Manatee Players and
Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby

Present



Book by **Terrence McNally**

Music by **Stephen Flaherty**

Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Inspired by the **Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures**
by special arrangement with **Buena Vista**

From the play by **Marcelle Maurette** as adapted by **Guy Bolton**

Director/Choreographer
Cynthia Ashford

Musical Director **Paul Smith**	Set Designer **In-House**	Projection Designer **Nick Jones**
Costume Designer **Caren Brady**	Lighting Designer **Nick Jones**	Stage Managers **Neal Addison &** **Cori Rigney**

December 3 - November 13, 2026
Stone Hall at Manatee Performing Arts Center

Theater Information

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket. Although there are no age restrictions, parents should use discretion regarding appropriateness of some offerings. Information on shows, including recommended ages, is available at our Box Office.

LATECOMERS

Tickets are valid only if presented for admission before the start of the date and time of the show listed. Patrons arriving late are not guaranteed admission, but may be seated on an “as available” basis at the sole discretion of management.

SMOKING/VAPING

Smoking or use of e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited within the facility.

ELECTRONIC & RECORDING DEVICES

Due to copyright restrictions, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during performances. Please turn off all electronic devices.

EMERGENCY EXITS

Please familiarize yourself with nearest exit sign.

ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to make our performances and facilities accessible to everyone and adheres to all regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations.

BOOSTER SEATS

Booster seats are available by request for those who need them. Please see a team member at the information desk located in the lobby.

NOISE REDUCTION EAR PROTECTION

We have both adult and child-sized hearing protection for those with sound sensitivity. Stop by the information desk to secure a set to better enjoy the live entertainment.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and 1 hour prior to a show.
Phone: 941-748-5875
Online: ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

STONE HALL



BRADENTON KIWANIS THEATER



Director's Notes



Cynthia Ashford

When I began working on Anastasia, I found myself wanting to learn more about the actual history behind the story. The more I learned, the more I realized how complicated that history was. While the brutal murder of the Romanov family was a terrible tragedy, we also cannot overlook the struggles and suffering of the Russian people during that time. History is rarely as simple as good versus evil.

As I spent more time with these characters, I began to realize that what I loved most about this musical had very little to do with finding a lost princess. "You can't be anyone unless you first recognize yourself." These words, spoken by the Dowager Empress, really stood out to me.

Anya is searching for her identity and a place where she belongs. Dimitri, having spent much of his life simply trying to survive, is challenged to look beyond his own ambitions and discover what truly matters to him. Gleb, whose story I find particularly compelling, struggles between his loyalty to his country, his father's legacy, and what he feels in his own heart.

And then there is the Dowager Empress. Imagine spending nearly ten years grieving the loss of your family while holding on to the smallest hope that your granddaughter might still be alive. After years of people coming forward claiming to be Anastasia, she has almost become afraid to hope.

"I used to open each one with a beating heart. Could this be my precious Anastasia? But, after so many disappointments, I've come to dread the daily post."

What I find interesting about these four characters is how much their lives are influenced by their pasts and how each of them must face the uncertainty of what comes next.

As Anya says, "People always say life is full of choices, no one ever mentions fear."

I think there is something we can all relate to in that statement. Making choices, especially when they go against what we have always known or what is expected of us, can be frightening.

Just because the generations before us did things a certain way does not mean we have to follow the same path. That doesn't mean we have to forget our history or turn our backs on those who came before us. It means we have an opportunity to learn from them, from both the good and the bad, and hopefully make better choices of our own.

For me, Anastasia is about so much more than discovering who you are or where you come from. It's about deciding who you want to be. It's about understanding that love is more important than rank, that character is more important than wealth, and that there is always room for compassion, even when history might tell us otherwise.

May we embrace our history, learn from its triumphs and its mistakes, and carry those lessons with us as we create a tomorrow of our own.

Enjoy the journey!

Cynthia Ashford
Director & Choreographer

Anastasia - Cast

Anya / Anastasia.....Rue Brown
Dmitry.....Gary Kurnov
Vladimir “Vlad” Popov.....Chris Caswell
Gleb Vaganov.....Neil Bleiweiss
Dowager Empress.....Patricia Lawrence
Countess Lily Malevsky-Malevitch.....Brittney Klepper
Romanov Family.....
Tsar Nicholas.....Joe Eckstein
Tsarina Alexandra.....Zoe Figgins
Olga Romanov.....Kiana Knuth
Maria Romanov.....Raegan Caffrey
Tatiana Romano.....Claire Arnold
Teen Anastasia.....Emmie Canada
Young Anastasia.....Norah Ruark* / Audrey Michelle Prieto**
Prince Alexei.....Audrey Michelle Prieto** / Norah Ruark*
Romanov Husbands.....Noah Henry, Connor Longo
Timothy Penberthy, Lewis Tillman
Drunkards.....Joe Eckstein, Connor Longo
Timothy Penberthy, Ben Rigney
Marfa.....Raegan Caffrey
Paulina.....Zoe Figgins
Dunya.....Angela Monetti
Communist Soldiers.....Joe Eckstein, Noah Henry, Ben Rigney
Communist Women.....Emmie Canada, Brittney Klepper, Kiana Knuth
Gorlinsky.....Ben Rigney
Count Ipolitov.....Joe Eckstein
Count Leopold.....Ben Rigney
Train Announcer.....Timothy Penberthy
Smoker Man.....Ben Rigney
Sergei.....Timothy Penberthy
Count Gregory.....Joe Eckstein
Countess Gregory.....Raegan Caffrey
Count Leopold.....Ben Rigney
Swan Lake.....
Odette.....Kiana Knuth
Prince Siegfried.....Timothy Penberthy
Von Rothbart.....Noah Henry
Swan Ballerinas.....Raegan Caffrey, Zoe Figgins
Angela Monetti, Ellie Roberts

Anastasia - Cast

Ensemble.....Claire Arnold, Raegan Caffrey Emmie Canada
Joe Eckstein, Zoe Figgins, Eleanor Gassenhofer
Noah Henry, Kiana Knuth, Connor Longo
Angela Monetti, Timothy Penberthy, Audrey Michelle Prieto
Ben Rigney, Ellie Roberts, Norah Ruark, Lewis Tillman
Swing / Understudy.....Porter Osuch***

* Young Anastasia – 12/03, 12/05, 12/09, 12/11, 12/13;
Prince Alexei – 12/04, 12/06, 12/10, 12/12

** Young Anastasia – 12/04, 12/06, 12/10, 12/12;
Prince Alexei – 12/03, 12/05, 12/09, 12/11, 12/13

*** Understudy for Timothy Penberthy on 12/06

Anastasia - Crew

Production Manager.....Kristin Ribble
Assistant Technical Director.....Larry Crouse
Master Electrician.....Tom Sparks, Thomas Anderson
Stage Manager / Light Board.....Neal Addison
Rehearsal Stage Manager.....Cori Rigney
Sound Board.....Kristin Ribble, Becky Ruark
Assistant Stage Manager.....Cori Rigney
Follow Spots.....Marilyn Andreini, Misty Canada, Diane Rabbu
Swing Crew.....Cherilyn Ashlock, Mark Heuberger
Sound Cue Design.....Cory Boyas
Sound Mixing.....Neal Addison, Kristin Ribble
Props.....Cynthia Ashford, Kristin Ribble
Set Construction.....Thomas Anderson, Phil Croome
Mike Harris, Steve Leggett
Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti, Bill Watts
Set Painting.....Thomas Anderson, Mike Harris, Steve Leggett
Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti, Bill Watts
Costume Construction.....Caren Brady, Gwen Certo, Darci Collins
Barbara Duncan, Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargaden
Arda Letson, Kelly Rauch, Karen Roach
Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich, Dina White
Wigs.....Caren Brady
Special Thanks.....Diane Broda, Dan Yonko

Anastasia - Songs

ACT ONE

Prologue: Once Upon a December.....Young Anastasia
Dowager Empress
The Last Dance of the Romanovs.....Romanov Family &
Husbands
A Rumor in St. Petersburg.....Dmitry, Vlad, Company
In My Dreams.....Anya
The Rumors Never End.....Gleb, Communist Soldiers
Communist Women
Learn to Do It.....Vlad, Anaya, Dmitry
The Neva Flows.....Gleb, Anya
The Neva Flows (reprise).....Ensemble
My Petersburg.....Dmitry, Anya
Once Upon a December.....Anya, Romanov Family & Husbands
A Secret She Kept.....Anya
Stay, I Pray You.....Count Ipolitov, Anya, Dmitry
Vlad, Ensemble
We'll Go From There.....Vlad, Anya, Dmitry, Ensemble
Traveling Sequence.....Gleb, Gorlinsky, Anya, Dmitry, Vlad
Still.....Gleb
Journey to the Past.....Anya

15 Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

Paris Holds the Key (To Your Heart).....Vlad, Dmitry, Anya
Ensemble
Crossing a Bridge.....Anya
Close the Door.....Dowager Empress
Land of Yesterday.....Countess Lily, Ensemble
The Countess and the Common Man.....Vlad, Countess Lily
The Land of Yesterday (reprise).....Gleb
A Nightmare.....Romanov Family
In A Crowd of Thousands/.....Dmitry, Anya
Meant of Be.....Vlad
Quartet at the Ballet.....Anya, Dmitry
Dowager Empress, Gleb
Swan Lake.....Swan Lake Ballet Dancers
Everything to Win.....Dmitry

Songs Continued

Once Upon a December (reprise).....Anya, Dowager Empress
The Press Conference.....Countess Lily, Vlad, Ensemble
Everything to Win (reprise).....Anya
Still/The Neva Flows (reprise).....Gleb, Ensemble
Finale.....Company

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

FACILITY RENTALS

Make Your Next Event Unforgettable

Every event makes a statement at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. With a variety of versatile spaces, we can host anything from intimate gatherings of a dozen guests to elegant receptions and large-scale corporate galas. No matter the vision, our dedicated event team works closely with you to plan, prepare, and flawlessly execute your occasion. Full-service, on-site catering is available to make your event seamless and memorable.

From wedding receptions and industry conferences to school recitals and nationally touring productions, the Center is designed to bring exceptional events to life. Our rental rates are structured to encourage community participation, ensuring your event looks, feels, and sounds as professional as possible.

We offer tables, chairs, audio/visual equipment, specialty lighting, and linen rentals, along with ample free parking located directly across the street. If accessibility is a priority, we're happy to accommodate your needs.

If you're ready to start planning—or simply want to imagine the possibilities—contact us today for rental rates, availability, or to schedule a tour of our one-



Anastasia - Cast Bios



Claire Arnold
(*Tatiana Romanov/Ensemble*) Claire is thrilled to be a part of *Anastasia* at the Manatee Performing Arts Center! She was previously in *Big Fish* and studied theatre at the College of Charleston, fueling her love for storytelling. When she's not onstage, Claire is a nature tour guide, always chasing a new adventure.



Neil Bleiweiss
(*Gleb Vaganov*) Neil is excited to return to the MPAC stage! Previous credits include *Gentleman's Guide* (The D'Ysquith Family), *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *Deathtrap* (Clifford Anderson), *Oklahoma!* (Jud Fry), and more around the Tampa Bay area. Thanks always to friends and family for the continued support! Enjoy the show!



Rue Brown
(*Anastasia/Anya*) Rue is thrilled to continue sharing her love of theater with audiences. Favorite credits include: *Oklahoma!* (Dream Laurey), *Wizard of Oz* (Glinda), and *The Common Ground* (Blair) at The Asolo. She is grateful for every opportunity to grow as a performer and create meaningful connections through theater.



Raegan Caffrey
(*Marfa/Maria Romanov/Countless Gregory/Swan Lake Dancer/Ensemble*) Raegan is so excited to be in *Anastasia* here at MPAC! Some of her favorite credits include *Big Fish* (The Mermaid), *Frozen* (Ensemble), *Something Rotten* (Bea), and the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall. She is so thankful for her friends and family's encouragement! All glory to God!



Emmie Canada
(*Teen Anastasia/Communist Woman/Ensemble*) Emmie is delighted to take the stage again at MPAC after her previous roles in *Frozen* (Young Elsa) and *The Sound of Music* (Brigitta). Emmie is currently in eighth grade at Rowlett Middle Academy where she is enrolled in their film and musical theater programs. "Thank you Katie Priest!"



Chris Caswell
(*Vladimir "Vlad" Popov*) Chris has performed leads in musicals and dramas in the Sarasota area for almost 50 years, including: *Sweeney Todd* (Handy Award); *Frost/Nixon* (Nixon - Handy Award nominee); *Next to Normal* (Dan); *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Atticus Finch). Recent roles at MPAC: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Joe Josephson); *Parade* (Old Soldier).

Cast Bios Continued



Joe Eckstein
(*Tsar Nicholas/Count Ipolitov/Drunk 3/Count Gregory/Communist Solider/Ensemble*) Joe is a children's book author and illustrator, owner of production company Imagine! Studios, and an art and theatre instructor at Woodland Fine Arts Academy in Bradenton, where he's also directed productions. He's performed onstage since age five and with Manatee Players since 2016. John 11:25



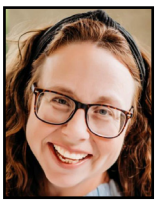
Zoe Figgins
(*Tsarina Alexandra/Paulina/Swan Lake Dancer/Ensemble*) Zoe is thrilled for her third MPAC show! Favorite credits include *Seussical* (Bird Girl) and *Dear Edwina* (Edwina). She also loves contemporary dance and trained through WFA DaCo and SCDE. She thanks her amazing mother dearest, Lizzy Mcalpine's album 'Angel', and KT tape for their support! Galatians 6:14



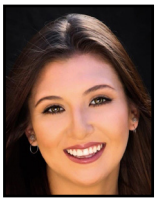
Eleanor Gassenhofer
(*Ensemble*) Eleanor is delighted to return to MPAC! Past credits include *The Sound of Music* (Brigitta), *Prince of Egypt* (Young Miriam), *Evita*, and *Frozen*. She is excited to continue growing as a performer and sharing her love of musical theater with audiences.



Noah Henry
(*Von Rothbart/Communist Solider/Romanov Male/Ensemble*) What determines family? Noah is excited to help bring *Anastasia* to life! Noah is a Personal Trainer and part-time at MPAC. Previous shows include: *Drowsy Chaperone, Oklahoma!, Anything Goes, Wizard of Oz, Prince of Egypt, Hello, Dolly!* (Ambrose Kemper), *Frozen, Bright Star* (Max) and most recently *Fame*. Thanks to my family for supporting me!



Brittney Klepper
(*Countless Lily Malevsky-Malevitch/Communist Woman*) Previous MPAC shows *Big Fish, Bright Star* (Lucy), *Drowsy Chaperone, Something Rotten, Company, Gypsy, How to Succeed, White Christmas, Hairspray, Shout, Ring of Fire, Little Mermaid, Sylvia, My One and Only, Les Miserables, Shrek, Evita* and *Anything Goes*. Brittney dedicates this performance to her favorite little budding artists, Benjamin and Caroline.



Kiana Knuth
(*Odette/Olga Romanov/Communist Woman/Ensemble*) Kiana is thrilled to be returning to the MPAC stage! She has been seen here in *Fame, Frozen, The Prince of Egypt,* and *The Wizard of Oz*. With 24 years of dance experience, she is excited to bring *Anastasia* to life and continue sharing her love of performing!

Cast Bios Continued



Gary Kurnov
(*Dmitry*) Gary is thrilled to return to MPAC, having previously portrayed Moses in *The Prince of Egypt* and Curly in *Oklahoma!* He returned to the stage after a decade-long hiatus in Sarasota Players' *Side by Side* by Sondheim. A former New Yorker, Gary sends much love to Jenn and his family for their support.



Patricia Lawrence
(*Dowager Empress*) Pat's new here but played The Dowager at White Plains Performing Arts Center. NY/regional theatre: *Killing Mrs. Claus* (Mrs. Claus), Theatre for the New City; *Sunset Boulevard* (Ensemble/Norma Understudy), The Engeman Theatre; and *Knoxville* (Swing), Asolo Rep. TV: *"Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"* and "*The Blacklist*."
www.patriciamlawrence.com



Connor Longo
(*Drunk 4/Romanov Male/Ensemble*) Connor is a sophomore at Palmetto High School and has been acting/singing for five years through school and with MPAC performing in *Carrie, Oklahoma, Wizard of Oz, Sound of Music, Prince of Egypt,* and *Frozen*. He is excited to be performing in this show and in future shows.



Angela Monetti
(*Dunya/Swan Lake Dancer/Ensemble*) Angela is excited to be back at MPAC in *Anastasia*! Angela is currently a junior at Booker High School. Credits: *Once Upon A One More Time* (Sleeping Beauty), *Love/Sick* (Louise Overbee), and *Prince of Egypt* (Ensemble). She thanks her castmates and family for their support!

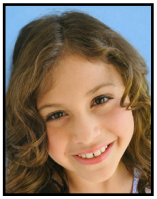


Porter Osuch
(*Swing/Understudy*) Porter is excited to be involved with *Anastasia* after having been recently seen in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache) and *Carrie* (George)! Previous roles include *Clue* (Colonel Mustard), *Frozen* (Kristoff), and *The Addams Family* (Mal) and the set designer for the past year at Cardinal Mooney. He thanks his friends and the creative team!



Timothy Penberthy
(*Prince Siegfried/Drunk 2/Sergei/Romanov Male/Train Announcer/Ensemble*) Timothy is a recent alum of SCF, planning to transfer to university to study musical theatre. He has been seen last as Jamie in *The Common Ground* or as Riff in *West Side Story*. He thanks his friends, family, and God for support in the arts. He is excited to be a part of this show.

Cast Bios Continued



Audrey Michelle Prieto
(*Young Anastasia/Prince Alexei*) Audrey is thrilled to make her debut with MPAC in Anastasia. Past productions include *Shrek Kids* (Young Fiona), *Seussical*, (Thing 2/Who), *101 Dalmatians Kids* (Scottie/Spotty) and *Matilda Jr.* (Little Kid). She would like to thank her family for their support and hopes you all enjoy the show!



Ben Rigney
(*Gorlinsky/Count Leopold/Drunk 1/Smoker/Communist Solider/Ensemble*) Ben is excited to return to the MPAC stage in *Anastasia*, following appearances in *Once Upon a Mattress, Anything Goes, Bright Star,* and *Big Fish*. When not onstage, Ben serves as Fire Chief and enjoys boating, traveling, and making memories with his wife, Cori, and their three children.



Ellie Roberts
(*Swan Lake Dancer/Ensemble*) Ellie has always loved theatre and dance since a young age, and she is so grateful to be doing *Anastasia* at MPAC. Favorite shows on and off stage include *Mean Girls, Crazy For You, Kinky Boots* and *Sweeney Todd*. Thanks so much Mom and Dad!



Norah Ruark
(*Young Anastasia/Prince Alexei*) Norah is thrilled to be back on the MPAC stage for Anastasia. You may have seen her in *Frozen* (Young Anna), *Evita* (Young Evita), and *The Sound of Music* (Gretel). Norah would like to thank her family, friends and her theater family for all their love and support.



Lewis Tillman
(*Romanov Male/Ensemble*) Lewis is a student at Center Montessori School and is excited to be in this first main stage show. Previous roles include *Newsies* (Davey), *Frozen* (Kristoff), *Alice* (Mad Hatter), *Shrek* (Wolf), *Finding Nemo* (Ray), *Lion King* (Ed) and many more. Lewis also has performed in many school productions. He sends thanks to his theatre instructors.

ANASTASIA
Is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Creative Team



Cynthia Ashford
(*Director/Choreographer*) – Cynthia has dedicated her life to the performing arts as a director, choreographer, educator, and performer. From an early age, she was creating and directing her own productions, discovering a passion for storytelling and inspiring young performers that has remained at the heart of her career. Cynthia spent 12 years teaching at Flex Dance Studio, followed by 18 years as a teacher and choreographer at Booker High School's Visual & Performing Arts Program. She also served as the Artistic Director of Spotlight Kids, where she helped countless young artists develop their confidence, creativity, and love of the stage. In addition, she served as a Program Manager, Coach, and Choreographer for Broadway Artists Alliance in New York City, mentoring aspiring performers through intensive musical theatre training. Her students have gone on to attend some of the nation's top colleges and conservatories and have built successful careers performing in regional and professional theatre, on cruise ships, in national Broadway tours, and on Broadway. Cynthia's directing and choreography credits include *Fame, The Wizard of Oz, Bright Star, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,* and *Bye Bye Birdie*, along with numerous productions for youth and community theatre. She especially enjoys directing and choreographing the children's theatre camps at Manatee Performing Arts Center, where she loves sharing the magic of theatre with the next generation of performers. Cynthia is grateful for every opportunity to bring stories to life and believes that the greatest reward is helping performers discover confidence, artistry, and a lifelong love of theatre.



Paul Smith
(*Musical Director*) – A recent transplant from the OTHER bay area, San Francisco, Paul Smith is splitting his time between both coasts. He recently served as Music Director for *Dear Evan Hansen, Carrie, Fame, Big Fish, Bright Star, Once Upon A Mattress, Frozen, Hello Dolly,* and *Gutenberg!* Although known primarily as a classical pianist, performing both solo recitals and concertos on the West Coast and Europe, and the founder and director of Contemporary Opera *Marin*, an opera company presenting chamber operas of the last one hundred years, as well as rediscovered gems of past centuries, he maintains an active schedule as musical director for musicals and operettas. Paul was music director for *The Sound of Music* and *The Fantasticks* and has recently returned from a highly successful production of three Viennese Cabaret Operas in California. In addition to his involvement with many of the

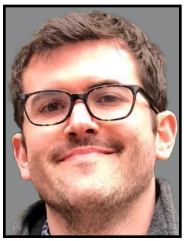
Creative Team



Nick Jones
(*Lighting & Projection Designer*) – Nick is excited to be returning to Manatee Performing Arts Center once again after recently light and projection designing *Dear Evan Hansen, Big Fish,* and *Frozen*. He has also been lighting designer for *Bright Star, Prince of Egypt, Evita, Merrily We Roll Along, Anything Goes, Kiss Me Kate, Nunsense, Winter Wonderettes, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Doubt,* and *Goat Song Revel*. Having designed in Sarasota and New York, credits span numerous companies and projects such as Asolo Rep, Dog Days Theatre Company, and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Additionally, he serves as a Lighting Assistant on the New Year's Eve Times Square Celebration. For a full list of works, visit his website at standbylx.net.



Caren Brady
(*Costume Designer*) – Caren Brady is celebrating 38 years as a Fairy Godmother for all things costume. A graduate of Bluffton College, Caren started her career at Stagecraft Theatrical in Cincinnati Ohio and eventually opened her dream business, Cincinnati Costume Company. This shop costumed productions throughout Ohio and the nation. Eventually, Caren joined Cincinnati Landmark Productions as their Costume Shop Manager, Costume Designer, and Props Mistress and served there for over 12 years. Caren is pleased to be on staff here at Manatee Performing Arts Center. She is happy to be working with this cast and production team. Much love to family and friends far and near who always support the crazy costume lady!



Neal Addison
(Stage manager) – Neal is excited to be working on *Anastasia* with this hard-working and talented group of people! He previously directed *Carrie – The Musical, Gutenberg: The Musical, The Fantasticks, Songs For A New World* and co-directed MPAC's production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Most recently, Neal stage managed our productions of *Carrie, Once Upon A Mattress, Gutenberg, Tootsie, On Golden Pond, The Fantasticks, Parade, The Drowsy Chaperone,* and *Songs For A New World*. He also appeared in *Oklahoma* (Ali Hakim). Neal was also seen both onstage and backstage as ASM for our productions of *Sunset Boulevard, Company, How to Succeed, Titanic,* and *Chaplin*. Other Stage Management credits include *Next To Normal, Rent, The Will Rogers Follies, Cinderella, Damn Yankees, Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story, Ain't Misbehavin', Pirates of Penzance, Calendar Girls, Nice Work If You Can Get It, Nine, Anna in the Tropics, The Full Monty, Wit,* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. Neal has also served as Co-Stage Manager for *Evita, Kiss Me Kate, Something Rotten, Company, How to Succeed, Titanic, Pippin, I Do, I Do, Nunsense, Winter Wonderettes, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, West Side Story, Mary Poppins,* and *Barnum* and as ASM on *Newsies, The Producers, Sylvia, and Children of a Lesser God*. Neal spends countless hours volunteering on crew and often helping to mix sound for the shows in Stone Hall. "Thanks to Cynthia, Paul, Cori, and Kristin, and the entire cast and production team for all your hard work! Enjoy the show!"

Creative Team



Cori Rigney
(*Rehearsal Stage Manager/ASM*) – Cori is excited to be serving as Rehearsal Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager for this production of *Anastasia*. She has been involved in a variety of productions in local schools helping with Children's theater and more recently here at MPAC. She performed in the ensembles of *Anything Goes, Once Upon a Mattress, Bright Star,* and *Big Fish*, and volunteered as backstage crew for *Prince of Egypt, Hello Dolly, Frozen,* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. She also enjoyed directing the *Music Man Kids* Camp last summer. Whether she's performing onstage, collaborating on a creative vision, or keeping things running backstage, she enjoys being part of the work and little details that make a show come to life. Cori encourages anyone who has ever felt a nudge toward performing or curiosity about theater to get involved in and experience community theater at least once. It's never too late, and there is room for every talent and level of experience in the spotlight or behind the scenes. Cori loves her family, who are always supportive and only mildly roast her about her theater shenanigans. She is grateful to be part of this talented cast and crew and hopes everyone enjoys the show. "Places for Act I!"

Florida Cultural Group

Chief Cheerleader/CEO.....Janene Amick CAP, CFRE
Producing Artistic Director.....Rick Kerby
Comptroller.....Jeff Evans
Outreach Director.....Ann Colonna
Production Manager.....Kristin Ribble
Resident Costume Shop Manager/Designer.....Caren Brady
Technical Associate.....Thomas Anderson
Rental Associate.....Isabella Onken
House Manager.....John Illar
Cafe Manager.....Kathi Cummins
Assistant to the Chief Cheerleader (Volunteer).....Mary Smith
Development Associates (Volunteer).....Andrea Schroeder, Cheryl Unruh
Marketing Associate.....Noah Henry
Patron Services Director.....Erica Bommarito
Box Office Volunteers.....Sandy Arroyo, Joyce Burgos
Dellane Chason, Faith Lipton, Sandy Ottino
Rick Rehkugler, Noreen Roberts, Gail Rhode

Author Bios



Terrence McNally
(*Author*) – Terrence McNally was an American playwright, librettist and LGBTQ+ trailblazer, described by the New York Times as "the bard of the American Theater." One of the few playwrights of his generation to successfully pass from the avant-garde to mainstream acclaim, Terrence redefined American playwriting for six decades and was the recipient of five Tony Awards (two for his plays *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*, two for the books to his musicals *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime*, and the 2019 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement). Terrence received many honors throughout his life, including the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award (where he was Vice President from 1981 to 2001), the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award, and inductions into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1996 and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2018. His incredible legacy lives on in his plays, musicals and operas that continue to be performed all over the world, as well as in his papers, which are kept and open to the public at the Harry Ransom Center in the University of Texas at Austin.



Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty
(*Lyrics/Music*) – Lynn Ahrens (lyrics) and Stephen Flaherty (music) have been collaborators since 1983, creating an array of notable Broadway and off-Broadway musicals, including Ragtime, Once On This Island, Seussical, Rocky, My Favorite Year, A Man of No Importance and the animated feature film Anastasia. In 2017, they brought Anastasia to Broadway, making it their third musical collaboration with Terrence McNally. They've won the Tony Award, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and the Olivier, and have been nominated for two Academy Awards, two Golden Globes and four Grammys. They serve on the Council for the Dramatists Guild of America and co-founded the DGF Fellows Program for Emerging Writers, which has nurtured new generations of playwrights and musical theatre writers since 2000. In 2014 they received the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement,

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Madagascar KIDS
December 12, 2026
Wild adventure, hilarious characters, upbeat music, and unforgettable fun make Madagascar KIDS a must-see experience!



The Nutcracker Presented by International Ballet of Florida
December 22, 2026
Celebrate the season with The Nutcracker—stunning dancers, breathtaking music, and unforgettable holiday magic await.



The Da Vinci Code
January 14 - 24, 2027
Crack the clues, uncover secrets, and experience The Da Vinci Code's thrilling mystery live onstage.



Come From Away
January 21 - 31, 2027
Witness the incredible true story of strangers becoming family through kindness, compassion, and unforgettable community spirit.



Larger Than Life
The Definitive Boy Band Tribute
January 14 - 24, 2027
Sing along to 50+ boyband hits in an electrifying concert packed with nostalgia, energy, and unforgettable memories!