

PITT STAGES presents
transformations
The 2025-2026 Season



Director: Kelly Trumbull
Music Director: Becki Toth
APRIL 10 - 19, 2026

Songs by The Go-Go's
Based on 'The Arcadia'
by Sir Philip Sidney
Conceived and Original
Book by Jeff Whitty
Adapted by James Magruder

Charity Randall Theatre
4301 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Head Over Heels is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. (www.broadwaylicensing.com)



Songs by The Go-Go's

**Based on 'The Arcadia'
by Sir Philip Sidney**

**Conceived & Original Book
by Jeff Whitty**

Adapted by James Magruder

Original Broadway Production produced by
Christine Russell Louise Gund Donovan Leitch Rick Ferrari Gwyneth Paltrow
Scott Sigman Hunter Arnold Tom Kirdahy Jordan Roth

The World Premiere of "Head Over Heels" took place at
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Bill Rauch/Artistic Director; Cynthia Rider/Executive Director

Developed with the support of New York Stage and Film & Vassar's
Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2016

**NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording
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actionable federal offense.**



This digital program allows us to reduce paper consumption and divert printing costs to supporting students' education, creative explorations, and excellence. Click each individual's name to learn more about them. Navigate to credit listings using the links at the bottom of each page.



Song List/Composers/Lyricists/Music Publishers

"Automatic Rainy Day" written by Regina Schock, Steve Plunkett, and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Plunksongs (BMI), Schock It to Me Music c/o PEN Music Group Inc. (ASCAP) and Wiedwacker Music (ASCAP).

"Beautiful" by Charlotte Caffey and Regina Schock. Used by permission of Schock It to Me Music c/o PEN Music Group Inc. (ASCAP) and Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"Cool Jerk" by Donald Storboll. Used by permission of T/Q Music Inc. c/o BMG Bumblebee (BMI).

"Get Up and Go" by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"Good Girl" by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"Head Over Heels" by Charlotte Caffey and Kathy Valentine. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP) and Spirit Two Music Inc. o/b/o Spirit Services (ASCAP).

"Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Richard Nowels, Jr. and Ellen Shipley. Used by permission of BMG Bumblebee (BMI) and Spirit Two Music Inc. o/b/o Spirit Services Holdings, S.a.r.l (ASCAP).

"Here You Are" by James Vallance, Charlotte Caffey, and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Wiedwacker Music (ASCAP), Chargo Music (ASCAP), and Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"How Much More" by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"Lust to Love" by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

"Mad About You" by Paula Jean Brown, James Francis Whelan and Mitchel Young Evans. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP) and Len Freedman Music, Inc. on behalf of Lilac Drive Music (ASCAP).

"Our Lips are Sealed" by Jane Wiedlin and Terence Edward Hall. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP) on behalf of itself and Plangent Visions Music Ltd. (ASCAP).



Song List/Composers/Lyricists/Music Publishers (continued)

“Skidmarks on My Heart” by Belinda Carlisle and Charlotte Caffey. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP) and Punishment Tunes c/o BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP).

“This Old Feeling” by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

“Turn to You” by Charlotte Caffey and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).

“Vacation” by Charlotte Caffey, Kathy Valentine and Jane Wiedlin. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP) and Spirit Two Music Inc. o/b/o Some Other Music (ASCAP).

“Vision of Nowness” by Kathy Valentine and Craig Ross. Used by permission of Spirit Two Music Inc. o/b/o Some Other Music and Wigg Music (BMI).

“We Got the Beat” by Charlotte Caffey. Used by permission of Universal Music- MGB Songs (ASCAP).



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APRIL 12 - ASL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE

APRIL 19 - RELAXED PERFORMANCE

What is a Relaxed Performance?

A relaxed performance is a welcoming, inclusive theatre experience designed especially for those who benefit from a more flexible, sensory-friendly environment. These performances make small adjustments like softer lighting or sound, a more casual atmosphere, and freedom to move or make noise. In this way, everyone, including those with neurodiverse needs or sensory sensitivities, can enjoy the show comfortably. Whether you're attending with family, friends, or on your own, relaxed performances are all about removing barriers and making space for everyone to experience the joy of live theatre judgment-free and stress-free.



***Content Warnings:**

Profanity, Mild sexual themes (brief mentions of sex and on-stage kissing)

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

This season, Pitt Stages' theme is transformations, and *Head Over Heels* feels like a perfect fit for that idea. The piece lives in a world where change is constant. Characters lose power, find new identities, fall in love with the wrong people, fall in love with the right people, and are forced to question what they thought was their "correct" path. By the end of the story, no one is exactly who they were at the beginning. They have all transformed into truer, more beautiful versions of themselves.

What I love about working on this piece at Pitt is the chance to explore these ideas with students and colleagues in a space where discovery is part of the process. A musical like this only works when everyone commits fully to the world, the humor, and the heart. *Head Over Heels* requires a company that is bold, open, and willing to take risks, and that is exactly the kind of work this group has brought to the process.

At its core, *Head Over Heels* is about letting go of the idea that life will stay the same. It reminds us that transformation can be uncomfortable, surprising, and sometimes ridiculous, but it is also what allows us to move forward.

KELLY TRUMBULL
Director

*Head
Over
Heels*



DRAMATURGY NOTE:



Thank you for joining us on our journey to Bohemia! *Head Over Heels*, adapted from Sir Philip Sidney's *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, celebrates love, individuality, and transformation through a King's desire to escape his fate. *Head Over Heels*, with its opening on Broadway in 2018, was considered the "most radically queer show Broadway has ever seen" (Christian Lewis). The production featured Broadway's first all-female band (hello, Go-Go's!), Broadway's first openly transgender actor to originate a role on Broadway, and an unapologetic display of queerness in a manner never before seen. Since its Broadway closure in 2019, *Head Over Heels* lives on through universities across America, and now, at the University of Pittsburgh!

Merriam-Webster defines a "utopia" as "a place of ideal perfection especially in laws, government, and social conditions." As we follow our royal family through their journey, we begin to wonder what makes a utopia. Is it the singing sheep? Maybe. Is it a place where the earth and the people who inhabit it live harmoniously? A place where we are guided by a (sometimes literal) song in our hearts? There is much to be learned from the characters of *Head Over Heels*. We see through these characters how the celebration of living truthfully shapes our communities into what we dream of.

Though we might not have the same magic as the Arcadians, we have the power to uplift and honor those around us, creating stepping stones towards our own utopia. Even when we feel helpless against systems meant to oppress us, we can protest, organize, and speak up for one another to be the change we want to see in the world. As a collective community, we have the power to transform our world in ways that sometimes feel out of reach. Find ways to lean into the unknown and bring those you love along for the ride. We can create something beautiful! "What a wonderful life!"

VIRGINIA KEISTER

Production Dramaturg



Cast

Mopsa.....	Paulina Sanchez
Pamela.....	Olivia Tran-Speros
Musidorus.....	Seamus McGroary
Philoclea.....	Holly Egbert
Gynecia.....	Ellie Tongel
Basilus.....	John Papadimitriou
Dametus.....	Ben Stolarz
Pythio.....	Ava Kobulnicky
Ensemble/Swing: Pythio & Musidorus.....	Ian Bailey
Ensemble/Swing: Mopsa & Philoclea.....	Nora Johnson
Ensemble/Swing: Basilus & Dametus.....	Paul Mangamaro
Ensemble/Swing: Gynecia & Pamela.....	Heather Royer
Dance Captain/Ensemble.....	Akisse Morton
Ensemble.....	Isabel Concepcion
Ensemble.....	Gianni DelMastro
Ensemble.....	Sheridan Evans
Ensemble.....	Jermaine Howard Jr.
Ensemble.....	Tyler Neffield
Ensemble.....	Jillian Uzelac

Production & Creative Teams

Director.....	Kelly Trumbull
Assistant Director.....	Audrey Pernell
Assistant Director.....	Victoria Murphy
Assistant Director.....	Lila Kelley
Music Director.....	Becki Toth
Assistant Music Director.....	Chloe Brokesh
Dramaturg.....	Virginia Keister
Stage Manager.....	Jared Donelson
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Colin Eccher
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Sarah Dugan
Choreographer.....	Dr. Amanda Olmstead
Assistant Choreographer.....	Justine Dyke
Assistant Choreographer.....	Kaelyn Schrader
Dance Captain.....	Akisse Morton
Set Designer.....	Gianni Downs
Assistant Set Designer.....	Sienna Dixon
Properties Manager.....	Bridgette Dona
Costume Designer.....	KJ Gilmer
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Eden Polito
Sound Designer.....	Howard Patterson
Co-Sound Designer.....	Marie Southall
Lighting Designer.....	Annmarie Duggan
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Grace Toman
Fight & Intimacy Director.....	Tonya Lynn
Asst. Fight & Intimacy Director.....	Virginia Keister
Fight Captain.....	Benjamin Stolarz
Conductor.....	Shelby Williams

Playwright Biographies

James Magruder is a fiction writer, playwright, and translator. His stories have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *New England Review*, *Subtropics*, *Bloom*, *The Normal School*, *The Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*, *Mary*, and the anthologies "Boy Crazy" and "New Stories from the Midwest." His debut novel, "Sugarless," (University of Wisconsin Press) was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award, the VCU Cabell First Novelists Award, and shortlisted for the 2010 William Saroyan International Writing Prize. His second work of fiction is a novel-in-stories titled "Let Me See It." His translations and adaptations for the stage include CHRISTMAS CAROL 1941 (Arena Stage), Marivaux's THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE (Center Stage, Classic Stage Company, La Jolla Playhouse), the book for its musical version, TRIUMPH OF LOVE (Broadway and beyond, Germany, and Japan), Labiche's EATING CROW (Dallas Main Street Theatre), Lesage's TURCARET (Catalyst Theatre, Washington D.C.), Dancourt's KNIGHT ERRANT, Molière's THE IMAGINARY INVALID (Yale Repertory Theatre, People's Light & Theatre), BOUGIE MAN, a version of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" for South Coast Rep, THE MISER (Center Stage, Northlight Theatre), and Gozzi's THE LOVE OF THREE ORANGES (La Jolla Playhouse). His plays PENELOPE & THE STERILE FIELD, TOO MUCH OF ME, NINE ROOMS WORTH, DEAD PARENTS, PISSING MATCH, and DUNKLER-RELATED DISORDERS have been staged in Baltimore, Atlanta, and New York, and published in "The Art of the One-Act," "Third Coast," and "Arts & Letters." His "Three French Comedies" (Yale University Press) was named an Outstanding Literary Translation by the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA). Other projects include DER BOURGEOIS BIGSHOT, a reconstruction of the Molière/Hofmannsthal/Strauss musical comedy "Der Bürger als Edelmann" for Princeton University. His writing has been supported by the MacDowell Colony, where he was a Thornton Wilder Fellow; the Maryland State Arts Council; the New Harmony Project; the Ucross Foundation; the Blue Mountain Center; the Jerome Foundation; and the 2010 Sewanee Writers' Conference, where he was a Walter E. Dakin Fellow in Fiction. He holds degrees in French literature from Cornell and Yale and a DFA from the Yale School of Drama. He teaches dramaturgy at Swarthmore College, fiction at the University of Baltimore, and playwriting at Princeton University.

Playwright Biographies

Jeff Whitty won the 2004 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for AVENUE Q. Plays include THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF HEDDA GABLER (appeared in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's 2008 season), THE HIDING PLACE, THE PLANK PROJECT, SUICIDE WEATHER, and BALLS. Theatres presenting his work include the Atlantic Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, the Vineyard Theater, the New Group, and New York Stage and Film/Vassar. He is currently at work on the libretto for a musical version of Armistead Maupin's TALES OF THE CITY. As an actor, he has appeared regionally, Off-Broadway, and in film and TV. Website: www.whitless.com

Dramaturg Biography

Virginia Keister (Dramaturg; Assistant Fight/Intimacy Choreographer) is a graduating third-year Theatre Arts major/Disability Studies Cert/Secondary Ed Minor here at Pitt and a co-founder of the Chariho Summer Stages theatrical literacy program of southern Rhode Island, where she recently directed and worked as a co-fight choreographer for *The Lightning Thief*. After directing Musical Theatre Club's *The Wedding Singer* in the Fall, she worked with Pitt Stages as the fight choreographer on *The Dumb Waiter* and assistant fight/intimacy coordinator on *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson, Apt. 2B* and *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*. This Spring, she worked as the fight coordinator for MTC's *Into the Woods* and intimacy coordinator for Performance Collaborative's *BFF*. Endless thank-yous to Tonya for everything this year. Enjoy the show!

Director Biography

Kelly Trumbull is a Pittsburgh-based theatre artist and Teaching Associate Professor in the Theatre Arts Department at University of Pittsburgh. She is thrilled to be directing at Pitt again. It's a joy to work with such fantastic students and colleagues. As a director, she has worked with City Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pitt Stages, New Hazlett Theater's CSA Series, and Resonance Works. Her original play *Morning Reckoning* premiered at the New Hazlett Theater in 2023 and was produced at Pitt Stages during the 2024/25 season. As an actor, she has appeared with Pitt Stages, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Quantum Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse (The Rep), Bricolage, Real/Time Interventions, and City Theatre Company, as well as in numerous film, television, and commercial projects. She is a member of the Pittsburgh Public Theater Playwrights Collective and holds a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University and an MA in Educational Theatre from New York University. Kelly is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild.

Music Director Biography

Becki Toth is a professional singer, actor, director, and teacher living in the Pittsburgh area. A familiar face to Pittsburgh's theater audiences, she is proud to have collaborated with many local and regional theater companies. A few favorite roles include Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Margaret Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza*, and recent credits include Arlene in *Baby* and Yvonne/Blair in *Sunday in the Park with George*. She also originated the role of Nessa in the world premiere performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. She is the co-lyricist of the musical *Abduction!*, which won an honorable mention at the 2019 New York Musical Theater Festival. Becki was voted Pittsburgh's Favorite Actress twice by the readers of Pittsburgh's City Paper. In addition to her work in musical theater, Becki is an active member of the Pittsburgh musical community. She is the Managing Director and a founding member of *Voces Solis*, and has also performed with the Mendelssohn Choir, the Pittsburgh Philharmonic, and the Bach Choir. Becki has performed with such varied acts as Ben Folds, The Chieftains, The Skivvies, and Chris Thile. She's sought after as a soloist and educator, and teaches Acting Through Song at the CMU Pre-College Program in addition to her work as an Assistant Professor in the Theatre Arts Department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Cast Biographies

Ian Bailey (Ensemble/Swing: Pythio & Musidorus) is thrilled to be doing his first show here at Pitt Stages! He is a sophomore majoring in Psychology. Some past favorite roles include *Mean Girls* (Damian Hubbard), *Oklahoma!* (Will Parker), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Chairman/Mr. William Cartwright). Ian would like to thank the cast and crew for making this such an incredible process, as well as his friends and family for their endless support!

Isabel Concepcion (Ensemble) is a sophomore nursing student and is thrilled to be making her Pitt Stages debut in *Head Over Heels*. She is also involved with the Musical Theatre Club as co-choreographer-in-residence. Isabel is deeply grateful to the production team, and everyone involved for this opportunity, and is so excited to be part of this production.

Gianni DelMastro (Ensemble) is a junior studying Theatre Arts and 7-12 Secondary Education. He is thrilled to be returning for his second production with Pitt Stages. Previous credits include *As You Like It: Musical Adaptation* (William/Ensemble) Gianni is also involved with local theater companies outside of Pitt including Pittsburgh CLO and Split Stage Productions. Some of his favorite credits include *Chicago* (Male Dancer, Ensemble) *A Chorus Line* (cut dancer/pit singer), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (Featured Dancer, Male Swing), and has also been in multiple dance productions around the Pittsburgh area as well as several film projects. He is so incredibly grateful to be working with this immensely talented cast and crew and hopes that you enjoy the show.

Holly Egbert (Philoclea) is so excited to be back on stage for her second production with Pitt Stages! She is a junior majoring in Ecology and Evolution and minoring in Chemistry and Theatre Arts. Holly's past credit in the department was *Trifles* (Mrs. Peters). Favorite outside roles include *Bright Star* (Margo), *Footloose* (featured dancer), and *Pippin* (Theo). She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this wonderful performance come to life. Enjoy the show!

Sheridan Evans (Ensemble) is a freshman majoring in Chemistry. This is Sheridan's first show with Pitt Stages, and she is so incredibly grateful to get to work with the talented team and cast to put together this production of *Head Over Heels*! Outside of Pitt Stages, she has had the opportunity to be a part of Pitt's Musical Theatre Club and Dance Ensemble. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for their role in putting together this amazing show. She would also like to thank her friends and family for supporting her through her love of the arts. Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoy the show!

Jermaine Howard Jr. (Ensemble) is a sophomore majoring in Architecture and minoring in Theatre. This is Jermaine's second Pitt stages show, with a previous role in *As You Like It*. He is very grateful to have been a part of these experiences at Pitt and to work with this amazing group of people.

Cast Biographies

He would like to thank his fellow cast and crew for their hard work and support throughout this process.

Nora Johnson (Ensemble/Swing: Mopso & Philochlea) is a junior majoring in Biological Sciences and minoring in Chemistry. This is Nora's first Pitt Stages show! She is very grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing her passion for theater. Outside of Pitt Stages, Nora is also involved in one of Pitt's A Capella groups on campus. She would like to thank her friends, roommates, family, and cast for their support and encouragement throughout this exciting process!

Ava Kobulnicky (Pythio/Owl) is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. This is Ava's first Pitt Stages production, and her first principal role. Her previous roles at Pitt include *The Lightning Thief* (Ares), *Mean Girls* (Ensemble), and participation in a number of cabarets put on by the Musical Theater Club at Pitt. Ava would like to thank the cast and crew for a great first Pitt stages experience! She would also like to thank the *Head Over Heels* board for this opportunity and for support throughout the process. Finally, she would like to thank her parents for the endless support in theater, and for probably coming every night. Enjoy the show!

Paul Manganaro (Ensemble/Swing: Basilius & Dametus) is a freshman Industrial Engineering major at University of Pittsburgh. This is Paul's first Pitt Stages production, and he has loved getting to work through this creative process. Paul is a part of Musical Theater Club and continues to pursue performing. He would like to thank all of the cast and crew, friends, and his family for supporting his creative passions!

Seamus McGroary (Musidorus) is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering major at the University of Pittsburgh. This production marks his first show with Pitt Stages, and he is incredibly excited to be part of the experience. Seamus is also a member of the Musical Theater Club at Pitt, where he continues to pursue his interest in musical theater and performing. He is very thankful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people, and feels lucky to be part of a production with such an extremely talented cast and an awesome crew. He would also like to thank his family and friends for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Akisse Morton (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is so excited to be performing with Pitt Stages once again! Akisse is a Theater Arts major. She has been in *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (Clytemnestra), *As You Like It* (Hisperia/Ensemble/ Miss Amiens U/S), *The Sins, Scandals, and Showbiz Showcase* through MTC, and *Trifles* (Minnie Wright) during her time at Pitt. Prior to attending Pitt she performed in shows such as *Sonder* and *How to Be A Heartbreaker*. She hopes you are as head over heels for this show as she is!!!

Cast Biographies

Tyler Neffield (Ensemble) is a junior Architecture student at Pitt also pursuing a minor in Theatre Arts and is thrilled to be back with Pitt Stages this season! Outside of Pitt Stages, Tyler has performed with companies such as The Theatre Factory and Main Street Theatre Company. Some of his favorite credits include *Shrek the Musical* (Pinocchio), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Larry the Lobster/Lead Dancer), and *Spring Awakening* (Reinhold/Melchior Swing). Tyler is also involved with the Musical Theatre Club at Pitt. He is eager to get back on stage with his best friends!

John Papadimitriou (Basilus) is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh and is thrilled to return to the Charity Randall in another Pitt Stages musical. He was previously seen as Narrator/Mysterious man in Pitt's Musical Theater Club's production of *Into the Woods* earlier this year, and was Oliver de Boys in the Pitt Stages' 2025 production of *As You Like It*. Currently pursuing a Finance major and Theater Arts minor at Pitt, John is honored to help bring the music of the Go-Go's to life in this production. He would like to thank the entire *Head Over Heels* creative team, his fellow castmates, and his family for their unwavering support through this process. H2P!

Heather Royer (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of *Head Over Heels*! Heather is a senior Psychology major with a minor in Theatre Arts. This is Heather's second show with Pitt Stages, with previous credits including *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson*, *Apt. 2B* (Mrs. Hudson) and *Ordinary Days* (Deb). She is immensely grateful to be able to work alongside such a talented cast and crew and learn so much throughout the process. She would like to extend her gratitude towards the cast, crew, and creative team for their kindness, hard work, and support. She also wants to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support and love. Thank you for joining us on our journey through Arcadia!

Paulina Sanchez (Mopsa) is a Frederick Honors College Sophomore student majoring in Education (C.A.S.E. Program) and minoring in Theatre with a certification in Leadership. This is Paulina's second show with Pitt Stages as she was in last year's production of *As You Like It* (U.S. Phoebe). She is extremely grateful for these experiences at Pitt and the opportunity to work with such a talented group of artists in this production of *Head Over Heels*! Outside of Pitt Stages, she has enjoyed getting involved in the student organizations Musical Theatre Club at Pitt and Council for Exceptional Children. Paulina would love to thank the amazing cast, crew, and production team for their efforts and support throughout this entire process. She is also extremely thankful for encouragement that her family and former teachers have provided for her in her theatre journey. Thank you for coming, this show feels like a fun "Vacation"!

Benjamin Stolarz (Dametas/Fight Captain) is proud to perform in his fifth Pitt Stages production. He is an Industrial Engineering major, and has recently performed in Pitt Stages' *The Dumb Waiter* (Ben), *As You Like It*

Cast Biographies

(Ensemble/Orlando U/S), *The Inseparables* (Jordan) and *Spring Awakening* (Ensemble/Moritz U/S), Musical Theatre Club at Pitt's *Into The Woods* (The Baker) and *Legally Blonde* (Emmett Forrest), Performance Collaborative's *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Wickham) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing), and other local theater groups. He hopes the audience enjoys the show.

Ellie Tongel (Gynecia) is a senior Finance major with a minor in Theatre Arts. This is Ellie's first show with Pitt Stages and she has loved the entire experience! She was previously seen in several MTC productions at Pitt including *Into the Woods* (The Baker's Wife) and *Legally Blonde* (Serena). Ellie has also performed regionally with the Pittsburgh CLO and Pittsburgh Musical Theater. She'd like to thank the incredible cast and crew of *Head Over Heels*, as well as her friends and family for their love and support!

Olivia Tran-Speros (Pamela) is a senior Marketing major at the University of Pittsburgh. She was previously seen in Pitt Stages' *As You Like It* (Rosalind) and MTC's *Mean Girls Jr.* (Regina George), *Sins, Scandals, and Showbiz Showcase* (Soloist), and *Legally Blonde* (Judge). Olivia has also performed in regional and community theaters in her hometown of Lancaster, PA. Olivia would like to thank the incredible cast and crew for their dedication throughout this amazing process, and sends a big thank-you to JD, her family, and friends for their endless love and support.

Jillian Uzelac (Ensemble) is a freshman double majoring in English and Theatre Arts. This is her second show with Pitt Stages, having previously performed in *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*. Previous roles include Peggy Sawyer (*42nd Street*) and Rosie (*Mamma Mia!*). Outside of Pitt Stages, she is a Pathfinder and a member of ASL Club. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her over her years pursuing theatre, and especially the cast, crew, and production team that made this show amazing. Finally, she would like to thank her family for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

Production & Creative Biographies

Chloe Brokesh (Assistant Music Director) is a junior Music major with minors in Theatre Arts, Secondary Education, and Applied Developmental Psychology. She is so excited to be assistant music directing Pitt Stages' *Head Over Heels!* This is her first directing credit at Pitt, but she has directed and music directed several youth musicals back home. Outside of music directing, you may have seen her in Pitt Stages' *As You Like It* and MTC's *Into The Woods*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *The Lightning Thief*. She would like to thank Becki Toth and Shelby Williams for their incredible support during this process, as well as the rest of the cast and crew for creating such a beautiful show!

Jared Donelson (Production Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a certificate in Leadership. His previous work includes MTC's *Legally Blond* (Deck Crew), Pitt Stages' *The Brother Grimm Spectaculathon* (Light Board Operator), Performance Collaborative's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Assistant Stage Manager), Pitt Stages' *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Inseparables* (Assistant Stage Manager & Deck Chief), *The Actors Nightmare* (Stage Manager), *The Dumb Waiter* (Sound Board Operator), and *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (Assistant Stage Manager & Deck Chief). This past summer Jared had the opportunity to work at Footlight Players, a youth summer theatre camp at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he served as the stage manager and production assistant. At Pitt, Jared is also a part of the student organization, USITT, where he serves as the Outreach Coordinator.

Gianni Downs (Scenic Designer) is a Teaching Professor in Scenic Design and Scenic Painting. His work has been nationally recognized with a Kevin Kline Award and two nominations for productions at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, as well as an Irene Ryan nomination for designs at Stoneham Theatre. He is the recipient of the 2017 Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Award and with his colleague Annmarie Duggan: the 2019 Provost's Personalized Education Grant, as well as both the 2018 and 2015 Innovation in Education Awards. Gianni received his MFA from Brandeis University, served as adjunct faculty at both Point Park University and Carnegie Mellon University, and has been a proud member of United Scenic Artist local USA829.

Sarah Dugan (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior Marketing major and Theatre Arts minor here at Pitt. Past Pitt Stages credits include, *As You Like It* (Co-Dramaturg), *The Inseparables* (Emerson), *Spring Awakening* (Run Crew), and *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Hansel/Dwarf 2/ Johannes). Other credits include *Into The Woods* (Milky White), *The Wedding Singer* (Rosie), *Mac Beth* (Lady Macbeth), *Hide* (Marigold),

 [Return to Production List](#)

Production & Creative Biographies

Campfire Stories (Stage Manager), and *Legally Blonde* (Assistant Stage Manager). Sarah would like to thank this phenomenal cast and crew for all of their incredible work, and for creating such a great beat!

Justine Dyke (Assistant Choreographer) is a freshman theatre arts major she has been dancing for 15 years and has been doing theatre for 5 years. Recently she has been an Assistant Stage Manager for MTC's *Into the Woods* and *The Wedding Singer*. She has also recently become the production manager for the Musical Theatre Club. Through this show she has learned a lot and would like to thank Amanda for all the amazing guidance that she has given, as well as the whole cast a crew for making it such a great experience!

Colin Eccher (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be on the SM Team for *Head Over Heels*! Colin is a junior studying marketing, theatre arts, and nonprofit management. Select stage management credits include *Morning Reckoning* (PSM) and *That's Not How I Remember It* (ASM) with Pitt Stages. Additional PSM credits include *The Wedding Singer*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Annie Jr.*, and *High School Musical Jr.* with MTC at Pitt. Colin is recognized by the American College Theatre Festival for achievement in stage management.

Katherine Ellison (Sound A2) is a freshman Theatre Arts major and is excited to be part of this production as Sound A2. This is her second show with Pitt Stages, having previously worked on *Iphigenia and the Other Daughters* in the fall. She is so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented and dedicated group and to be a part of this production.

Julia Ferranti (Scenic Charge Artist) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a Nonprofit Management Certificate. This is Julia's final show with Pitt Stages. She has worked on every production since her sophomore year including *Morning Reckoning* (Charge Artist), *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B* (Assistant Technical Director), *Iphigenia & Other Daughters* (Charge Artist), and *The Brown Overcoat* (Scenic Designer). Outside of Pitt Stages, she is on the board for multiple student organizations such as USITT and MTC. She would like to thank all of the talented painters that have helped bring this show to life, and her family and friends for their continuous support. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

KJ Gilmer (Costume Designer) is a costume designer, director, and theatrical intimacy choreographer whose work celebrates joy, transformation, gender play, and embodied storytelling. Her costume designs are rooted in character, movement, and meaning, using color,

Production & Creative Biographies

texture, and silhouette to create theatrical worlds where identity is fluid, desire is expansive, and the body is central to the story being told. Gilmer's design practice blends contemporary cultural ideas with influences from dance, visual art, and literary traditions. Her costumes are built to move—supporting choreography, physical comedy, intimacy, and spectacle—while inviting performers to fully inhabit bold, expressive, and often subversive identities. In productions like *Head Over Heels*, her work embraces theatrical exuberance, queer imagination, and feminist reclamation through playful, purposeful design. She is an Associate Professor of Teaching in Costume Design in the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, where she teaches courses in Costume Design, Introduction to Theatre Design, Stage Makeup Design, Introduction to Performance, and Directing I. Her regional and national credits include Pittsburgh Public Theatre, City Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Opera, Quantum Theatre, Gloucester Stage Company (MA), St. Michael's Playhouse (VT), Orlando Shakes, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, and Everyman Theatre Company of Baltimore. Gilmer is also the creator of the *Say Her Name Memorial Gown*, a living artwork honoring Black women, girls, and femmes erased from dominant narratives of state violence. More information can be found at www.shngown.com.

Abby Keller (Sound/Mixer) is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience with a Theatre Arts minor. This is Abby's first show on Pitt Stages' sound team, but she previously worked backstage on *As You Like It* and as light board op for *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson, Apt. 2B*. Abby has been mixing for live theatre since seventh grade; her favorite shows she has worked on have been *Mean Girls* at her high school and *Newsies* at her local community college. Abby is so excited to help bring *Head Over Heels* to life and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lila Kelley (Assistant Director) is a transfer student at Pitt, majoring in Theatre Arts. *Head Over Heels* is her second show with Pitt Stages, her first being *Iphigenia & Other Daughters* (Assistant Stage Manager). She was also a part of this year's MTC 24-hour musical, *Mean Girls Jr.* (Assistant Stage Manager). She would like to thank her parents for raising her to be the exact target audience for a medieval Go-Go's jukebox musical, and her wonderful boyfriend for enduring her constantly singing the soundtrack. Enjoy the show!

Juliet Labrecque (Spot Op) is thrilled to help out in her third Pitt Stages production. She is a freshman Economics major with a minor in Business and Theatre Arts. She recently was the ASM for Pitt Stages' *The Dumb Waiter* as well as a dresser for *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*. She attended Pennsbury High School in PA and was the Choir Council Secretary as well

Production & Creative Biographies

as a member of the student Concert Choir. In theater, she participated in school musicals, including *The Music Man*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Anastasia*, and *The Addams Family*. As well, she did stage crew for *Almost, Maine* and *Tuck Everlasting*. She would like to thank her cast and crew for support throughout this entire process.

Amanda Lombardo (Dresser) is a freshman majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre Arts as well as Communication Sciences. This is Amanda's first show with Pitt Stages. She is so grateful for the opportunity to start her Pitt Stages career with such a wonderful and talented group of people by her side! Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Tonya Lynn (Fight and Intimacy Director) is a Teaching Artist-in-Residence at the University of Pittsburgh. An intimacy and fight director, actor, and educator, she has also frequently taught and choreographed at Carnegie Mellon University and Point Park University. Credits with Pitt Stages include *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Inseparables*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Professionally, her work includes the world premieres of *Storming Heaven* with West Virginia Public Theatre and *Time to Act* with Pittsburgh Opera, and the original production *Sword Play* at Colonial Williamsburg. Tonya is a recognized Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, where she currently serves on the Governing Body as Fight Director Representative. Thank you to all my students and colleagues for three wonderful years of making art together.

Griffin Maley (Run Crew/Fly Op) is a sophomore English Writing and Theatre Major. Griffin has been active in theatre clubs at Pitt and in Pitt stages, including Musical Theatre Club and Performance Collaborative. His performances with these groups include *Jekyll and Hyde* (Sir Danvers Carew), *The Lightning Thief* (Mr. D), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug the Joiner), *As You Like It* (Bronco/Papa Corin), *Pride and Prejudice* (Colonel Fitzwilliam), *On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco* (Nyukhin), *The Trees* (Norman) . He hopes you enjoy the show!

Maeve McNichol (Light Board Op) is a sophomore Film & Media Studies and Theatre Arts double-major with a minor in History. This is her second show with Pitt Stages, following the Spring 2025 play *Morning Reckoning* (u/s April/Nadia). She is so excited to be working behind the scenes and thanks her fellow crewmates for their focus and dedication! Maeve sends her love to everyone in Pitt's C Flat Run a cappella group and all her friends for their constant support!

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Victoria Murphy (Assistant Director) is a senior studying Theatre Arts, Political Science, and Education. Previous work with Pitt Stages includes: *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (Chorus and Electra/Clytemnestra Swing), *The Inseparables* (Brooklyn), *Corsicana* (Justice), *Cheating Fate* (Layla), and *As You Like It* (Keyboard 2). Victoria has directed two productions at Pitt including *Our Town* and *BFF*, both with Performance Collaborative. She also serves as the President/Artistic Director of Performance Collaborative. Outside of Pitt, Victoria served as Assistant Director for Front Porch Theatricals' *Bandstand*, *Baby*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*. She wants to thank this amazing team for a fantastic experience on her final show at Pitt.

Dr. Amanda Jane Olmstead (Choreographer) is a faculty member in the Theatre Arts Department at the University of Pittsburgh and in the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University. She received her PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, her MA in Performance Studies from New York University, and her BA in Theatre with a minor in Dance from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At CMU and Pitt, Amanda teaches musical theatre, history, dance, performance theory, and acting. Her book *Andy Blankenbuehler: A Critical Companion*, about the famed *Hamilton* choreographer, will be released by Bloomsbury Publishing and Methuen Drama this summer and her new book project *Associates of Broadway: Inside the Rehearsal Room* will be hitting the shelves in the fall of 2027. During the summer, she is the director of Shady Side Academy's middle school summer camp, Camp Ren. She is an active choreographer for Pitt, Shady Side Academy, and Montour School District choreographing shows such as *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Chicago*, *Hair*, *Big Fish*, *Urinetown*, *Pippin*, *Zombie Prom*, *We Will Rock You*, *Newsies Jr.*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Elf Jr.*, *Anything Goes*, *As You Like It*, and *On the Town*). — Kelly, Becki, Shelby, and our extraordinary creative team—your artistry and generosity make this work possible. Thank you for welcoming me into this process. Justine and Kaelyn, my brilliant assistant choreographers—your creativity and leadership inspire me endlessly. Akisse, our phenomenal dance captain—thank you for leading with grace and excellence in the world of Arcadia. And to all of our students: working with you has been the joy and honor of a lifetime.

Audrey Pernel (Assistant Director) is a second year MFA student in Performance Pedagogy. This is her last show with Pitt Stages! Audrey would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work, her fellow graduate students and professors for all of their support and guidance, her students for all they teach her, and her family for always being there—especially Andrés who came to pick her up after all those late-night rehearsals. Many thanks + much love!

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Eden Polito (Assistant Costume Designer and Bassist) - Though often found on the stage, Eden is excited to be working with the wonderful production team of *Head Over Heels!* Though she has had experience in both areas before, this is her first college show designing or playing in the band. Last semester, she appeared on stage as Mrs. Drebber in *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson, Apt. 2B*. She would like to give special thanks to the costume designer, KJ Gilmer, as well as the costume shop manager, Ricky Campbell, for all their hard work to bring this show together. She would also like to thank her best friend, Addy, for all her support throughout this process. Finally, she would like to thank her family, specifically her mom, who supports her in everything she does.

Emi Prudhoe (Stage Crew) is a senior majoring in Ecology and Evolution and minoring in Theatre Arts. This is Emi's third show with Pitt Stages, with previous roles in *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson – Apt 2B* (Watson) and *Morning Reckoning* (Nadia). She is so grateful for these experiences at Pitt and the opportunity to work with another talented group of theatre artists in this production! Outside of Pitt Stages, she has enjoyed getting involved in the student organizations CFlat A Capella and Performance Collaborative. She would like to thank her cast and crew for support throughout this entire process. She would also like to thank her peers and former teachers who encouraged her to pursue theatre arts, and her family for all their love and support. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

E. Reilly (Follow Spot Operator) is excited for their third and final show with Pitt Stages. Reilly is a senior Theatre Arts major with a minor in Creative Writing. They previously worked on shows such as *The Brown Overcoat* (Sound Designer) with Pitt Stages and *Mean Girls Jr.* (co-Light Designer) with MTC. Recently, they worked with Riverfront Theater on *[title of show]* (Light/Sound Designer). Please enjoy the show!

Eliver Russo (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a graduating senior Theatre Major, and this is officially their last show with Pitt Stages. They have previously been the Costume Designer on *The Brown Overcoat*, the Assistant Costume Designer on *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, a dresser on *Dead Man's Cellphone*, and are a production assistant in the costume shop. Following graduation, they will be getting their M.F.A. in Costume Design. Eliver would like to thank the numerous professors and fellow students who shaped their time at Pitt to be like no other. And now it is time to go out with a bang. Or, as they prefer, a heavily costumed and choreographed dance number! They hope you enjoy the show!

Production & Creative Biographies

Kyle Schiff (A2) is a Freshman intending on majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in Theatre Arts. This is Kyle's third time backstage for Pitt Stages, with his previous jobs as a crew member in *The Trees* and *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson- Apt. 2B*. He is very excited to be a part of a different position as well as have the privilege to work with such an amazing group of people in this production *Head Over Heels*. In his free time, he likes to go to the gym as well as volunteer his time as a carpenter in the workshop for Pitt Stages. He would like to thank his family, friends, and mentors for helping him through his journey and always giving him support. Thank you so much for coming, and enjoy the show!

Kaelyn Schrader (Assistant Choreographer) is a senior economics major and film minor. This is their first production with Pitt Stages. Kaelyn grew up as a competitive dancer, with over 15 years of preprofessional training. Currently, she is a choreographer and performer for Pitt Dance Ensemble and Pitt Ballet Club. They are so grateful for this experience and all the valuable knowledge they've gained from working with Amanda and the rest of the Production team. They are so proud of the entire cast and crew for all the work they've put into this incredible show!

Sadie Seggerson (Spot Op) is a freshman at Pitt studying Theatre Arts and Marketing. This is her second show with Pitt Stages, recently serving as Assistant Lighting Designer for *The Trees*. Other recent credits include *Into The Woods* (Sound Designer), *The Wedding Singer* (Sound Designer). Sadie is also an active member of the student group, MTC at Pitt, serving as their Sound Designer in residence. She wants to congratulate the cast and crew on their amazing work, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Marie Southall (Co-Sound Director) is extremely honored and excited for the opportunity to sound design for the Pitt Stages' production of *Head Over Heels*. Marie has worked on other projects with Pitt Stages, most notably *The Trees* (Sound Designer), *The Actor's Nightmare* (Sound Designer) and *As You Like It* (Associate Sound Designer). She was also worked with Redwood Media Group's *Black Nativity: Pittsburgh* (Sound Designer, Sound Engineer). Marie would like to thank the cast and crew for their support in this creative process and her sound mentor, Howard Patterson, for his teaching hand and encouragement throughout this entire process.

Grace Toman (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a junior Ecology and Evolution major minoring in Theatre Arts. She is excited to be an assistant light designer *Head Over Heels*! Pitt credits include *The Brown Overcoat* (Lighting Designer), *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (Assistant Scenic Designer), MTC's *The Wedding Singer* (Assistant Scenic Designer), and Pitt Dance Ensemble's *Eclipse* (Stage Manager). She has had a great time working on this production, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Special Thanks To

Natalie Flango
Point Park University
Costume Department



Support this work

With your help, we are able to showcase our students and faculty while building a future for theatre in our region. A contribution to the Department of Theatre Arts today ensures these programs will continue to enrich our cultural community. Thank you for supporting the arts!

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University of
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Contact :

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play.pitt.edu





The Outside the Classroom Curriculum

Head Over Heels



**Friday Apr 10th, 2026, 7:30 PM – Sunday Apr 19th,
2026, 4:00 PM**

The plot of the show is adapted from *Arcadia* by Sir Philip Sidney, superimposed with the contemporary music of The Go-Go's. *Head Over Heels* is the story of what happens when the royal court of *Arcadia* is threatened by the mystical Oracle of Delphi with the loss of its "Beat," the divine power that ensures the kingdom's prosperity. King Basilius, whose own title is at stake, forces the members of the royal family and court on a journey to the woods in an attempt to escape the Oracle's seemingly unavoidable prophecies.

Production Crew

Production Director.....	Hadley Armstrong
Performance Advisor.....	Kelly Trumbull
Stage Management Advisor.....	Annmarie Duggan
Staff Technical Director.....	JC Bardzil
Staff Assistant Technical Director.....	Abbie Wagner
Shop Production Assistants.....	Liza Brown, Aiden Wilt
Carpenters.....	Kayley Brown, Kyle Buchheister, Edidiong Ekpo, Sahasra Negireddy, Kyle Schiff, Madelyn Shaw, Claudia Shrager, and the Introduction to Stagecraft Class
Faculty Props Manager.....	Bridgette Dona
Props Artisans.....	0880: Maggie Megosh, Addie Oberg; Sienna Dixon, Sage Rosenfeld
Faculty Scenic Charge Artist.....	Alex Dolinger
Student Scenic Charge Artist.....	Julia Ferranti
Assistant Scenic Charge Artist.....	Audrey Clare
Scenic Artists.....	Audrey Clare, Julia Ferranti, Andie Schultz
Paint Shop Manager.....	Alex Dolinger
Painters.....	Bella Feather, Valerie Onyango, Asher Aracil, Elena Ellinger, Gianni DelMastro, Valentina Chiriatti, Claudia Shrager
Costume Advisor.....	KJ Gilmer
Costume Shop Manager.....	Ricky Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Manager.....	Brittany Graham
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Eliver Russo
Dressers.....	Elisabeth Fitzgerald, Amanda Lombardo, Jessica Strauss
Draper.....	Kyle Huber
Lead Stitcher.....	Kym Laret
Stitchers.....	Eden Polito, Eliver Russo, and Costume Production and Technology Class
Director of Lighting, Sound, and Projection.....	Forrest Trimble
Head Electrician.....	Hayley Rizor
Shop Electricians.....	Akisse Morton, Adrienne Rodgers, Ceili Schiller
Show Electricians.....	Sam Orshan, Sadie Seggerson
Sound A2.....	Katherine Ellison, Kyle Schiff
Sound Board Op/Mixer.....	Abby Keller
Sound Assistant.....	Seth Pittsburg
Spot Op.....	Juliet Labreque, E. Reilly, Sadie Seggerson
Light Board Operator.....	Maeve McNichol
Run Crew/Fly Op.....	Braeden Bowling, Griffin Maley, Emi Prudhoe
Band.....	Kamran E. Mian, Eden Polito, Samuel Couch

About Pitt Stages

Pitt Stages is the in-house production company for the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

Faculty

Department Chair..... Annmarie Duggan
Director of Graduate Studies..... Michelle Granshaw
Director of Undergraduate Studies..... Gianni Downs
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy..... Cynthia Croot
Head of Design, Technology, and Management..... KJ Gilmer
Head of History/Literature/Criticism..... Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance..... Ricardo Vila-Roger
Faculty..... Kathleen George, Qianru Li, Britton Mauk,
Howard Patterson, Keelie Sheridan,
Becki Toth, Kelly Trumbull
Visiting Lecturer in History Literature and Criticism... Elizabeth Kurtzman
Chosky Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Bridgette Dona
Richard E. Rauh Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Tonya Lynn

Administrative Staff

Arts Administrative Officer..... Ashley Martin
Production Director..... Hadley Armstrong
Academic Operation Manager..... Erin Delaney
Department Coordinator..... Micky Krenek
Academic Administrator..... Connie Markiw
Graduate Student Services Administrator..... LJ Woolcock-Srolovic
Patron and Rental Services Manager..... Jeremy Seghers
Marketing and Engagement Specialist..... Nicole Sauter
Business Coordinator..... Amanda Raczkowski

Production Staff

Technical Director..... JC Bardzil
Assistant Technical Director..... Abbie Wagner
Costume Shop Manager..... Ricky Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Manager..... Brittany Graham
Director of Lighting, Sound and Projections..... Forrest Trimble

PITT STAGES presents

PERSEVERANCE The 2026-2027 Season

The Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, is proud to announce its 2026-2027 season. Comprised of compelling stories that showcase grit and inner strength, the productions will reflect a common theme of "Perseverance." The mix of mainstage productions, musicals, and one-act plays will consist of classical adaptations, modern day abstractions, and a bohemian musical that celebrates the seasons of life.

Curated by the Pitt Stages Season Selection Committee and led by Co-Chairs Kelly Trumbull and Howard Patterson, this year's productions embrace the department's mission to amplify diverse voices and produce stories from multicultural perspectives and theatrical styles. This allows for deeper artistic and educational opportunities for the students, faculty, and community collaborators involved.

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

Fall 2026

Gloria by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, directed by Ricardo Vila-Roger

Hundred Days by The Bengsons & Sarah Gancher, directed by Cynthia Croot

Spring 2027

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka, adapted by David Farr and

Gísli Örn Gardarsson, directed by Keelie Sheridan

Rent by Jonathan Larson, directed by Kelly Trumbull

STUDENT ONE-ACT PLAYS

Fall 2026

The Proposal by Anton Chekov, translated by Julius West, directed by Ryder Smith

Waiting by Ethan Coen, directed by Lila Kelly

Spring 2027

Pittsburgh Machine* written and directed by Guilherme Meletti Yazbek
(*World Premiere)