavsadze\***

FRIAR

**Alex Mills\***

LORD CAPULET

**Janine Baumgardner\***

NURSE

**Jacob Thompson\***

PARIS

**Kaitlyn Shifflett\***

LADY CAPULET

**Lev Belolipetski\***

BALTHASAR

**Maryam Najafzada\***

COURTIER

**Hannah Chester**

ENSEMBLE

UNDERSTUDY

**Maia Potok-Holmes**

**Natan-Maël Gray**

APPRENTICE

**Elinor Davenport**

**Sofya Donets**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

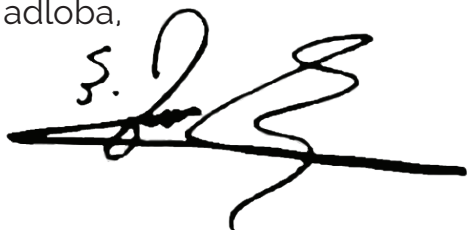
I'd like to welcome you all to Synetic's critically acclaimed wordless production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Much has changed in the world and in our lives in the decade-and-a-half since its 2008 premiere, but as with so much of Shakespeare's work, the story's relevance has only grown with the times.

The play's full, official title is 'The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet', and like all tragedies, the outcome of this one is inevitable. What dictates that outcome are the divisions in Juliet and Romeo's society of war-torn Verona, where rage and street violence are commonplace as their two families—the Montagues and the Capulets—battle each other for... What exactly? It's never specified. They fight simply because they've been fighting, without either side mentioning (or even remembering) the reason. Division, endless conflict, generational hate and misunderstanding, all of it self-perpetuating and ultimately self-defeating—to me, this is the real "tragedy" of Romeo and Juliet. This is the unfortunate timeliness of the play.

At the center of it all, though, we have at least a glimpse of something better—the true, pure love of the title characters. They may not be able to grasp everything they're feeling, or the consequences of their decisions, but for a while at least, they—and we the audience—can put the ugliness and violence that surrounds them aside. Their emotions have a truth, universality, and timelessness that transcends the written word, making this story especially adaptable to the visual style for which Synetic has become known for nearly a quarter-century. Here, that visual style is expressed not just through movement, but by setting - a giant clock. Time itself is a character here—an unstoppable one, no matter how fast Romeo, Juliet, or anyone else tries to outrun it. Love and endings — great tragedy is bittersweet. It raises us up and brings us down in the same strike of the clock.

This is also a bittersweet moment for Synetic, as this will be our final production in our Crystal City home. For the foreseeable future, Synetic will be literally "on the move." So I must thank our cast, crew, staff, board, audiences, and donors for making this production, and so many others, possible, and finally we extend our thanks to the entire National Landing community for helping make Synetic such a vital artistic force in the this neighborhood, in Arlington, and in our entire region these past 15 years.

Madloba,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Tsikurishvili', written over a horizontal line.

**Paata Tsikurishvili** FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



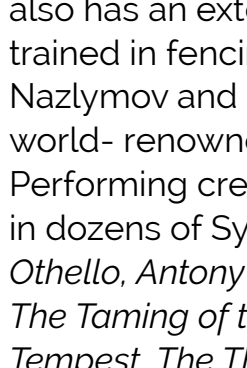
**Zana Gankhuyag** (ROMEO) is a Mongolian American actor aiming to inspire greatness and challenge the status quo in film and theater. He is thrilled to be back at Synetic Theater as Romeo. Previous Synetic shows include *Beast (Beauty and the Beast)*, *Feste (Twelfth Night)*, *Shadow (Adventures of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



**Irinka Kavsadze** (JULIET) is thrilled to be returning to the Synetic stage. Synetic Theater: *Titus Andronicus* (Lavinia); *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle); *Hamlet* (Ophelia); *Twelfth Night* (Maria); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia); *The Tempest* (Miranda); *Taming of the Shrew* (Bianca).



**Tony Amante** (MERCUTIO) is an ex-college athlete turned actor since 2017. He has been with Synetic since *Beauty and the Beast* 2023. Tony understudied through summer 2023 and took the mainstage in *The Tell-Tale Heart* 2023 in the vulture ensemble.

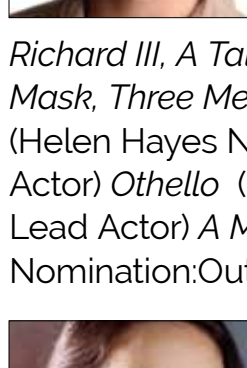


**Vato Tsikurishvili** (TYBALT) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Vato Tsikurishvili is an award-winning actor, choreographer, and educator with more than a decade of experience imparting Synetic Theater's unique style to audiences and students of all ages. Performing with his parents, Synetic co-founders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



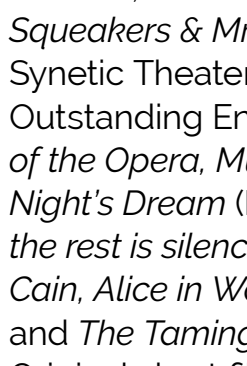
**Irakli Kavsadze** (FRIAR) is a Founding Company Member. His recent credits include: *The Golden Fish* (Old Man), *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Old Man), *Beauty and the Beast* (Jean Paul); *King Lear* (King Lear); *Macbeth* (Macbeth);

*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.



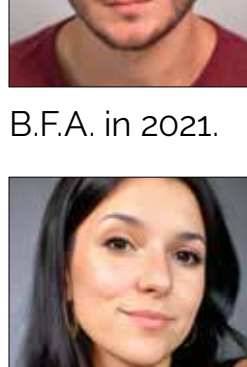
**Alex Mills** (LORD CAPULET) Local credits include Studio Theatre: *Wig Out!*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *2-2 Tango*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* Signature Theatre: *Shakespeare's R&J* Synetic Theater: *The Tempest*,

*Richard III*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Three Men in a Boat (to say nothing of the dog)* (Helen Hayes Nomination:Outstanding Supporting Actor) *Othello* (Helen Hayes Nomination:Outstanding Lead Actor) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helen Hayes Nomination:Outstanding Supporting Actor)

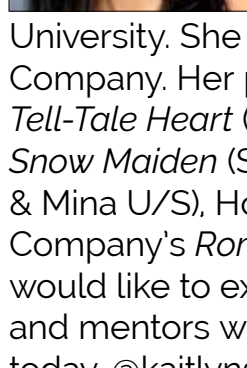


**Janine Baumgardner** (NURSE) is a Synetic Theater Company Member. Recent credits: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Olney Theatre Center), *The Queen's Ball: A Bridgerton Experience* (Netflix/Shondaland/Fever), *Monstress* (Flying V), *Jardín Salvaje* (GALA Hispanic Theatre), *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* (Rorschach Theatre), *Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop* (Arts on the Horizon).

Synetic Theater: *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mexico Tour and Crystal City), *Hamlet... the rest is silence*, *Shakespeare Revue*, *The Mark of Cain*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Synetic Motion Pictures: Original short films "Sweet Basil" (The Decameron) and "Princess and the Caterpillar" (Brother's Grimm and Other Tales). Choreography credits: *Cinderella* (Synetic Theater); *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* and *Little Women* (NextStop Theatre Company). Education: B.F.A. in Dance from George Mason University. Janine is extremely grateful to Irina and Paata for their contributions to D.C. theater and to her own artistic growth, and for this opportunity to perform in the last show at her theatrical home. Instagram: @janinebaumgardner



**Jacob Thompson** (PARIS) is ecstatic to be back at Synetic as Paris in this production of *Romeo & Juliet*, marking his tenth show with Synetic. Previously, he attended George Mason University where he studied acting, earning his B.F.A. in 2021.



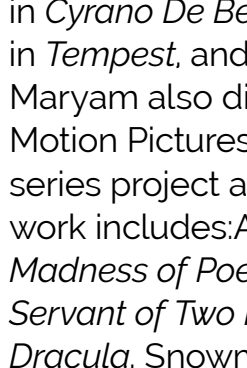
**Kaitlyn Shifflett** (LADY CAPULET) is thrilled to be a part of yet another production here at Synetic Theater this season. Kaitlyn is currently pursuing a BFA in theater performance at George Mason University. She is a proud alum of Synetic's Teen Company. Her past Synetic acting credits include: *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Poe Vulture), *The Golden Fish* (Wife), *Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden U/S), *Dracula* (Wives & Mina U/S), *Host & Guest* (U/S), and Synetic Teen Company's *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Capulet). 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



**Lev Belolipetski** (BALTHASAR/ ENSEMBLE) is a proud Teen Company alumni, and excited to work on a production with Synetic's mainstage. Lev hopes you enjoy the show!



**Maryam Najafzada** (COURTIER) 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. Synetic credits include: 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*. Maryam also directed and performed with Synetic Motion Pictures and was part of "The Decameron" series project as well as other short films. Most recent work includes:Assistant Choreographer and Raven in *Madness of Poe*, Choreographer and Smeraldina in *Servant of Two Masters*, Deer in *Host & Guest*,Wife in *Dracula*, Snowmaiden in *Snowmaiden*, *Golden Fish* in *The Golden Fish*. Maryam is also a teaching artist with Synetics educational program for Pre-Teen company, and teaches ballet, character dance, pantomime, and ballet fitness for all ages.

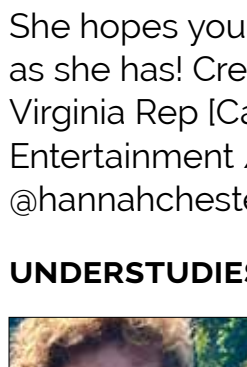


**Hannah Chester** (ENSEMBLE) is a DC-based actor and dancer who is thrilled to be performing in her 2nd production with Synetic. She graduated in May 2023 with her BAs in Theatre and Communications from UMW. Hannah would like to thank her friends, loved ones, and best fur friends for all of their support. She hopes you all fall in love with this show as much as she has! Credits: *The Emperor's New Clothes*, Virginia Rep [Cashmere] / Dancer with Carbone Entertainment / *The Golden Fish*, Synetic Theater [US]. @hannahchesterr

## UNDERSTUDIES



**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 competitive gymnastics, swimming, dance and bodybuilding, he has found his second home at Synetic Theater. A member of the Teen Company since 2018, Natan has appeared in the roles of Petruccio, Sebastian, Laertes, Tybalt and Oberon. On the main stage, Natan has also amassed multiple roles as an understudy and cast member notably in *Host & Guest*, *Dracula*, *Tell-Tale Heart*, *Golden Fish* and *Snow Maiden*. At Québec, in Canada, he often has the privilege of observing the theatrical creations of actor, writer and leading stage director Robert Lepage.



**Maia Potok-Holmes** Originally from Philly, Maia Potok-Holmes is a dancer and performing artist based in Arlington, VA. Maia has worked previously with Synetic Theater (*Cyrano de Bergerac & Beauty and the Beast*) and has performed locally with Imagination Stage (*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*) and as a company member with MotionX Dance Company, Gin Dance Company, and Therese Gahl & Company. Maia has also originated and performed roles in works by choreographers like Matthew Neenan, Diane Coburn Bruning, Christian von Howard, and Milton Myers. Maia received her formal training at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy, Goucher College, BalletNova Center for Dance, Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, Signature Theatre, and Washington Ballet. www.maiapotokholmes.com IG:@\_maiaiph

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**Paata Tsikurishvili** (DIRECTOR, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Paata is an innovative, award-winning international artistic director, director, and educator with more than 30 years of experience fusing the classical elements of drama, movement, dance, pantomime, and music. Since Synetic Theater's founding in 2001, Mr. Tsikurishvili has received an impressive 25 Helen Hayes Award Nominations and has won the awards 9-times. Together with his wife and co-founder Irina, he was named "Washingtonian of the Year" in 2013. Mr. Tsikurishvili has directed and performed in *Hamlet ... the rest is silence*, *The Master and Margarita*, *The Crackpots*, *Dracula*, *Host & Guest*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. He has directed over 60 productions including *Salomé*, *Bohemians*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, *The Dybbuk*, *Faust*, *Frankenstein*, *Macbeth*, *Animal Farm*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Carmen*, *Dante*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *King Arthur*, *King Lear*, *Don Quixote*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Synetic's inaugural production, *Hamlet ... the rest is silence* received 3 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Director, Outstanding Resident Play, and Outstanding Choreography. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained hundreds of actors in movement techniques through Synetic Theater and has taught at leading universities such as American University, Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University. Before moving to the USA he co-founded Mimodrama Theater in Germany and has toured worldwide. Paata holds an M.F.A. in film directing from Tbilisi State University and a B.F.A. in acting from The State Institute of Theater and Film in Tbilisi, Georgia.

**Irina Tsikurishvili** (CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDING ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A native of the Republic of Georgia, Ms. Tsikurishvili is a 58-time Helen Hayes Award Nominee and has won the award 14 times for her outstanding choreography and acting. Irina has choreographed all Synetic Theater's productions including *The Crackpots*, *Dracula*, *Host & Guest*, *Frankenstein*, *Island of Doctor Moreau*, *Salomé*, *Bohemians*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, *The Dybbuk*, *Faust*, *Frankenstein*, *Macbeth*, *Animal Farm*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Carmen*, *Dante*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *King Arthur*, *King Lear*, *Don Quixote*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Three Musketeers*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, and many more. Ms. Tsikurishvili has taught at Georgetown University, where she choreographed *Lysistrata*. She continues to run intensive movement workshops and train Synetic cast members. With her husband Paata, she is the co-founder of Synetic Theater and co-founder of Stanislavsky Theater Studio. Paata & Irina were named Washingtonians of the Year in 2013. Irina graduated from Chabukiani National Ballet Academy in Tbilisi Georgia and holds BFA in Performing Arts.

**Nathan Weinberger** (RESIDENT DRAMATURG/ADAPTOR) 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 Resident Play or Musical Adaptation.

**Koki Lortkipanidze** (RESIDENT COMPOSER) is a native of Tbilisi, Georgia, and has composed original music for 14 Synetic Productions and has received 5 Helen Hayes nominations for his sound designs and received 1 award. He has also composed original music for films including *First Steps*, *Essay* (both directed by Paata Tsikurishvili), and *Marage*. His compositions for theater include work for *Hunter from the Sun*, *Guest of the Night*, *Mimikria*, *Labyrinth*, and *The Decameron*. His work has been performed at music festivals across Europe, including the Maqs Ophulos festival in Germany and the International Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam. Mr. Lortkipanidze received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Tbilisi State Conservatory.

**Phil Charwood** (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. Charwood also works with local schools to develop their technical drama programs.

**Joshua Cole Lucas** (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) is a DC based actor, dancer, teaching artist, and theatrical carpenter. He has worked primarily with Synetic Theater, credits include *The Tempest* (Stephano), *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).

**Alexa Cassandra Duimstra** (REMOUNT COSTUME DESIGNER) is a DC area costume designer and illustrator. Previous work includes, *The Madness of Poe* and *Snow Queen* at Synetic, *La Valentina* at Gala, *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea* at Rorschach, *The Cake* at Prologue, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Little Women* at NextStop, *Birds of a Feather* and *Jingle Journey* at Arts on the Horizon. You can see more of her work at alexaduumstra.com

**Brian S. Allard** (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, opera, and architecture. Previously at Synetic: *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*.

**Brandon Cook** (SOUND ENGINEER) is a local Washington DC Sound Designer and is thankful for the amazing opportunity to work with the wonderful and talented cast and crew of *Snow Maiden*. (Recent credits include *Tell Tale Heart* Synetic Theater, *Seussical The Musical* Keegan Theatre 2023, *This Girl Laughs*, *This Girl Cries*, *This Girl Does Nothing* Theatre Alliance 2023, *Lifespan Of A Fact* Keegan Theatre 2023, *La Revoltosa* Gala Theatre 2022, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Hedda Gabler* Shakespeare Theatre Company ACA Rep 2022.)

**Joshua Stout** (STAGE MANAGER) started his Synetic journey last may, and has been stage managing here ever since, his past credits include *Bloom*, *Cyrano*, *Tell Tale Heart*, *The Golden fish*, and *Snow Maiden*. In his previous experience Joshua has worked around the D.C and Virginia area, such as, Shakespeare Theater Company, Metrostage, Woolly Mammoth, Folger, and Riverside Center. Joshua's life motto is always "Life is a fairy tale. But to see it, you must open your eyes".

**Dean Leong** (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a freelance Lighting Designer from the Washington DC area. Recent design credits include: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Wolves* with CUA Drama Dept. BURST, and *Ghost Light* with Parlor Room Theater Co. *The Infinite Tales*, *Museum 2040*, and *Tempered: A Cabaret* with 4615 Theatre Co. *Chemical Exile: Synthesis*, *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really*, and *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea* with Rorschach Theater Co. *Fitting In* with Arts on the Horizon. *My Mama* and *the Full Scale Invasion* with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Associate). He would like to thank his wife and daughter for their love and support.

**Khue Duong** (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is happy to be returning to Synetic Theater, where her previous productions include *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *Snow Maiden*. She is a graduate of George Mason University.

**Nathan Tilley** (WARDROBE SUPERVISOR) is a soon to be graduate of George Mason University with a BFA in Theater and a Concentration in Performance. He has worked as a Director, Dramaturg, and Actor before, for various productions, but this is Nathan's first production with Synetic.

**Ellie Daveport** (APPRENTICE) is ecstatic to be a part of Synetic's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is her first time working on a main stage show and she is so excited for audiences to see the work the cast has put into this show. Her previous roles include ensemble in *Teen Twelfth Night* and *Kathrine* in *Teen Taming of the Shrew*. She is currently *Lady Capulet* in the Teen Company's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to understudy for this show and she thanks the entire Synetic family for letting her be a part of this show!

**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!

**Ben Cunis** (MANAGING DIRECTOR) Artist, filmmaker, teacher and arts administrator Ben Cunis first joined Synetic Theater in 2006 as a recent alumna 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 2/01/2023-2/01/2024.  
If you see any corrections, please contact  
[ben@synetictheater.org](mailto:ben@synetictheater.org).*

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