

EXPRESSIONS FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY



# 2024

## EXPRESSIONS THEATRE FESTIVAL



**ARTS UMBRELLA**

April 26-June 21

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# Anne of Green Gables



## GOLDILOCKS *and the* THREE BEARS



RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S

# *Cinderella*



# THE QUEST



WARNING, GRIEF,  
ART, DELUSION



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## The best way to support a community is to be a part of it.

At the heart of every community, you'll find organizations fueled by committed people who are passionate about building a better future for us all. We are inspired by our friends at **Arts Umbrella** and their continuous efforts toward a better world where all young lives are inspired to pursue a lifelong journey towards self-expression, compassion, and humanity through the arts.

[rbc.com/community](https://rbc.com/community)



# A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE, MUSIC & FILM

Welcome to these unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watuth peoples and our Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre. I hope you enjoy the show.

“Why are you keeping this curiosity door locked?”  
— *Dustin Henderson (Gaten Matarazzo), Stranger Things*

I love this year’s shows because they each have characters that are in this space of “in-between”. Anne Shirley and Cinderella are each daring to be something more they are expected to be. The Questers are looking for something in a fantasy world that they end up finding in school. Goldilocks stumbles into a world that she didn’t understand and tries to fit in. In every case, we celebrate the drive and curiosity of humans, and the courage it inspires. The common courage of the kids/friends/actors you see here today. But courage is no easy task. It takes a certain kind of magic to do.

It’s more than the right words, or steps, or voice. It’s more than stagecraft or lighting or framing or editing. Those technical pieces are vital for telling good clear stories, so we teach and enhance those skills with young creatives. But there is a moment we are always seeking where a young person catches a wave of inspiration that propels them – perhaps no more than an inch – past the boundary of their own self-concern to a space of boundless curiosity.

And here’s the magic part. We don’t need anyone to start with courage. When we apply the curiosity over and over, we find the courage, or rather it finds us.



**Andy Toth**  
Artistic Director, Theatre, Music & Film

## ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Arts Umbrella’s Yearlong Intensives and Advanced Troupes Programs are year-long programs intended for students ready for a larger commitment to the art and craft of theatrical and musical performance. From September to June, students work with industry professionals to develop their on and off-stage skills with an emphasis on teamwork, discipline, process, creative input and cooperation. From playwriting to stagecraft, voice to movement, musical theatre to acting for stage and screen, each year-long program is one of structure, offering

young aspiring artists the space to sharpen their skills in creative expression and individual artistry. The Arts Umbrella Theatre, Music & Film Department presents theatre festivals throughout the year; as well as school tours and cabaret nights to give students in each program the opportunity to share their work. We are proud to say that many of our alumni are in post-secondary theatre programs or have gone on to work as professional actors around the world.



# FALL, WINTER, SPRING 2025

Registration opens June 1, 2024

Fall 2024, Winter 2024, and Spring 2025 programs open for registration.

[www.artsumbrella.com/programs/theatre-music](http://www.artsumbrella.com/programs/theatre-music)



Credit: Albert Normandin

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# Anne of Green Gables



BY  
**JON JORY**

FROM THE NOVEL BY  
**L.M. MONTGOMERY**

Theatre Troupe presents:

# ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

Written by Jon Jory

Based on the book by L. M. Montgomery

**April 26th and 27th at 7:00pm**

**April 27th at 2:00pm**

*Adapted by Jon Jory, this innovative adaptation, using five different actors to play Anne, is the classic story of a fiery young girl named Anne Shirley. When Marilla and Mathew Cuthbert end up with young Anne, instead of the boy they thought they were adopting, their world is turned upside down. Marilla is not pleased with the orphanage's mix-up, but agrees to keep the little girl for one month with the hope that she will be able to civilize Anne before sending her back. But will the imaginative and mischievous girl win over the hearts of her reluctant parents?*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Anne of Green Gables isn't just a book you read, it's a story you fall in love with. At least that was the case for me, and I'm fairly confident I'm not alone in that experience.

All over the world, generation after generation have continued to rediscover the story of Anne, a brilliant, bold, orphan who finds a home on Prince Edward Island. LM Montgomery's novel has been translated into 35 languages and has sold over 50 million copies since it was first published over a hundred years ago in 1908.

There is something magical that happens when you share a story that you love with someone who's never heard it before. Maybe even someone who isn't sure that they'll like it. For this production we wanted to explore that act of retelling. A group of students gather, and together they decide to bring Anne's journey to life to help their classmate who needs to read the book for homework.

Maybe you know this story well, maybe you've never heard of it before. Either way, I invite you to join us as we meet a lonely girl with red hair, a big heart, and an even bigger imagination.

### **Laura McLean**

Director, Theatre Troupe

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## ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director	Laura McLean
Set & Props Design	Luis Bellasai Gauto
Costume Design	Eloise Pons
Lighting Design	Vanka Salim
Sound Design	Shona Struthers
Stage Management	Olivia Paluzzi
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Lighting Operator	Mathew Piton
Production Management	Alan Brodie

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## CAST

Audrey Ross	Anne 1
Ziya Chong	Anne 2
Frieda Penney	Anne 3
Alev Rosen	Anne 4
Ana Khan	Marilla 1
Vira Kulihina	Marilla 2
Taylor Weeks	Marilla 3
Elijah Curror	Mathew
Lucciana Albarran	Rachel Lynde, Doctor
Katie Wu	Diana Barry, Mrs. Blewitt
Zayne Betel-Jadavji	Narrator, Mr. Barry, Mr. Spencer, Station Master

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### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andy Toth, Erika Babins, Alex Eaton, Alexa McKee, and all of the staff, administrative, and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

Anne of Green Gables  
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)



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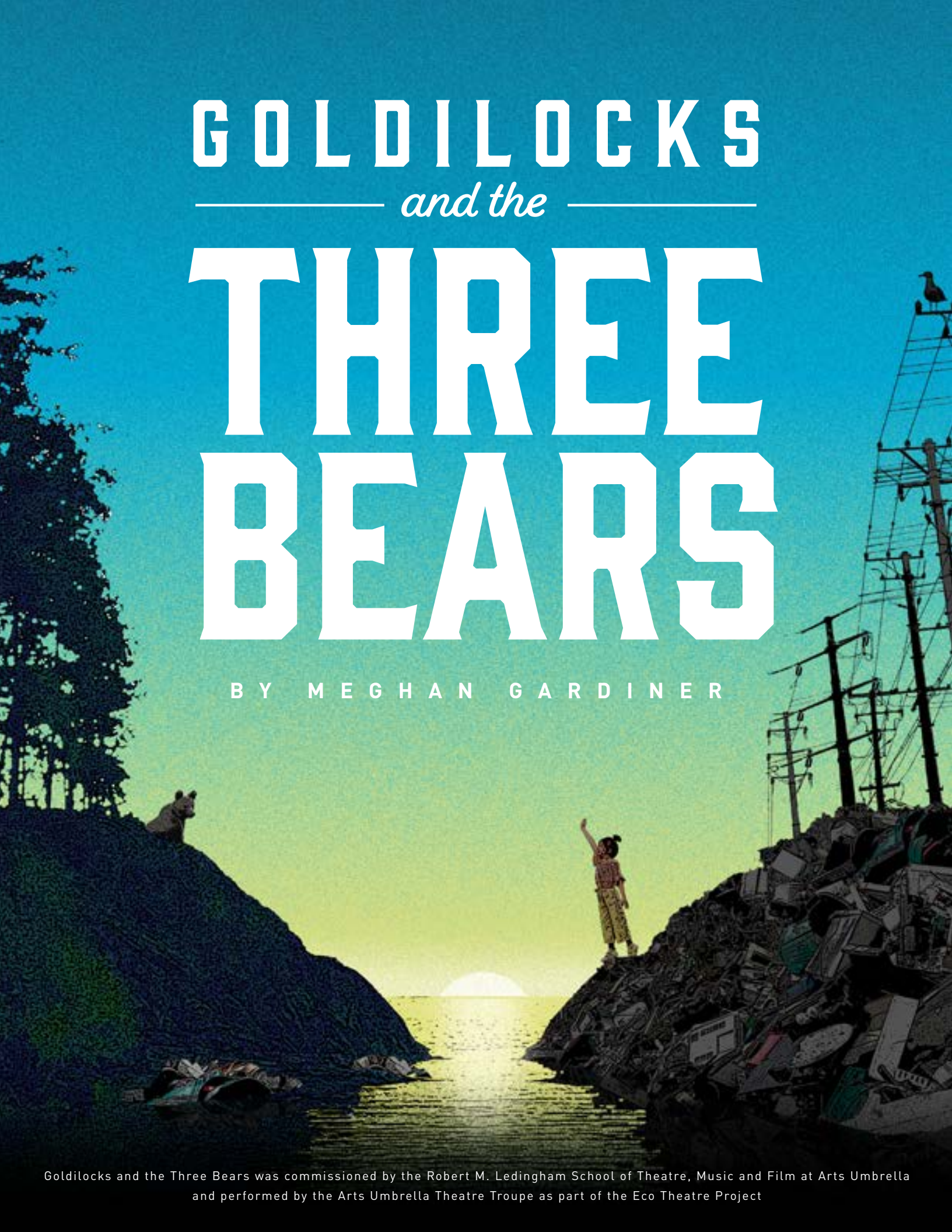
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GOLDBLOCKS

*and the*

THREE  
BEARS

BY MEGHAN GARDINER



Goldilocks and the Three Bears was commissioned by the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music and Film at Arts Umbrella and performed by the Arts Umbrella Theatre Troupe as part of the Eco Theatre Project



Theatre Troupe presents:

# GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

By Meghan Gardiner

April 26th and 27th at 7:00pm

*Many have heard the fairy-tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, but how many have considered it within the context of habitat loss? In this version, two narrators begin the tale in a traditional way but get caught off-guard when the story takes on a (current and truthful) life of its own. The show seems like it might go off the rails until the narrators realize they need to acknowledge what's happening on stage and, ultimately, what's happening on our earth. That we humans are infringing on bears "homes" every day. And the more we do, the tougher it is on the bears. Through jokes, talking animals, and frantic narrators, audiences will delight in the "chaos" of the fairy tale they thought they knew and learn a little bit about habitat loss along the way.*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A young girl enters a house she shouldn't. She eats their food, breaks their furniture and uses their beds. We all know the story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears but Meghan Gardiner's recontextualization through the lens of habitat loss breathes a whole new life into the classic tale. When working on a new play, you never know what you are going to get. I feel so fortunate that Meghan has crafted a beautiful play about loneliness, learning, and growing up. As a fan of Theatre for Young Audiences, it is such a pleasure exploring a text that speaks directly to the anxieties of youth, without speaking down to them.

When I first read the play, I was struck with how human the bears felt and, contrastingly, how ridiculous the humans were. I found parallels between the plight of the bears and the current unhoused crisis Vancouver is facing. In the design you will see this reflected in the costumes as well as performance styles. I am so grateful to Melody Anderson, the queen of Mask building, for her generous lending of unique and original masks for Goldilocks and her family. We also felt it was important to physically change the environment as the humans entered and took over the natural world. Keep your eyes peeled for these moments of change!

Finally, as an instructor, it has been a privilege working with this dedicated ensemble of seven young actors. It is such a gift to have time working in small groups, as it allows for each individual to grow and flourish. It has been a treat seeing each actor navigate scene work, character creation, and being so receptive to script changes in the moment.

### Seamus Fera

Director, Theatre Troupe

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## ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director	Seamus Fera
Set & Props Design	Luis Bellassai
Costume Design	Eloise Pons
Lighting Design	Brad Trenaman
Sound Design	Shona Struthers
Stage Manager	Ingrid Turk
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Lighting Operator	Mathew Piton
Production Management	Alan Brodie

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## CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Gemma Martin	Narrator 1
Quinlan Floyd	Narrator 2
Jesse MacPherson	Baby Bear
Béo Friesen	Papa Bear
Aimee Mintha	Mama Bear
Zara Bacic	Goldilocks
Matthew Campbell	Mother, Seagull, Father



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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Susanne Moniz de Sa, Andy Toth, Melody Anderson - for the beautiful masks, Kelsey Lee, Paul Moniz de Sa, Ranae Miller, Erika Babins, Alan Brodie, Alex Eaton, Roselle Healey, Matt Clarke, Laura McLean, Laura Reynolds, Michael Fera, Tanja Dixon-Warren, Student Services, all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears was commissioned by the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music and Film at Arts Umbrella and performed by the Arts Umbrella Senior Theatre Troupe as part of the Eco Theatre Project.



**ARTS UMBRELLA**

# 2024/25 TROUPE AUDITIONS

**Film | Musical Theatre | Theatre |  
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Auditions take place June 16.  
Admission takes place on a rolling basis;  
auditioning early is recommended.

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To book your audition visit:  
[https://www.artsumbrella.com/advanced-  
troupe-auditions/](https://www.artsumbrella.com/advanced-troupe-auditions/)

# THE QUEST



MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
KIEREN MACMILLAN & MURRAY FOSTER

Musical Theatre Troupe presents:

# THE QUEST

Written by Murray Foster and Kieren MacMillan

**May 16th, 17th, and 18th at 7:00pm**

**May 18th at 2:00pm**

*Every day, Sammy, Frankie, Rosie, and Taylor struggle to navigate the perils of high school, and every night they escape reality by playing "Quest", a nerdy role-playing game. One night, Frankie, the game's "Quest Master", challenges the other three to complete real-life high school quests like performing at the Talent Show or asking a boy to the dance. What unfolds is a tale full of heartbreak and laughter as the four Questers overcome their fears and become the heroes of their own stories.*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Our production of The Quest has been a labour of love in so many ways.

First, the chance to do a new Canadian musical is rare. Secondly, the chance to do a new Canadian musical written expressly for high school students is rare. Thirdly, the chance to do a new Canadian musical that takes its cues from a game of being and becoming like Dungeons & Dragons is exquisitely rare. Put all this together with a fierce group of young performers making brilliant character choices, and a musical score by Kieren MacMillan and Murray Foster that feels like everything from Springsteen to Kraftwerk, and, well, my high school glory days are fully relived.

I can now tick that off my middle-aged man bucket list.

I wouldn't have had the chance to appease my old soul without the immense support I get from people like our MD Erik Biskupski, co-director and newest member of the yearlong musical theatre team Kayla Dunbar and of course the other MT Troupe Faculty: Erika Babins and Patrick Ray. I also deeply thank this cast and crew of passionate students, designers, technicians and crew.

Most of all, though, I thank you all for so warmly and so fervently supporting the growth of our musical theatre program. I am thrilled that we continue to build the kind of program that can require both depth and breadth. It's a place where we, ideally, find so much safety that we get to take enormous risks and play in a field of ideas that inspire new thinking. Onward!

### Andy Toth

Director, Musical Theatre Troupe

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## ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Directors	Kayla Dunbar and Andy Toth
Music Director	Eric Biskupski
Choreographer	Kayla Dunbar
Set & Prop Design	Monica Emme
Costume Design	Jack Bumbala
Lighting Design	Brad Trenaman
Sound Design	Malcolm Armstrong
Stage Management	Jaren Guerreiro
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Lighting Operator	Sarah Fett
Sound Operator	Malcom Armstrong
Production Management	Alan Brodie

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## CAST

Lina Wozniak	Sammy	Rachel Jia	Jesse
Elizabeth Dicken	Rosie	Ellington Campbell	Doug
Amelia Kondor	Frankie	Sierra Birarda	Illusionist
Lucia Liberato	Taylor	Olivia Wong	Bard
Rebecca Floresco	Emma	Hannah Behnke	Wizard
Elizabeth Quin Ilay	Michael	Reyna Hanson	Dani
Genavie Duval	Josh	Amelie Andrade	Ensemble
Lily Patton	Jacob	Lila Quezada	Ensemble

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Paul Larocque, Susan Smith Alexander, Alan Brodie and the Poole theatre team, Erika Babins, Alex Eaton, Mary and Ben Toth and all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

# SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN

Teen Shakespeare enthusiasts will adapt *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into a filmed production. From script edits, location scouting, and acting, students will have a hand in all that it takes to take Shakespeare's work from script to screen!

**JULY 2-26 | AGES 12+**

Questions? Email  
[theatre@artsumbrella.com](mailto:theatre@artsumbrella.com).

Credit: Adam Blasber



RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S

# *Cinderella*

A vibrant, painterly illustration of a magical scene. In the foreground, an open book with a blue cover lies on a rustic wooden table. A brilliant, glowing light emanates from the pages, and a single, shimmering glass slipper floats in the air above the book. The background is a lush garden path lined with colorful flowers, including pink roses, white daisies, and orange marigolds. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dreamlike atmosphere of magic and wonder.

MUSIC BY **RICHARD RODGERS** | LYRICS BY **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

NEW BOOK BY **DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE** | ORIGINAL BOOK BY **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYSRIPTS, INC. ([WWW.PLAYSRIPTS.COM](http://WWW.PLAYSRIPTS.COM))

Musical Theatre Troupe presents:

# CINDERELLA

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

New Book by Douglas Carter Beane

Original Book by Oscar Hammerstein

**May 25th, 30th, 31st, and June 1st at 7:00pm**

**June 1st and 2nd at 2:00pm**

*The timeless enchantment of the magical fairy tale is reborn with the Rodgers & Hammerstein hallmarks of originality, charm and elegance. Ella is a curious young woman becoming aware of injustices beyond her own cruel treatment by her stepfamily. When she meets a dragon-slaying young prince who is just assuming control of his government, Ella helps spark transformation and empower the disenfranchised in their kingdom. With the help of her fairy godmother, a pumpkin and a little magic and humor, Ella, Prince Topher and their generous friends will inspire and delight the whole family.*

*Content Warning: Flashing lights, mentions of death*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It's always a challenge choosing the Mainstage shows for Expressions. We aim to select shows that will showcase and stretch the students, with ample roles for everyone, and achievable design needs. This year, I made it harder on myself when I got it in my head that I wanted to do a Golden Age musical.

I perused many a show that I recalled as a fun and charming romp with lush music but, upon a reread, was irreparably problematic in its racism, misogyny, or gender stereotypes. How thrilled was I when I remembered that Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella received a full update for the 2013 revival including new orchestrations and script rewrites that give both Ella and Topher more agency while maintaining the fairy tale magic.

Cinderella will always hold a special place in my heart as it was my graduating show when I was in theatre school. It's been a joy to revisit this story with the next generation of theatre artists and see Ella's kindness and courage change the world again.

"If you have a dream, then very soon thereafter you're going to have to fight for it. Why, otherwise, how would you know the dream is yours?"

Enjoy the show!

**Erika Babins**

Director, Musical Theatre Troupe



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## ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director and Choreographer	Erika Babins
Musical Director	Patrick Ray
Stage Manager	Tessa Gunn
Costume Design	Jack Bumbala
Set and Prop Design	Monica Emme
Lighting Design	Hina Nishioka
Sound Design	Malcom Armstrong
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Lighting Operator	Matthew Piton
Sound Operator	Malcom Armstrong
Production Management	Alan Brodie
House Technician	Matthew Piton
House Technician	Shyam Chand
Backstage Assistant Stage Manager (Cast A)	December Shields and Olivia Tsoi
Backstage Assistant Stage Manager (Cast B)	Claire Zhong and Neha Dutta

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## CAST A

Ella	Claire Zhong
Topher	Neha Dutta
Marie	Sage Collins
Gabrielle	Reina Grosch
Charlotte	Amelia Landels
Madame	Iliana Apostolopoulou
Jean Michel	Oli Neufeld
Sebastian	Jaeger Yee
Lord Pinkleton	Chloe Lukac
Racoon, Featured Ensemble, Dance Captain	Eliana Couchman
Fox, Featured Ensemble	Sienna Fetigan
Featured Ensemble	Dalilah Rattlesnake
Featured Ensemble	Erin-Rose Kelly
Featured Ensemble	Jessica Main
Ensemble	Ellie Wessel-Boyd
	Wylie Shufelt
	Juanita Pardo Romero
	Nika Quezada
	Leo Teixeira

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andy Toth, Alan Brodie, Alex Eaton, Alexa McKee, Arts Umbrella's Marketing and Student Services Team, Ranae Miller, Nathan Cottell, Alaia Hamer, Gateway Theatre, and all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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## CAST B

Ella	December Shields
Topher	Olivia Tsoi
Marie	Ellie Wessel-Boyd
Gabrielle	Wylie Shufelt
Charlotte	Juanita Pardo Romero
Madame	Nika Quezada
Jean Michel	Leo Teixeira
Sebastian	Jaeger Yee
Lord Pinkleton	Chloe Lukac
Racoon, Featured Ensemble, Dance Captain	Eliana Couchman
Fox, Featured Ensemble	Sienna Fetigan
Featured Ensemble	Dalilah Rattlesnake
Featured Ensemble	Erin-Rose Kelly
Featured Ensemble	Jessica Main
Ensemble	Sage Collins
	Reina Grosch
	Amelia Landels
	Iliana Apostolopoulou
	Oli Neufeld





ARTS UMBRELLA PRESENTS

# WARNING, GRIEF, ART, DELUSION



CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, AND PERFORMED BY  
THE SKETCH COMEDY & IMPROV TROUPE

Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe presents:

# WARNING, GRIEF, ART, DELUSION

Conceived, written, and performed by the Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe

June 8th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

Content Warning: Swearing, references to death, mental illness, suicide, drugs and alcohol.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This team has formed the first ever Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe, or skimp troop if ya wanna be a weirdo about it. They're an ensemble rooted in principles of group impulse, collaboration, active listening and building on the creative offers of others. With WGAD we flipped the game and made it about exploring the corners of our own individual imaginations and impulses, listening deeply to the self and building on our ideas with intention. It wasn't always easy. But it was constantly surprising. I hope the audience will find surprises too!

"Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors" – *Fred Rogers*

I also hope that everyone who's part of the extended skimp team (that's you!) will not only appreciate this brave and bonkers new show that's been created, but also pat themselves on the back for helping to build a beautiful program (dare I say community? Bonus points for buzzwords??) for many students to thrive through play. Bravo skimpers!

"Group: a community of interests; individuals freely gathered around a project to explore, build, use, or alter it."  
– Definition by Viola Spolin

### **Matt Clarke**

Director, SKIMP Troupe

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## ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director	Matt Clarke
Assistant Director	Olivia Paluzzi
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Lighting Operator	Chengyan Boon
Production Management	Alan Brodie

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## CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Lukas Hagglund  
Fen Schellekens  
Thor Zimmerman  
Felix Fang

### **Special Thanks to:**

Our Skimp Bizkit friends at The Improv Centre - Madeleine Humeny, Ivy Padmos, Ryan Bell and Tal Shulman, and to and all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

