



SYNETIC  
THEATER

SEPTEMBER 29 - NOVEMBER 5



# THE TELL-TALE HEART

@SyneticTheater



*This production is generously sponsored by Claire & David Maklan.*

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

SEPTEMBER 29- NOVEMBER 5, 2023

# THE TELL-TALE HEART

DIRECTOR

**Paata Tsikurishvili\***

CHOREOGRAPHER

**Irina Tsikurishvili~**

RESIDENT DRAMATURG/ADAPTOR

**Nathan Weinberger\***

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

**Vato Tsikurishvili\***

RESIDENT COMPOSER

**Koki Lortkipanidze\***

MUSIC SUPERVISOR

**Irakli Kavsadze\***

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Phil Charwood**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**Erik Teague**

ASSOCIATE COSTUME DESIGNER

**Alexa Duimstra**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Brian S. Allard**

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Hailey LaRoe**

SOUND DESIGNER/ENGINEER

**Brandon Cook**

PROPS DESIGNER

**Claire Caverly**

SCENIC DESIGNER

**Daniel Pinha**

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER

**Stella Pugliesi**

STAGE MANAGER

**Joshua Stout**

INTERIM REHEARSAL STAGE MANAGER

**Claire Beekman**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**Khue Duong**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Mark Carmouze**

**Alex F. Keen** ..... Master Electrician

**Kristen Patrick** ..... Stitcher/Draper

**Joshua Stout & Khue Duong** ..... Wardrobe

**Susannah Cai** ..... Lighting Programmer & Board Operator

**Luca Maggs** ..... Stand-in Light Board Operator

**Tim Grant and Keeka Grant** ..... Scenic Painters

**Ana Tsikurishvili** ..... A1

\*Founding Company Member ~Founding Choreographer

+Company Member

*This production runs approximately 100 minutes.*

**The Tell-Tale Heart is generously sponsored by Claire & David Maklan.**

**Special thanks to Tim Grant, and Keeka Grant, and to Keegan Theatre for their equipment loan.**

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 program is also supported by the National Landing Business Improvement District, and JBG Smith.

*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.*



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This past year has been a painful one for me. As some of you may know, I was in a serious accident at the end of 2022, in which I almost lost my life. As I was recovering, I relived some of my darkest times, which I think is pretty common when we come face to face with our own mortality.

After adapting dozens of works by classic authors, I felt as if, while I was recovering, I "met" the most disturbed of them all—Edgar Allan Poe. I have some prior experience with him, directing adaptations of "The Fall of the House of Usher" and, more recently, "The Madness of Poe"—a hybrid of our "Usher" adaptation and his poem "The Raven." But the accident made me dig deep, to the bottom of my... heart.

Poe seemed to live in a constant fear of death and a never-ending terror of losing his mind. Based on his writings, the tragedies and losses he suffered, he was trapped in an endless nightmare. I'm of course, much more fortunate than him in this, but finding myself in the place I was in—living in a kind of twilight between life and death, where logic and reason have no meaning—I began to finally and truly understand where he was coming from.

Prior to this, I also took care of my mother, who was ill with dementia—a state where, similarly, all things become blurred. Watching her inspired me to have the Old Man in Poe's story suffer from a similar condition, existing in the same mental limbo.

From all these experiences comes Synetic Theater's adaptation of Poe's legendary "Tell-Tale Heart"—one of the most vivid stories ever written about crossing over into that other realm, where we have lost touch with reality, where madness and death are inescapable. All these elements come together in their own ways in Poe's story, just as they did for me. It was a terrifying experience, one that I hope we've equaled in our version of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart." Enjoy...

**Paata Tsikurishvili** FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## CAST

OLD MAN

**Irakli Kavsadze\***

EDGAR

**Alex Mills\***

VULTURE

**Lev Belolipetski\***

VULTURE

**Kaitlyn Shifflett**

VUTURE

**Tony Amante**

VULTURE

**Josh Lucas\***

VULTURE/EDGAR UNDERSTUDY

**Zana Gankhuyag**

VULTURE/OLD MAN UNDERSTUDY

**Vato Tsikurishvili\***

UNDERSTUDY

**Natan-Maël Gray**

\*Company Member

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Irakli Kavsadze** (OLD MAN) is a Founding Company Member. His recent credits include: *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** (EDGAR) 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)

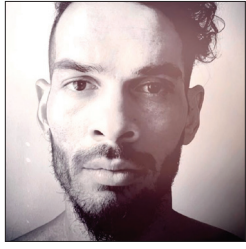
*Othello* (Helen Hayes Nomination: Outstanding Lead Actor) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helen Hayes Nomination: Outstanding Supporting Actor)



**Lev Belolipetski** (VULTURE) is a proud Teen Company alumni, and excited to work on his fifth production with Synetic's mainstage. Previous credits include: Synetic Teen Company: *Hamlet* (Horatio/Player King/Ensemble) *Twelfth Night* (Feste/Ensemble) Synetic Company: *Midsummer* (Lysander) *Host and Guest* (Ensemble) *Dracula* (Ensemble) *Beauty and the Beast* (Ensemble). Lev hopes you enjoy the show!



**Kaitlyn Shiflett** (VULTURE) is thrilled to be a part of yet another spooky production here at Synetic Theater. 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: *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 that have helped her get to where she is today. @kaitlynshiflett



**Tony Amante** (VULTURE) is a local DC actor and has been an understudy with Synetic in *Beauty and the Beast* (2023), and *Cyrano De Bergerac* (2023).

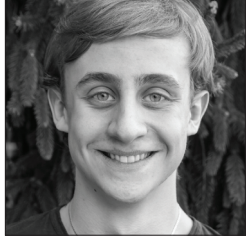


**Zana Gankhuyag** (VULTURE/EDGAR UNDERSTUDY) is a Mongolian American actor aiming to inspire greatness and challenge the status quo in film and theater. Previous Synetic roles include: Christian (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) Beast

(*Beauty and the Beast*) Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*), Feste (*Twelfth Night*), Shadow (*Adventures of Peter Pan*), and Prince (*Sleeping Beauty*). Other work includes *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.

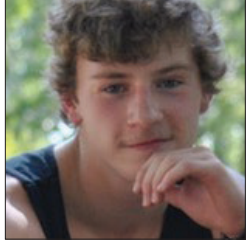


**Vato Tsikurishvili** (VULTURE/OLD MAN UNDERSTUDY) See this artist's biography in the Creative Team section!



**Josh Lucas** (VULTURE) 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).

### UNDERSTUDY



**Natan-Maël Gray** is, in a way, a conjunction between the sun of Virginia and the ice of Québec. After several years of competitive gymnastics, swimming, dance and bodybuilding, Natan-Maël 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. He made his professional debut with Synetic Theater in 2022 as both an understudy and in the role of a villager in *Host and Guest* and in *Dracula*. He regularly receives special invitations to observe the theatrical creations of actor, writer and leading stage director Robert Lepage in Québec, Canada.

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### **Paata Tsikurishvili** (FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR)

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

### **Irina Tsikurishvili** (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.

### **Vato Tsikurishvili** (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER)

has most recently been seen as Cyrano in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Truffaldino in *The Servant of Two Masters*. Some prior roles include Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Dante in *Dante's Inferno*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Roderigo in *Othello*, Lancelot in *King Arthur* and Caliban in *Tempest* among others. 2017 marks a decade of training, performing and teaching at Synetic. As a teaching artist at Synetic he has traveled throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia, performing in outreach shows and leading workshops to thousands of students a year. He is also trained in gymnastics by his Grandfather; retired Coach of The Ohio State Buckeyes Mens Gymnastics team and former coach of the USA and USSR men's gymnastics teams, Arnold Kvetenadze. He is also a former fencer having trained under 3 time Saber gold medalist and coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes, Vladimir Nazlymov, for 5 years. Vato has also received training in fight choreography from Ben Cunis, and is currently the fight choreographer at Synetic. Some credits include *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Dante's Inferno* and *Man in the Iron Mask*.

### **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 Charlwood** (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

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.

### **Erik Teague** (COSTUME DESIGNER)

DC AREA: Synetic Theater: *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Man in the Iron Mask*. Washington National Opera: *The Lion*, *The Unicorn and Me*; The Kennedy Center: *The Mortification of Fovea Munson*; Constellation Theatre: *Master and Margarita*, *The Wild Party*, *Equus*; Signature: *Ragtime*, *RENT*, *Blackbeard*; REGIONAL: The Glimmerglass Festival: *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *La bohème*, *Ariadne in Naxos*, *The Jungle Book*; Opera Southwest: *Lohengrin*; New Orleans Opera: *Hansel and Gretel*; The Atlanta Opera: *The Threepenny Opera*, *Cabaret*, *As One*. Chicago Opera Theatre: *The Nose*. [www.erikteaguedesign.com](http://www.erikteaguedesign.com)

### **Alexa Cassandra Duimstra** (ASSISTANT 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](http://alexaduumstra.com)

### **Brian S. Allard** (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, opera, and architecture. Previously at Synetic: *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*.

### **Hailey LaRoe** (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER)

is excited to be back at Synetic assisting on this haunting new work! Hailey is a Lighting Designer and Projection Designer, based in the DC area since 2018. Her recent Lighting credits include; *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *Bloom* (Synetic theatre), *The 39 Steps* (NextStop Theatre), *The Tempest* (Classic theatre of Maryland), *Hurricane Diane*, & *Julius Cesar* (Avant Bard), *Principe y Principe* (Gala Theatre). Her recent projection design credits include; *Bathing in Moonlight*, and *Kumanana* (Gala Theatre), *Monsters of the American Cinema* (Prologue Theatre), *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea* (Rorschach Theatre). Enjoy the show! [Haileylaroedesigns.com](http://Haileylaroedesigns.com).

### **Claire Caverly** (PROPS DESIGNER)

is a NYC-based scenic artist, designer, and props artisan, as well as a current graduate student in Exhibition & Experience Design at Fashion Institute of Technology. Recent artist credits include *Tell Tale Heart* at Synetic Theatre (Washington, D.C.), *Sleep No More* at The McKittrick Hotel (NYC), *Omar* at Spoleto Festival USA (Charleston, SC/Tour), and *Cats the Musical: National Tour* (Tour). Claire also works with the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage on the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Her passions include engaging arts programming, flea markets, and her family and little dog, Beans.

### **Brandon Cook** (SOUND DESIGNER/ENGINEER)

a local Washington DC Sound Designer, is excited to be working again with Synetic Theater. He is thankful for the amazing opportunity and to the wonderful and talented cast and crew of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. (Recent credits include: *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.)

### **Daniel Pinha** (SCENIC DESIGNER)

earned a Scenic Design degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and an MFA from the University of Maryland. His career spans theater, film, and television, with international collaborations. Notably, he worked with photographer Carrie Mae Weems on a multimedia installation at New York's Park Avenue Armory. In Brazil, he collaborated with the Oscar-nominated actress Fernanda Montenegro on set design and a graphic design project. Daniel is an Associate Professor at Loyola University Maryland. His most recent shows at Synetic were *The Adventures of Peter Pan*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Trial* which he was nominated for Helen Hayes Awards: Outstanding Set Design. Daniel is also the founder of the Company Giiraf.

### **Stella Pugliesi** (ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER)

is a set designer and architect who graduated from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora in Architecture and Urbanism. She has worked in Brazilian television for over 10 years, primarily on soap operas and series. At Synetic, she previously worked in production, assisting Daniel Pinha in shows such as *The Adventures of Peter Pan* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

### **Joshua Stout** (STAGE MANAGER)

This is Joshua's third performance at Synetic Theater Company. Previous work for Synetic includes *Cyrano De Bergerac*, and *Bloom*. Other credits include companies, such as, Shakespeare Theater Company, Metrostage, Riverside Dinner Theater, Inseries: Opera that Speaks, and Workhouse Arts Center. When Joshua is not working in the Theater world, he is working as a Vet assistant. If he does have any spare time, he works in his studio making clay pots or cups. In his next theater adventure he will continue with Synetic working in their 2023-2024 season.

### **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 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 9/19/2022-9/19/2023. If you see any corrections, please contact [emily@synetictheater.org](mailto:emily@synetictheater.org).*

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Jere Broh-Kahn  
Tim & Trish Carrico  
John Chamberlin  
Sandra Cummins-Haid  
Nancy DeKieffer  
Tracy Fisher  
Carol Fuller  
Doris & Mark Greene  
Gary & Loretta Harris  
Judy Honig  
Marc & Mary Hutchinson  
Marianne Keler  
Michael Kershow  
Michael & Erna Kerst  
Renee Klish  
Molly Lynch  
Karina Mosser  
Richard Norland  
Christy Pino  
Sundai Riggins  
Ellen Von Seggern-Richter  
Suzanne Thouvenelle  
Steve Verna  
Susan Yamada  
Julie & David Zalkind

### ოქრო

#### Okro (Gold)

**\$500-\$999**

Anonymous  
Donald Adams  
Deborah Connor  
Ryan Danks  
Debra Diener  
Nancy Durso  
Michael Moore & Sara Franks  
Pamela Frazier  
Tracy Sayegh Gabriel  
Lisa Greenhill  
Suzanne Grinnan  
Alec Guroff  
Brooke Higdon  
Nancy Limprecht  
Wes MacAdam  
Jane Mann  
Adele Mouzon  
Peter Neal  
Lutz Prager  
William Ragen  
Judy Rivlin  
Richard T. Scully  
Peter Threadgill

### ვერცხლი

#### Vertskli (Silver)

**\$250-\$499**

Eleanor Allen  
Nigel Armbruster  
Melanie Barton  
Kyle Z. Bell  
Marilynn Bianco  
Bruce Blanchard  
Tia Cantrell  
Scott Cantrell  
Nancy Castell  
Sarah Cochran  
Jade Eaton  
Margaret Gaffen  
Mary Gaitan  
Amy Garcia  
Kevin Hennessy  
Lucia Hill  
Patricia Jackman  
Nana Khizanishvili  
Douglas Lanier  
Nathan Little  
Tracy Lush  
Abby Lynch  
Joelen Merkel  
Pete Neal  
Nick Newlin  
Joseph O'Hare  
Emeline Otey  
Jennifer Paxton  
David Ramer  
Sharon Rennert  
Kathleen Smith  
Carole Stover  
Noris Weiss Malvey

### ბრინჯაო

#### Brinjao (Bronze)

**\$100-\$249**

Jerome Andersen  
Patricia Arnold  
Lisa Backer  
Adele Baker  
Katherine Barners  
Julia Belcher  
Colin Browne  
Elizabeth Bruce  
Candice Bryant  
Jeffrey Buczacki  
Gail Burkhardt Cali  
Hugh Camitta  
Carol Cataldo  
Kathryn Catania  
Eva Catlin  
Lynda Couvillion  
Maria Couvillon  
Paulette Cushman  
Sandy Dawsey  
Richard Dowell  
Mark Edwards  
Sharon & Grant Elliot  
Susan English  
Lynn Etheredge  
Condas Family  
Pam & Mark Fiumara  
Jo Garrison  
Val Golovskoy  
Gary Gortenburg  
Kingdon Gould III  
Lorna Grenadier  
David Grimsted  
Katharine S. Guroff  
Douglas Hale  
Richard Haynes  
Perpetua Heggi  
Madeline Helbraun  
Laura Hesse  
Barbara Hoffheins  
Thomas Holzman  
John Hughes  
Angela Hughes  
Lisa Ide  
Samuel Jackson  
Jane Jorgensen  
Olga Kaganova  
Deborah Kirkman  
Robert Lawrence  
Michael Lotke  
Bob Lyness  
Carol Mates  
Barbara McBride  
Bruce McFarland  
Sandy McKenzie  
Robin Meigel  
John Merchant  
Roy Miller  
Keith Miller  
Judy Mize  
James Myers  
Andrea Nash  
Carl Nash  
Jaclyn Nelson  
Louisa Newlin  
Wendy Patterson  
Michelle Pendoley  
Natasha Perkins  
Roslyn Reeded  
Amanda Reina  
Miriam Riner  
Peter Rothschild  
W. Geoffrey Seeley  
Mary Sellen  
Dana Semmes  
David Siegel  
Natalia Simakova  
Arlene Sirkin  
Corinne Smith  
Hossein Sorurie  
Lynn Soukup  
Anna Szmajda  
Sivakumar Tadikonda  
Jessica Tava  
Rose Thun  
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Paul Traunero  
Cori Uccello  
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