

#### **CONTENT WARNING:**

This play contains loud noises, flashing lights, strong language and comedic violence.

# A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Book and Lyrics by ROBERT L. FREEDMAN Music and Lyrics by STEVEN LUTVAK

Based on a Novel by ROY HORNIMAN

# A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Original Broadway Production Produced by
Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, John Johnson,
50 Church Street Productions, Joan Raffe & Jhett Tolentino, Jay Alix &
Una Jackman, Catherine & Fred Adler, Rhoda Herrick, Kathleen K.
Johnson, Megan Savage, ShadowCatcher Entertainment, Ron Simons,
True Love Productions, Jamie deRoy, Four Ladies & One Gent, John
Arthur Pinckard, Greg Nobile, Stewart Lane & Bonnie Comley
Exeter Capital/Ted Snowdon, Ryan Hugh Mackey, Cricket-CTM
Media/Mano-Horn Productions, Dennis Grimaldi/Margot Astrachan,
Hello Entertainment/Jamie Bendell, Michael T. Cohen/Joe Sirola,
Joseph & Carson Gleberman/William Megevick

Green State Productions
In association with
The Hartford Stage and The Old Globe"

#### A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER

was developed, in part, at the 2006 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort with continuing Post-Lab Support through its initiative with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick Vocal Arrangements by Dianne Adams McDowell & Steven Lutvak

#### **Scenic and Production Leads**



**Light Board Operator** - Josh Mercer **Follow Spot Operator** - Anna Francis

Audio A2/Band Wrangler - Jo Winward-Kloss

Audio A3/QLab Operator - Kai Palacios

Backstage Crew - Paris Bacharach

Backstage/Prop Crew - Carter Garcia, Sienna Nurnberger

Audio Mixer - Eden Wade



#### **Synopsis**

On the night of his mother's funeral, middle-class Englishman Monty Navarro learns an incredible secret: he is the "son of the daughter of the grandson of the nephew of the second Earl of Highhurst." In other words, Monty Navarro is an aristocrat - if he can only find a way to prevent the eight earls preceding him from inheriting the earldom first. Buoyed along by love for two different women, the stunning and self-centered Sibella and the pious and witty Phoebe, Monty takes on his mission. As for the D'Ysquith family? One actor plays three different ill-fated members, transforming from the flamboyant country squire to the Lord of the family estate to the terrible woman Philanthropist. In the witty and ceaselessly entertaining *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, the audience is treated to Edwardian style, classic farce, and stunning operatic singing.

#### **Scenic and Production Crews**

Portrait Photographer/Digital Imaging Artist - Heidi Martin Portrait Photographer Assistant - Sophia Ishaq Audio & Video Support - Kodi Atkins, Reece Oliver, Michael Rintoul

**Original Paintings by** - Bucky Delgado, Amanda Desoto, Emi Fujii, Liz Kastner, Melissa Lay, Dan Lisi, Hennessy Munoz, Maddie Paniccia, Kate Petridis, Anaya Riddle, Juan Sanchez, Andrea Venegas

Additional Artwork provided by: Zoe Bowlds, Ariana Burrell, Bucky Delgado, Amanda Desoto, Dana Ehrman, Emi Fujii, Sophia Ishaq, Emily Kanalz, Brian Koehler, Dan Lisi, Rylie Pascual, Bette Pruno, Anaya Riddle, Johnny Schwind; multiple pieces created by animals from The Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College; multiple anonymous pieces.

Scenic Construction/Painting and Lighting Crew - Paris Bacharach, Nico Bayot, Frank Candelaria, Bucky Delgado, Amanda Desoto, Anna Francis, Emi Fujii, Carter Garcia, Natalie Haddajian, Liz Kastner, Ryan Kuzma, Luca LaVigna, Josh Mercer, Sienna Nurnberger, Paul Oseguera, Maddie Paniccia, Kate Petridis, Mollie Schafer, Andrea Venegas, Faith vom Cleff Zaarour, Eden Wade

## Special Thanks:

Suzanne Fagan, Elizabeth David, Nathan Bowen, Dina Pielaet, Angela Giglia, Oleg Bespalov, Clare Sadnik and the MakerSpace, Julius Sokenu, John Forbes, Jennifer Clark, Mostafa Ghous, Deborah Klein, The Moorpark College Foundation, Jeremiah Burns, Elizabeth Nielsen, Michael Hoffman, Jake Phillips, Lisa Loprieno and Mimi!

## Cast

Montague "Monty" NavarroJack Levi		
(July 17, 19, 25, 27, 31 Aug. 2)		
Gianni Nicolini		
(July 18, 20, 24, 26, Aug. 1, 3)		
Miss ShingleAshley Gilmore		
Rhiannon Tircuit (understudy)		
Sibella HallwardMuali Mirfakhraei		
(July 17, 19, 25, 27, 31 Aug. 2)		
Bryanna Gregory		
(July 18, 20, 24, 26, Aug. 1, 3)		
Phoebe D'YsquithNaomi Fuentes		
(July 17, 18, 25, 31 Aug. 1, 2, 3)		
Lauren Whitton		
(July 19, 20, 24, 26, 27)		
Asquith D'Ysquith, JrJosh Yates		
Lord Adalbert D'Ysquith,		
Henry D'Ysquith, Lady HyacinthWilliam Flannery		
(July 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27)		
Nicholas Davila		
(July 18, 25, 31 Aug. 1,2,3)		
Reverend Ezekiel, Major Bartholomew D'YsquithHolden Aguirre		
Lady Salome D'Ysquith/Dance CaptainNikki Orouji		
Chauncey D'YsquithTal Toker		
Lady EugeniaRhiannon Tircuit		
Miss Evangeline BarleyEmille Velarde		
Engamble		

#### Ensemble

Nikki Orouji Tal Toker
Emille Velarde A. J. Ma
Addison Beavers Colin Eickhoff
Marina Wagner Josh Yates

#### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

#### Act I

- "Prologue: A Warning to the Audience" - Mourners
- "You're a D'Ysquith" -Miss Shingle and Monty
- "I Don't Know What I'd Do" - Sibella
- "Foolish to Think" -Monty
- **Paintings**
- "I Don't Understand the **Poor**" – Lord Adalbert and **Paintings**
- "Foolish to Think (Reprise)" - Monty
- Poison in My Pocket" -Monty, Asquith Jr., & Barley
- "Poor Monty" Sibella and Wedding Guests
- "Better With a Man" -Henry and Monty
- "Inside Out" Phoebe & Monty
- "Lady Hyacinth Abroad" - Lady Hyacinth, Monty and Ensemble
- "The Last One You'd Expect" - Company

#### Act II

- "Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying" -Mourners
- "Why Are All The D'Ysquiths Dying (Reprise)" – Lord Adalbert and Paintings
- "Sibella" Monty
- "A Warning to Monty" • "I've Decided to Marry You" - Phoebe, Sibella, and Monty
  - "Final Warning" Statue **Busts**
  - "Poison in My Pocket (Reprise)" - Monty
  - "Looking Down the Barrel of a Gun" - Lord Adalbert and Servants
  - "Stop! Wait! What?!" Monty
  - "That Horrible Woman" - Sibella, Phoebe, Inspector Pinckney, Magistrate, and Guard
  - "Finale" Company





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AJ Ma \*\*\*\*\*\*



Nicholas Davila



### **ORCHESTRA**

Piano/Conductor **David Watkins** 

Music Faculty/Conductor Brendan McMullin



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Violin (1) Keyboardist (Violin 2) Cello

**Electric Bass** Electric Guitar

Percussion/Drum Kit

Clarinet

Oboe, English Horn

Bassoon Bandura

Alto Saxophone

Trumpet Trumpet

French Horn/Pianist/

Trumpet

Reagan Lockwood Myles Nieland

Rob Bogeberg Harvey Austin

Jamal-Adam Qattan

Sawyer Degnan

Jake Stewart

William Yang James Parlevliet

Katya Androsiuk

**Robbie Yates** 

Rana Banerjee

Matthew Felsen

Cavit Celayir-Monezis





A Commitment to Property Management and Brokerage

### Services:

Property Management

Asset Preservation/Value Maximization

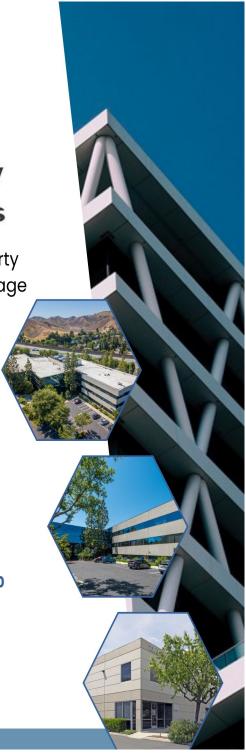
Project Management

## Contact Us

+(818)676-3314

www.midvalley.com

26901 Agoura Road Suite 180 Calabasas, CA 9130



#### Director's Note:

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, set in 1909 Edwardian England, is a high-spirited comedy with music and lyrics that call to mind the classic operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. And the humor employed here could rival that of Monty Python. It would be very easy to sit back and enjoy the clever turns of phrases in the patter songs and to simply bask in the lyricism of the operatic interludes. However, to do so is to deny the satirical teeth that are lurking behind the façade of its laugher and symphonic beauty.

Perhaps this satire stings more today than it did when it was originally won the Tony in the 2013. It's important to listen to the lyrics of songs such as *I Don't Understand the Poor*:

NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POOR THE LIVES THAT THEY LEAD OF WANT AND NEED... WHAT'S ALL THE SUFFERING FOR...

WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY AND FRAIL, WE'LL FEED THEM IN JAIL!
WE'LL SEND THEM OFF TO WAR!



The extraordinary divide in income in Edwardian England that was crushing the working class of the day, prompted extreme actions in their government. Touted as one of the greatest social reform advancements of the  $20^{\rm th}$  century, the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908, was quickly followed by the Trade Boards Act of 1909 and The National Insurance Act of 1911 that institutionalized a minimum work age and wage as well as sick and unemployment assurances.

CUT TO: America in 2025

Income inequality is at the highest level in our country's history. How has our government responded to the realties that children born into poverty, the elderly and people with disabilities face today?

Suddenly a song about not understanding the wants and needs of the poor and wondering what all the suffering is for might not be so funny.

This is the power of satire. The power of music and the arts. The power of theatre. Just as politicians, news broadcasters, influencers and podcasters have their jobs in a society, so do the artists. Our job is to hold a mirror to what we see, and sometimes the harshest reflections can only be faced through the humor in a patter song and an entertaining dance.

- John Loprieno

### Note from AD/Dramaturg/Vocal Coach:

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder has been beloved to me since it's debut on Broadway in 2013. I was immediately won over by it's elegant, comical and classical songs. There are many themes being explored in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and they carry much more weight than you'd expect. Do not dismiss it as a simple comedy! Instead I implore you to digest this play and its messages even as you enjoy the wonderful music and talented performers.

The first time I saw this show was with my late father at the Ahmanson Theatre in 2016. After that hilarious and precious performance, I promptly emailed the show's playwright and lyricist, Robert L. Freedman, expressing, in my over-excited way, how much I adored his show and how I, one day, would love to perform in it. To my surprise, he actually responded! He expressed a sincere thanks as well as his encouragement, which as a student, made an incredible impact on me. Sadly, the show's composer, Steven Lutvak, has also passed away. I believe that he was a genius, and his work should be revered. If my father and Lutvak should meet in heaven, I'm sure my dad would tell him just how magnificent this show is and how much he and his daughter enjoyed it! There should be more productions like Freedman and Lutvak's.

As I continue to be a performer, getting to return to Moorpark as a vocal coach and assistant director is quite a treat! Working with John, the cast and crew has been an invaluable experience. It has been thrilling to witness and work with this talented cast and to assist them in finding their characters, and synergize with one another. I thank God that He has empowered me to be able to assist them where I could. Deuteronomy 15:11

- Michelle Harris



Gianni Nicolini Muali Mirfakhraei





Tal Toker



Bryanna Gregory



Ashley Gilmore



Naomi Fuentes



Marina Wagner Colin Eickhoff





Lauren Whitton



Nikki Orouji



Addison Beavers Rhiannon Tircuit





William Flannery



**Josh Yates** 



Jack Levi



Holden Aguirre

#### **Note from Theatre Technical Director:**

When looking to embrace the concept of an art gallery, or storytelling in the vein of the television show *Night Gallery*, and similar anthology shows, this required an extensive amount of original art representing the dominate scenes within this show. As usual, our students rose to the creative challenge.

There were sixteen original paintings created by student artists for this production - students from all areas of the Theatre and Art programs. In addition, other (non-show specific) paintings were donated by students, by student family members and friends, by faculty and staff, and even paintings done by animals at our very own Teaching Zoo!

Finally, we had students from Photography do original cast portraits (32 in all) and a few landscapes and then do digital imaging magic to turn them into "paintings" (no, no shoving them into AI, but using actual digital art tools!).

We absolutely had to fill out some space with assorted things that we just dug out of storage or found thrifting... but as much as possible, this is an opportunity to show off yet another massive skill set of our talented - and extremely committed - students. It was a joy to work with them throughout this process, and see their work and ideas come to fruition in this production.

- Brian Koehler



#### Saturdays, 10am-1:15pm Starting August 16

Come learn how to audition from Jane Flowers, a casting professional who REALLY knows!

Notable Casting Credits: "Daisy Jones & The Six," "SEAL Team," "Die Hart"





Production	Staff

Director/ProducerJohn Loprieno
Musical Director/Vocal Director
ChoreographerNancy Ferraro-Paradis
Dramaturg/Assistant DirectorMichelle Harris
Costume Designer/Ensemble Makeup Design/FacultyOrly Ruiz
PAC Technical Director/Lighting SupervisorAriana Burrell
PAC Tech/Audio SupervisorMelissa Lay
PAC Tech/Theatre Technical Director/
Scenic and Prop SupervisorBrian Koehler
Theatre Assistant Technical Director (Production)Sarah King
Costume Designer/FacultyOrly Ruiz
Orchestra Faculty/ConductorBrendan McMullin
Marketing, Communications & Web Design CoordinatorDina Pielaet
Poster Design
Cast PhotographerHeidi Martin
Stage ManagerBella Whitson
Assistant DirectorsJo Winward-Kloss, Carter Garcia
Assistant Stage ManagersLuca LaVigna, Andrea Venegas
Scenic Designer
Assistant Technical Directors (Scene Shop)Frank Candelaria,
Ryan Kuzma
Master CarpenterMollie Schafer
Lead CarpentersNico Bayot, LIz Kastner,
Luca LaVigna, Andrea Venegas
Charge ArtistFaith vom Cleff Zaarour
Lead PainterMaddie Paniccia
Prop MastersCarter Garcia, Sienna Nurnberger
Lighting Designer
Audio DesignerEden Wade
Production Photographer

# Who's Who In The Cast

Addison Beavers (Ensemble) was last seen at Brightstar Performing Arts where she played the role of Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family*. Addison is a first-year student here at Moorpark College and this is Addison's first Moorpark College Theatre production! She's enjoyed creating new connections with her castmates. Addison would also like to thank her friends and family who have supported her in this experience. She hopes that the audience enjoys this witty and darkly hilarious musical!

**Nicholas Davila** (Lord Aldalbert/Lady Hyacinth/Henry D'Ysquith) is ecstatic to be in this production! Past credits include Nelson in *Lady of the Tortilla*, Ensemble/Understudy Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Vlad in *Anastasia* and has also appeared in *Peter Pan, Mary Poppins*, and many other musicals and student films. Nicholas would like to thank his family, friends, and the production staff. He hopes you enjoy the show.

**Colin Eickhoff** (Ensemble) is excited for all of you to watch this production of *A Gentleman's Guide of Love & Murder*. You may have seen Colin as Adam in *Freaky Friday*, Quartet Member in *Young Frankenstein*, the Emcee in *Our Lady of the Tortilla*, and the Escapologist in *Matilda*. He'd like to thank his parents, his older brother, his teachers, friends, and his little mongrel, King. Enjoy a Jolly Good Time with *Gentleman's Guide*!

William Flannery (Lord Adalbert, Henry D'Ysquith, Lady Hyacinth, Inspector) is thrilled to be a part of his third show at Moorpark College. He has also appeared in *Sweeney Todd* as Anthony and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night as* Orsino. William plans to transfer into the theater program at CSUN after graduating Moorpark College. It has been a great joy to work on a production with old and new friends throughout this

## **Costume and Makeup Crews**



### **Costume Supervisor:**

Rhiann Olshane

### **Construction of Miss Barley Dress:**

Rhiann Olshane

#### Construction of Sibella's Dress & Jacket:

Marina Wagner Ime Shop Assi

## **Costume Shop Assistant:**

Emi Fujii

#### **Stitchers:**

Henessy Munoz, Marina Wagner and Juan Sanchez Dressers- Henessy Munoz and Juan Sanchez

### Hair, Wig and Makeup Design:

Dan Lisi

Administration for Moorpark College, the Arts, Media, and Communication Studies Division, and the Performing Arts Center

President of Moorpark College Dr. Julius Sokenu Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. John Forbes Vice President of Business Services Dr. Jennifer Clark Dr. Mostafa Ghous Vice President of Student Support Division Dean Elizabeth David Department Chair Dr. Nathan Bowen **PAC Technical Director** Ariana Burrell PAC Tech II Brian Koehler PAC Tech I Melissa Lay Box Office Manager/PAC Assistant Krista Lederer Division Office Administrator Victoria Collie **Box Office Assistant** Erin Matthews Gabe Valentine House Manager

## Who's Who In The Cast

Lauren Whitton (Phoebe D'Ysquith) is elated to be making her debut at Moorpark College! Recent credits include Anastasia in *Anastasia* (Moorpark High School Vocal Arts), Liesl in *The Sound of Music* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (High Street Arts Center), as well as her directorial debut with *Hadestown* (Moorpark High School Vocal Arts). Lauren is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Classical and Modern Music. She would like to thank her family for their endless support, her castmates for the constant laughs, and the incredible production team and crew for their kindness and hard work. She hopes you enjoy this killer comedy.

Josh Yates (Asquith Jr./Ensemble) is so happy to be in his third show at Moorpark! You may have seen him previously in *Twelfth Night* (Toby), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Bartholomew), or the student one acts (director-*Stranded, Lord of the Fries*; actor- Locked in Love). Previous credits outside of Moorpark include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), *Puffs* (Wayne), *You Can't Take it With You* (Grandpa), *Tempest* (Ferdinand), *Trail to Oregon!* (McDoon/everyone else), and most recently, *Philosophers* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival (Gavin)

### A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

## Who's Who In The Cast

William Flannery (Continued) very speedy process putting this show together and is very grateful to have been a part of it. He is ever thankful of the support he has received from his parents, his girlfriend and friends who have helped him through this difficult but rewarding process. Philippians 4:12-13

**Naomi Fuentes** (Phoebe) is a Moorpark College Voice Student, Coloratura Soprano, studying under the guidance of Dr. Stephanie Aston. Naomi also has doubled as a flautist since 2011. This is her debut theatrical performance as Phoebe in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. She has performed in the *Come Together* Popular Music Showcase, the first ever Chamber Music In-House Concert on Flute and Voice and the Opera Musical Theater Workshop Showcase at Moorpark College.

**Ashley Gilmore** (Miss Shingle) was last seen as Maria in *Twelfth Night* at Moorpark College. Her other credits include Fräulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, Cyrano De Bergerac in *Cyrano De Bergerac*, Hercule Poirot in *Murder on the Orient Express* and Katherine in *Taming Of The Shrew*. When not performing, you can find Ashley directing at ARTSpace Blackbox Theater and Simi Valley High School! Ashley would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work!

**Bryanna Gregory** (Sibella) is thrilled to play Sibella in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, one of her all-time favorite musicals! This marks her fourth production and her biggest role to date. She's loved stepping into Sibella's stylish shoes—though she's starting to lose count of how many times she says "Monty" (someone start a tally, please). It's been an absolute joy working with this hilarious and talented cast, and Bryanna hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!



## Who's Who In The Cast

**Jack Levi** (Monty Navarro D'Ysquith) is overjoyed to revive his British accent in his Moorpark debut! His recent credits include Spacepunk in *Starmites* at CLU and Mark in *RENT* at YAE. A senior CLU Marketing major, Jack releases original music under 'Jack Ryan Levi'. He thanks his parents for their ongoing support, the cast and crew for their camaraderie, and the poison in his pocket. He hopes you enjoy the show...and don't stand before him in the line of succession.

**AJ Ma** (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his Moorpark College debut. His recent credits include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Rancho Campana High, JD in *Heathers* at Camarillo Junior Theatre, and Grover in *The Lightning Thief* at Young Artists' Ensemble. Starting this fall, AJ will be pursuing musical theatre as his major at UCLA.

**Muali Mirfakhraei** (Sibella) is delighted to be playing this dream of a mezzo soprano whom she loves dearly. Credits include: Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* and Joan in *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. So much love and gratitude for her exceptional cast, crew, family, friends, dental hygiene brigade, and Block Blast. Like Sibella, Muali fails to make conversation about classical music at dinner. She hopes you leave the show alive!

**Gianni Nicolini** (Monty Navarro D'Ysquith) is excited to be in his third Moorpark production. He is taking on one of his dream roles in Monty Navarro. He was be seen last in *Sweeney Todd* as Judge Turpin, as well as *Our Lady of the Tortilla* as Eddie. Gianni would like to thank, Brent Wilson, John Loprieno, and Karen Rodriguez.

**Nikki Orouji** (Lady Salome/Ensemble/Dance Captain) is an Astrophysics major and she wanted to explore the Arts and auditioned for *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. This is her first production; the experience has been very fun and extremely rewarding for her. She hopes you have fun watching! She would like to thank God for this opportunity and dedicates her performance to her late mom, Kathy.

## Who's Who In The Cast

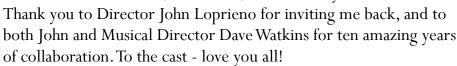
**Rhiannon Tircuit** (Lady Eugenia) was last seen in Simi Valley, portraying the role of Egeus in Troubadour Classic Theatre Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is her first Moorpark College production, having taken a hiatus from college theatre since 2018. Her stage and film credits include *A Thousand Years, Into the Woods, Prom*, and various student films. Outside of theatre, she is a CAD designer and a connoisseur of teas and spices.

**Emille Velarde** (Miss Bayley/Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first musical! You may have seen her before as Marissa in the Fall 2024 One Act *Locked in Love* and as Lia in the spring 2025 One Act *Whispering Woods*. As a Vocal Music major here at Moorpark she is very excited to be part of this production and would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her through this process!

Marina Wagner (Ensemble) is excited to perform in her third and final summer musical at Moorpark College. Her previous productions include *Cabaret* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She is transferring to UC Davis this coming Fall to complete her Bachelor's degree in Costume Design. She is grateful for her incredible support system with special thanks to her mother: Sheryl Hopkins, best friend: Rene Mendoza, Boyfriend: Tal Toker, and educational and professional mentors, Haleh Risdana, and Nicholas C. Pappas.

### Choreographer's Note

It's always a joy to work with the MCTheater Department, but this summer has been especially meaningful a wonderful mix of talent, teamwork, and creativity.



– Nancy Paradis