

ALEXANDER SHOWCASE THEATRE

ANASTASIA

*Inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical.
From the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton.*

Book by Terrence McNally
Music By Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

*ANASTASIA is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com*





Tam Heather Curling & Tennis Club

Have your Wedding or Special Event

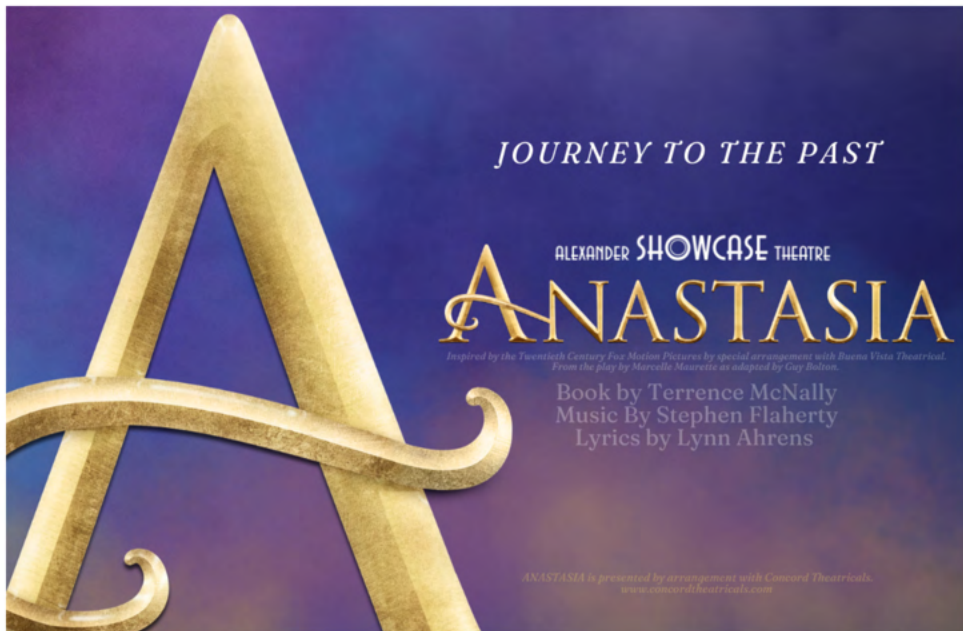
- ♦ Seating up to 250 guests
- ♦ Built in Dance Floor
- ♦ Onsite catering
- ♦ Newly renovated Bar
- ♦ Ideal for all your special occasions

with us!

Now booking for
Spring/Summer
2024!

730 Military Trail, Toronto, ON M1E 4P7

tamheather.ca 416-284-9251



Producers: Vincenzo and Gwyneth Sestito

Director: Vincenzo Sestito

Music Director: Gwyneth Sestito

Choreographer: Kat Hindle

Stage Manager: Laurice Macaraeg

April 19-28, 2024

Fairview Library Theatre

35 Fairview Mall Drive, Toronto, ON M2J 4S4

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: <https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

DONORS AND SPONSORS

SPONSORS

Friday, April 19 - Anonymous
Sunday, April 21 - Brenda Massey-Beauregard
Sunday, April 28 - Anonymous

*The April 21st matinee performance is dedicated to the memory of
Stephen Beauregard, with love always from Brenda and Devon.*

*"The sound of your laughter, the sight of your smile and the strength of your love
will live with us always."*

LEAD FRIENDS

Anonymous
Burton Charitable Foundation
(On behalf of Clayton Scott, Ian Scott, Stephanie Smith, and Alex Stuart)
Seth Mukamal
Brenda Massey-Beauregard
Timothy McNicholas
Seth Mukamal
Stefan and Carly Pal
Jeffrey Shiff

SUPPORTING FRIENDS

Peter & Nora Adamson
Suzanne Arsenault
Susan Baskin
Kelly Baxter Golding
Arthur Forer
Tracy Howard
Elin Grahom
Rabbi Meirovich/Dr. Weinroth
Beverly Schaeffer
Michael Thorek

FRIENDS

James Burn
Susie Helfund
Ruth Miller
Tatum Shiff
Helen Tucker

Alexander Showcase Theatre (The Alexander Singers) is a registered charity.
Donations to the group are eligible for a tax receipt.

To donate, visit <http://bit.ly/ASTDonations>

Registered Charity # 88964 9976 R0001

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producers	Vincenzo and Gwyneth Sestito
Assistant Producer	Carly Pal
Director	Vincenzo Sestito
Music Director	Gwyneth Sestito
Choreographer	Kat Hindle
Rehearsal/Production Stage Manager	Laurice Macaraeg
Assistant Stage Managers	Nataliya Kozyrina and Akane Shimazu
Set Design/Head Builder	Peter Thorman
Set Design/Head Painter	Meredith Wolting
Set Assembly/Painting	Cast, family and friends
Sound Designer	Mack Flynn
Sound Operator	Nataliya Kozyrina
Lighting Designer	Chris Humphrey
Costume Design/Creation	Gwyneth Sestito and Cheryl Lee
Costume Assistants	Heather Bozek, Paige Brown Linda Farquharson and Beth Roher
Props Creation/Sourcing	Brenda Massey-Beauregard
Props Managers	Rebeca Calderon and Devon Beauregard
Romanov Headdresses, Hammer & Sickle Banner Creation	Beth Roher
Wigs	Roz McArthur-Keyes
Rehearsal Accompanist	Jo-Anne Wurster
Printer	H&E Copy
Graphic Artist & Designer	Carly Pal
Photographer	John Meadows
Videographer	Neville Bryant
Promotional Trailer	Mark Allison
Program Advertising, Creation & Marketing Manager	Carly Pal
Social Media Team	Carly Pal and Erin Leneeuw
Social Media Video Creation	Stefania Weingarten
Webmaster/Arts People/Box Office Manager	Steve Kyriacopoulos
FOH & Volunteer Coordinator	Steve Kyriacopoulos
Front of House Volunteers	Theo Heras, Lino Joseph, Jackie Kates, Ethan Leneeuw, Murat Muratoglu, Erin Northey and Beth Roher
Concessions Coordinator	Sherry Zweig

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Anya/Anastasia	Stefania Weingarten
Dmitry Sudayev	Kurtis Whittle
Gleb Vaganov	George Marino
Vlad Popov	Chris Tanaka-Mann
Dowager Empress Maria	Brenda Massey-Beauregard
Lily Malevsky-Malevitch	Tara Wachter
Young Anastasia	Quinn Leneeuw
Tsar Nicholas II	Steve Morrow
Tsarina Alexandra	Christine Lindo
Teen Anastasia	Chloe Kikstra
Maria, Olga and Tatiana	Emma Bradford-Wilson, Kat Hindle and Genny Stevens
Prince Alexei	Quinn Leneeuw
Marfa, Paulina and Dunya	Carina Cautillo, Charley Fruitman and Melly Magrath
Count Ipolitov	Matt Dolgin
Commissioner Gorklinsky	Seth Mukamal
Count Leopold	Matt Dolgin
Lead Ballet Dancers	Genny Stevens and Christopher Shackleton
Ballet Dancers	Emma Bradford-Wilson, Nicole Decsey and Chloe Kikstra
Russian Dancers	Emma Bradford-Wilson, Nicole Decsey, Kat Hindle, Chloe Kikstra and Genny Stevens
Drunks	Emrik Burrows, Brandon Chambers, Steve Kyriacopoulos and Christopher Shackleton
Black Marketeers	Brandon Chambers, Gillian Scott and David Shiff
Police Officers	Steve Kyriacopoulos, Gillian Scott
Ensemble	Emma Bradford-Wilson, Heather Brown, Emrik Burrows, Carina Cautillo, Brandon Chambers, Jenna Cimetta, Julia Dartsch, Sophie Dartsch, Nicole Decsey, Matt Dolgin, Jenna Fitzgerald, Charley Fruitman, Kat Hindle, Chloe Kikstra, Steve Kyriacopoulos, Cheryl Lee, Christine Lindo, Melly Magrath, Steve Morrow, Seth Mukamal, Jaime Robertson, Gillian Scott, Christopher Shackleton, David Shiff, Tatum Shiff, Genny Stevens, Catherine Zanon

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Opening Fanfare	Russian Chorus
Prologue: Once Upon A December	Dowager Empress & Young Anastasia
The Last Dance of the Romanovs	Full Company
A Rumour in St. Petersburg	Dmitry, Vlad & Ensemble
In My Dreams	Anya & Women
The Rumours Never End	Gleb & Ensemble
Learn To Do It	Vlad, Dmitry & Anya
Learn To Do It (Reprise)	Anya
The Neva Flows	Gleb & Anya
The Neva Flows (Reprise)	Drunks
My Petersburg	Dmitry & Anya
Once Upon A December	Anya & Ensemble
A Secret She Kept	Anya
Stay, I Pray You	Count Ipolitov, Anya, Dmitry, Vlad & Ensemble
We'll Go From There	Anya, Dmitry, Vlad & Ensemble
Traveling Sequence/Still	Gleb, Gorlinsky, Anya, Vlad & Dmitry
Journey to the Past	Anya

ACT II

Paris Holds the Key	Vlad, Anya, Dmitry & Ensemble
Paris Holds the Key (Reprise)	Anya
Close The Door	Dowager Empress
Land of Yesterday	Lily, Leopold & Ensemble
The Countess and the Common Man	Vlad & Lily
A Nightmare	Romanov Children, Tsar, Tsarina & Anya
In A Crowd of Thousands	Dmitry & Anya
Arriving at the Ballet/Meant to Be	Vlad
Quartet at the Ballet	Anya, Dmitry, Dowager Empress, Gleb & Ensemble
Everything to Win	Dmitry
Once Upon A December (Reprise)	Anya & Dowager Empress
The Press Conference	Reporters, Lily & Vlad
Everything to Win (Reprise)	Anya & Gleb
Still/The Neva Flows (Reprise)	Gleb & Ensemble
Finale	Full Company

ORCHESTRA

Woodwinds	Jared Berger, Rolf Rogde, Graziano Brescacin
Trumpet	Jesse Malone
French Horn	Jacob Zemans-Ronthal
Percussion	Jamie Bird
Bass	Ben Kempainen
Keyboard 1	Sergi Guasch-Llorach
Keyboard 2	Christine Fong

(Robby Burko at April 20 performance)

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alexander Showcase Theatre wishes to thank the following people and groups whose generosity has helped to make *Anastasia* possible.

The Congregation and Staff of Beth Radom Synagogue
Church of St. Luke - Lutheran
The Staff of Fairview Library Theatre

Fred Hawalesheka, Ian Scott, Beth Roher, Tom Levy, Robby Burko, Jo-Anne Wurster, Steve Kyriacopoulos, Tina Goldlist, Christine Lindo, Lee Travaglini, Erin Leneeuw, Brenda Massey-Beauregard, Seth Mukamal, Sherry Zweig

To our devoted volunteers: without you there would be no show!
We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted. Your help is greatly appreciated.

2024 BOARD

Chairman: Carly Pal
President: Seth Mukamal
Treasurer: Ian Scott
Secretary: Jo-Anne Wurster
Members-At-Large: Steve Kyriacopoulos,
Erin Leneeuw, Christine Lindo,
Brenda Massey-Beauregard,
Beth Roher, Eliot Winkler

CAST



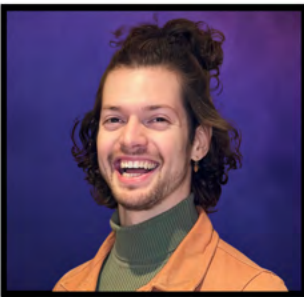
Emma Bradford-Wilson (*Ballet Dancer, Russian Dancer, Maria, Ensemble*)

A recent grad of the dance program at George Brown College, Emma is absolutely thrilled to not only be making her AST debut, but also to be performing in her first musical! You'll find Emma at the studio (love to Joy of Dance), or anywhere that has coffee and books. If spotted in the wild, you can expect she'll be singing and dancing to whatever showtune is stuck in her head at the time. She'd like to apologize to her roommates, who likely know the music of this show as well as she does, and thank them for letting her practice in the kitchen. Emma is incredibly grateful to Gwyneth and Vinnie for taking a chance on her, and to the wonderful cast and crew for welcoming her to the team. Not only would she like to thank her family for all their support, but she would like to give a special shoutout to her Royal Fam, who made this production feel like home. Love you all!



Heather Brown (*Ensemble*)

This is Heather's fourth show with AST! When not in the theatre, she spends her free time baking up a storm, cooking, or gardening. Thanks so much for supporting your local community theatre group!



Emrik Burrows (*Drunk, Ensemble*)

Emrik started back into theatre 8 years ago at the tail end of his architecture degree. Originally performing in orchestras, choirs, and bands, Emrik moved onto the stage in the ensemble of the London Community Players production of *The Secret Garden* in 2016. Moving back to Toronto to finish school and begin work as an architect, he continued to perform in companies around the city with roles including William Murdoch (Wavestage's *Titanic*), Cinderella's Prince (XMTC's *Into The Woods*), Sky Masterson, and Billy Crocker (Alexander Showcase Theatre's *Guys & Dolls* and *Anything Goes*, respectively). Emrik loves the opportunity he has been given to be a part of one of his favorites shows and hopes you enjoy the story and music as much as he does!



Carina Cautillo (*Paulina, Ensemble*)

Carina can tell you exactly where she was and what she was wearing the first time she saw the *Anastasia* animated film as a kid. She is so excited to be part of this wonderful production. Past theatre credits include Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Dreamtheatre), Laurey in *Oklahoma* (SMT), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (BMT), the Narrator in *Joseph* (Theatre Unlimited) and Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (SMT). An engineer by day, Carina's safety shoes sit next to her character shoes in her closet. Love to her family and friends for their endless support.



Brandon Chambers (*Drunk, Black Marketeer, Ensemble*)

Yeah, it's him again. Brandon is back and is thrilled to be part of this amazing cast and crew. During the day Brandon works in door hardware sales in the GTA and is usually found humming, singing, or whistling songs from his current show or for auditioning for his next project. Love to my friends and family and the few crazy weirdos who I consider to be both. Thank you for your support.



Jenna Cimetta (*Countess Gregory, Ensemble*)

Jenna Cimetta is a long time fan of musical theatre. Her passion for music has flourished through voice lessons, performing in the Lambton Youth Choir, and starring in community productions including *Fame* and *The Little Mermaid*. Jenna is so excited to be performing on stage again in *Anastasia*, her first performance with AST.



Julia Dartsch (*Ensemble*)

Julia is excited to be in her first production with AST! She loves doing theatre and aspires to be Elphaba from *Wicked* on Broadway someday. Julia also likes reading (Harry Potter especially) and playing soccer! Thank you to Vinnie, Gwyneth and the awesome cast and crew of *Anastasia*!



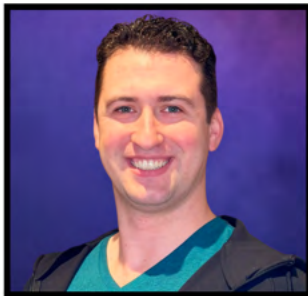
Sophie Dartsch (*Ensemble*)

Anastasia is one of Sophie's favourite musicals, so she is thrilled to be a part of this production! This is Sophie's first show with AST and not the last! While she is not onstage, Sophie enjoys sewing, reading, guitar-ing, playing soccer and writing stories. Thank you to Vinnie, Gwyneth and the entire cast and crew for this amazing experience!



Nicole Decsey (*Ballet Dancer, Russian Dancer, Ensemble*)

This is Nicole's first time on stage with AST and she is thrilled to be working with such an amazing cast and crew on her first musical! But this is far from her first performance. Nicole has performed in *War of The Worlds Reimagined* by Frog in Hand Dance Company, *NEURONS* by Create Dangerously Collective, and numerous works by the physical theatre company Ismailova Theatre of Dance, most notably her role as McMurphy in *The Cuckoo's Nest*. Aside from her work on stage, Nicole works behind the scenes as a choreographer, director, rehearsal director, and stagehand in lighting and costuming. In her free time, she is an arts critic and reads as many science fiction and fantasy novels as possible. Nicole is extremely grateful to Gwyneth and Vinnie for this incredible opportunity and new adventure!



Matt Dolgin (*Count Leopold, Count Ipolitov, Ensemble*)

Matt is thrilled to be back on stage with AST and working with such an amazing cast and crew! He works as a Rehabilitation Support Worker during the day, but his heart has been in theatre for as long as he can remember! Matt would love to thank his supportive wife for encouraging him throughout this process, as well as the incredible creative team who make the show as amazing as it is!



Jenna Fitzgerald (*Ensemble*)

Jenna is thrilled to be appearing in her 5th show with Alexander Showcase Theatre. During the day she works from home at a super exciting desk job, and avoids almost all human contact. So the chance to sing and dance with this fantastic group of people has made for a wonderful excuse to leave the house! Thanks to her fur-son Geoffrey for all the love and affection she knows he feels even though he refuses to snuggle with her, and to Vinnie and Gwyneth for everything. She's really very friendly, if you don't mind spies.



Charley Fruitman (*Marfa, Ensemble*)

After a long hiatus from the stage, Charley is overjoyed to be making her AST debut in *Anastasia*—one of her favourite musicals! While she yearns to perform, Charley works as a Front of House Staff for Mirvish Productions as she shifts from nursing to theatre school, so she is quite literally always at the theatre. In the fall, she will go on to complete her 3 year Bachelor of Fine Arts - Acting degree at the University of Alberta. Some of Charley's previous (also a tad dated) theatre credits include playing Wednesday in *The Addams Family*, Danielle in *Bring It On*, Cassie in *13: the Musical*, and Ensemble in *Legally Blonde* and *Into the Woods* (Vaughan Recreation). Much love and many thanks to Vinnie & Gwyneth for this transformative experience, and my mumzy, grandmamas, family & friends, and Lizzie & Ryan for your support! Day by day - enjoy the performance! @char.fruit



Kat Hindle (*Choreographer / Russian Dancer, Tatiana, Ensemble*)

Kat is thrilled to be working again with AST both on stage and behind the scenes! She is excited to challenge herself as both a choreographer and a performer with this beautiful story and hopes the audience enjoys all the hard work this cast and crew has put in. When she is not performing, Kat works as a dance/music teacher for kids, as well as an office assistant at an eye clinic downtown. Huge thank you to Vinnie and Gwyneth for this amazing opportunity of working on a dream show with them and big thank you to the rest of the cast for helping bring this to life! Big love to all friends and family who are always there to love and support her and especially to her mom and fiancé Calan who have helped her juggle wedding planning while still getting to do what she loves with this group this year! XOXO



Chloe Kikstra (*Ballet Dancer, Russian Dancer, Teen Anastasia, Ensemble*)

Chloe is thrilled to be a part of AST and is so ecstatic to be in her first-ever musical! Recently graduated from the dance program at George Brown, she is always taking every opportunity and open space available to dance. In between working customer service and dancing in the studio, Chloe will likely have a new craft of the month that she is fixated on. At the moment crochet has taken her interest and she is currently working on a sweater to wear after the show. She is so grateful to Vinnie and Gwyneth for believing in her and giving her this opportunity to work with all these wonderful people. Thanks to AST and the cast, her family for their endless support, and her royal family!



Steve Kyriacopoulos (*Count Gregory, Drunk, Police Officer, Ensemble*)

Steve has hit a milestone - 20 years with AST, having started with the Winter Choir in the fall of 2004 and *The Mikado* in 2005. He has played many roles on stage and worn multiple hats behind the scenes (Webmaster, Box Office Coordinator, Producer, Front-of-House). Steve's day job is a database geek in the Children's Mental Health sector and, for a little exercise, he runs marathons. This fall will be his 12th full marathon, including 2 trips to Boston. "Work hard & play hard"!



Cheryl Lee (*Costumes / Ensemble*)

Cheryl is happy to have made her journey to the past with AST's production of *Anastasia*. She thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to recreate the beautiful fashion looks of the late 1920s! When she is not working on costuming Cheryl loves to spend time on her artwork and involve herself in all sorts of creative projects. She might even do a bit of sewing for herself once the show is over! A huge thanks to Dave for his support and for putting up with all of the craziness!



Quinn Leneeuw (*Young Anastasia, Prince Alexei*)

Quinn is beyond excited to be performing in her first show with Alexander Showcase Theatre! Much love and thanks to the cast and artistic team for welcoming her with open arms. Previous credits include: Sharpay in *High School Musical Jr.* (Oshawa Little Theatre Summer Program), Flounder in *Little Mermaid Jr.* (Oshawa Little Theatre Summer Program), Annie in *Annie Jr.* (Arts on Fire Theatre Program) and Ariel in *Little Mermaid Jr.* (Arts on Fire Theatre Program) Thank you, Sheri! Quinn is a grade 4 student and has been actively involved in vocal music performances since she first began singing with the Bach Children's Chorus in 2019. Her passion for acting and drama has flourished since then and she is very proud to be taking the stage this season with the cast of *Anastasia*! Special thanks to Vinnie and Gwyneth for this opportunity and for letting her sparkle and shine. Quinn would also like to thank her friends and family (#LeneeuwCrew) and her cat, Mocha, for being a great audience at her daily musical bedroom rehearsals.



Christine Lindo (*Tsarina Alexandra, Ensemble*)

Christine has been obsessed with the story of *Anastasia* since she saw the animated film at 8 years old and, while this version sadly doesn't include a talking bat, it's still just as magical as the one she fell in love with! This is her 8th show with AST, most recently playing a dream role, Reno Sweeney in 2023's *Anything Goes!* When she's not onstage, she keeps busy and active as a Barre3 instructor, and dance and musical theatre teacher/choreographer. Big thanks to my friends and family for your love and support, and to the whole AST family for all you do to make these shows amazing!



Melly Magrath (*Dunya, Ensemble*)

This is Melly's first show with AST! She is having a blast performing in one of her childhood favorites movies. By day, she's a dynamo in Sales and Partnerships at Lighthouse Immersive, and by night, she co-pilots the ship at Small but Mighty Productions, a venture close to her heart. Some past credits include: *Love you to Death the Musical* (Book & Lyrics/SBM), *42nd Street* (Chorus/ EMP), *Internet Girlfriend* (Director/A Bit Much Productions), *Thank You Ex* (Co-Writer/Mad Butterfly Collective), *Til Death Do Us Part: The Musical* (Book/ SBM) , *Plays in Cafés* (Writer/Shadowpath Theatre), *Motherlouges* (Writer/UK Camden Fringe), *Cabaret* (Fraulein Kost/Stageworks).
Up Next: *Not a Cult! The Musical* with Small but Mighty Productions. @smallbutmightyproduction_
Thank you to her weird family, her even weirder friends and the biggest weirdo of all her fiancée Akele.



George Marino (*Gleb Vaganov*)

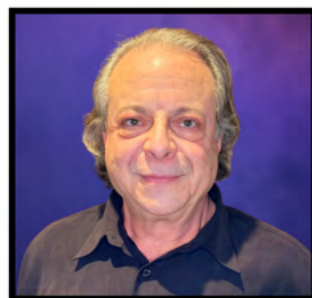
After a pandemic-induced performing hiatus, George is proper chuffed to be getting back on stage for his first show with AST as Gleb Vaganov. Hailing from the streets of South London (the original one...), George started his career working with the Sussex Musical Theatre Society playing Tony in *West Side Story* and Dr. Henry Jekyll & Edward Hyde in the eponymous musical, going on to tour around South England as a singer and compère at a range of private events and drag shows. When not doning an array of wigs and dresses, George can be found writing and recording his own blend of funk, soul, and disco music under the name 'Jorj'. George has had an incredible time working with some of the most talented people he's ever had the pleasure to meet and can't be thankful enough to each and every one of them.



Brenda Massey-Beauregard (*Dowager Empress Maria*) Brenda is extremely honoured to be part of this beautiful production of *Anastasia*. Past AST credits: *Music Hall Revue*, Madame in *Cinderella* and Mrs. Pearce in *Pygmalion*. Other memorable stage appearances: Melissa Gardener in *Love Letters*, Teresa in *The Memory of Water* (Bloor West Village Playhouse), Laurey in *Oklahoma* (York Weston Players) and Isabella/Joyce/Mrs. Kidd in *Top Girls* (Theatre Sheridan). Brenda's favourite role in life, by far, is as Devon's mom. Love you, kiddo! Thanks to Vinnie, Gwyneth and this amazing cast and crew for supporting and guiding me to new heights (and depths) on this journey to the past.



Steve Morrow (*Tsar Nicholas II, Ensemble*) Steve is thrilled to make his AST debut after being frustratingly unable to rejoin the cast of *Cinderella* following the COVID lockdowns. He is so excited to be part of this amazing cast and crew. In his day-to-day life he spends his time working in the FinTech industry (shoutout Affirm) and spending time with his amazing partner-in-crime, Taryn, and our cat, Bean. He's hoping that the golf season will finally be open once the show is over as he'll need something to cure his post-show depression. Many thanks to Gwyneth and Vinnie for the opportunity to join AST again, to my parents, family, and friends for their support, and a special shoutout to his little royal show family for making him such a proud father.



Seth Mukamal (*Commissioner Gorlinsky, Ensemble*) Seth has been an enthusiastic performer with Alexander Showcase Theatre for the past 28 years. Favourite roles include: Tevye (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Henry Albertson (*The Fantastiks!*), Gino (*Mambo Italiano*), Elisha Whitney (*Anything Goes*), Alfred P. Doolittle (*My Fair Lady* and *Pygmalion*), Henry Saunders (*Lend Me A Tenor*), Judge Turpin (*Sweeney Todd*), Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*).



Jaime Robertson (*Ensemble*) Jaime Robertson is very excited to be singing and dancing again on the stage. She graduated from Ryerson University (Now called TMU) with a BFA Majoring in Dance. She has choreographed past shows with AST including *My Fair Lady*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Addams Family*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Kiss Me Kate*. She has performed in *Guys & Dolls* (the first one), *Cabaret* and *Anything Goes* with AST. "Placebo - Suzuki" to her castmates and lots of love to her partner Ross, Kitty Ryder and Step-Dog Trudy.



Gillian Scott (*Black Marketeer, Police Officer, Ensemble*)
A lifelong theatre kid, Gillian is delighted to return to the stage in her first show with the AST. When she isn't jigsaw-puzzling, singing in the shower, or cuddling with her cat, Gillian works as a high school Latin teacher (and is more than happy to explain why it isn't ACTUALLY as dead a language as you might think). A massive thank you to Vinnie, Gwyneth, and the entire cast and crew for their endless talent, positivity, and support. Placebo Suzuki!



Christopher Shackleton (*Lead Ballet Dancer, Drunk, Ensemble*)
"Heart, don't fail me now!" Being a part of Anastasia as his fourth AST show is a dream come true. When he's not at rehearsal, Christopher is the Digital Transformation Projects Coordinator at the Ontario Museum Association. Join him this May in celebrating May is Museum Month by visiting a museum in Ontario! Selected previous shows include *Anything Goes, Cinderella, Sweeney Todd in Concert, Beauty and the Beast, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, ASSASSINS, and Cabaret*. Grateful as always for "home, love, family."



David Shiff (*Black Marketeer, Ensemble*)
David is absolutely thrilled to be participating in his ninth show with AST! Previous credits with AST include *Sweeney Todd, The Addams Family, Kiss Me Kate, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Guys & Dolls, Cinderella* and *Anything Goes*. When not on stage, David teaches at whatever school calls him that day and enjoys playing with his dog Korra and suffering as a Leafs fan. Thank you to my friends and family for their love and support as well as Vinnie and Gwyneth for including me in this amazing company.



Tatum Shiff (*Ensemble*)
Tatum is ecstatic to return to the stage alongside a phenomenal cast and crew for this enchanting production of Anastasia! She's been privileged to participate in many productions over the years, including as Jingle Singer/Various Roles (Diana at select performances) in *Anne of Green Gables* and various ensemble roles in R&H's *Cinderella, Guys & Dolls, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Kiss Me Kate*. When she's not in rehearsals or on stage, Tatum works in communications and enjoys reading, taking walks with friends, harmonizing with her fiancé at open mics, and playing with her dog, Korra (who would make an amazing Pooka if this musical were more closely adapted to the movie). Thank you to everyone reading this for supporting community theatre!



Genny Stevens (*Lead Ballet Dancer, Russian Dancer, Olga, Ensemble*)

Genevieve Stevens, a Toronto native, started performing at age three and has had a passion for theatre ever since. At a post-secondary level Genny decided to pursue dance, graduating with a BFAH in performance dance from Toronto Metropolitan University. Post graduation, Genny worked both in Toronto and abroad as a dancer and performer. Her credits include: Swing/Dance Captain/Hannah u/s in *Newsies*, Ensemble in *The Producers*, Female Swing/Ass. Choreographer in *Beauty and the Beast*. Featured Dancer in *Hooked* (Pepper Projects Fringe Festival), Dancer in *Creative Crunch* (New Blue Festival 2018), Performer in *What I would Tell my Younger self* (Nuit Blanche) and Dancer (Disney Cruise Line). Genny is excited to make her debut performance with Alexander Showcase Theatre and and is excited to share her passion for performing with everyone.



Chris Tanaka-Mann (*Vlad Popov*)

Chris has enjoyed being a member of the ensemble in many shows with AST over the years, and is ecstatic to be able to learn and grow alongside the cast and crew as he discovers Vlad Popov! A music teacher by day and vocalist by night, Chris sings with internationally acclaimed barbershop quartet Maple Reserve, is voice coach for the Toronto Northern Lights, enjoys singing tenor with new and upcoming chamber choir Chroma, and continues to work on new projects all the time.

Thank you for coming, and enjoy the show!



Tara Wachter (*Countess Lily Malevsky-Malevich*)

Hello Theatregoers! I'm Tara! And I am bucking tradition and writing my bio in **THE FIRST PERSON**. I am beyond excited to be a part of this magical show and honored to share the stage with this spectacular cast and crew. This production is my first with AST and it has been an absolute dream of an experience. Mostly because Vinnie and Gwyneth are ridiculously gifted at their respective crafts which makes them the ultimate Musical Theater Power Couple. (not sure if that's a thing, but I'm making it one now) Thank you both for giving me the opportunity to bring Countess Lily to life for AST. It has been the most wonderful journey. Other roles I've had the privilege to bring to life: Mrs. Walker in *THE WHO'S TOMMY*; Patsy Cline in *Always...Patsy Cline*; Dusty Springfield/ Carole King/Lesley Gore/ Petula Clark in *Beehive: The 60's Musical Sensation*; Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*; Ophelia in *Hamlet*; Malisse in *Severity's Mistress*; WIFE to Charles Wachter in 'Real Life' and MOTHER to Jack and Ethan in 'Real Life Part 2: The Adventure Continues!'. I'm the luckiest of the lucky and I pinch myself every day. Finally, thank you to my Mama, who brought me to see my very first show (*Les Misérables!*) when I was a young girl and in doing so, delivered me to the doorstep of my Big Dream. I am dedicating this performance to my dear sweet Daddy-O who will always have the most heavenly front row seats forevermore. Oodles of love to all my family and friends for their support, soft shoulders and pee-your-pants laughter!



Stefania Weingarten (*Anya/Princess Anastasia*)

Home, love, family; Stefania has found each of these at Alexander Showcase Theatre. She would first & foremost like to express her gratitude to the wonderfully talented cast & crew of *Anastasia*. Thank you to Vinnie and Gwyneth for their mentorship, direction & trust. Playing Anya is a dream come true and it has been the greatest joy stepping into the role this season. Previous credits include Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Hillcrest Village Players), Cosette in *Les Misérables* (Les Productions Coracoles), Laurie in *Oklahoma!* (Hudson Music Club). Stefania dedicates her performance to the loving memory of her Grandmother (Nonna) Pina; whose words "sempre avanti" (ever forward) have continued to be a source of strength & inspiration. A special thank you to her husband Jacob, and to her friends & family who have travelled from Montreal to be here. I love you all very much, thank you for your unwavering support.



Kurtis Whittle (*Dmitry Sudayev*)

Kurtis is delighted to be back in his third production with AST, having performed in the *Music Hall Revue* in the fall and playing the role of The Captain in *Anything Goes*. Kurtis holds an honours degree in Music Theory and Composition from Western University and attended the music theatre program at Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts. Kurtis has studied voice with Carol Hasek, Melissa Bencic, and Todd Wiczorek. He performed in several productions with Bravo Academy and No Strings Theatre as a youth. His recent credits include Roger in Theatre Western's *RENT*, Jason in Kings Players production of *BARE: A Pop Opera*, and Gertrude in TYT's pantomime *Cinderella*. In Italy, Kurtis performed the role of Argante in Handel's opera *Rinaldo*. Kurtis would like to thank Evan Harkai of TYT and Vinnie and Gwyneth Sestito of AST for helping him rediscover his passion for this art. When not performing, Kurtis is on his way to being a fully licensed HVAC Mechanic. He would like to dedicate this performance to his Uncle Jim, who loved the theatre, and would have loved this one the most.



Catherine Zanon (*Ensemble*)

Catherine is overjoyed to be performing in another show with the amazing AST cast and crew. Since graduating from Western University and Randolph College for the Performing Arts, some of her favourite credits have been Hope in *Anything Goes*, Gabrielle in *Cinderella*, Milo in the world premiere of *Milo's World*, and Silvia in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. She also has had the pleasure of singing the National Anthem for many events in the Vaughan area. When not on stage, Catherine works as a music teacher, sharing her love with the kiddos, and is currently an intimacy director in training. Catherine is so grateful for Vinnie, Gwyneth, and Kat, for all the friends she has made at AST, and for her family and friends that are always there to support her. XO

CREW



Vincenzo Sestito (*Producer, Director*)

Vinnie has been a part of AST since the very beginning and has worn many hats throughout the years, first onstage and eventually behind the scenes. He has directed a number of shows, including *Anything Goes*, *Cinderella*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Pygmalion*, *The Addams Family*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *The Crucible*, and *A Christmas Carol – Radio Play* (co-wrote and directed).



Gwyneth Sestito (*Producer, Music Director, Costumes*)

Gwyneth has played a lot of roles over her years with AST – Singer, Conductor, Producer, and Costumer – and has loved learning the special flavour of each one. In her daily life as a singing teacher, Gwyneth works to stretch and develop her students' voices, challenging them to strive toward new goals and embrace new experiences. Gwyneth has Music Directed numerous shows (including *Anything Goes*, *Cinderella*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Addams Family*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Sweeney Todd*), she co-wrote and created the musical score for *A Christmas Carol – Radio Play*, and she has designed and built costumes for so many shows that our storage space is overflowing.



Laurice Macaraeg (*Stage Manager*)

Laurice is delighted to be back with AST, having been part of the *Music Hall Revue* in the Fall. Previously, she has served in several different roles including lighting design, cast, crew, props and stage management with multiple theatre companies. Laurice would like to thank all teams involved in *Anastasia* for being a dream to work with. She sends love to KM, HB, GP, ZWR & MC for their support and inspiration.



Peter Thorman (*Set Designer, Head Builder*)

Peter has designed and built sets for many productions, both for AST as well as other local professional and community theatre companies. Past work with AST includes *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Addams Family*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Cinderella* and *Anything Goes*.



Meredith Wolting (*Set Designer, Head Painter*)

She saved her Cinderella purple paint for the next AST princess musical, and Meredith is back! A scenic artist, set and props designer, and children's book illustrator, Meredith is pursuing her passion for arts education through working with Bravo Academy and the Canadian Opera Company as a teaching artist in set design. She is the illustrator of The A-G Piano Book Series as well as Opera Atelier's series of student resource opera comic books. Follow along behind the scenes on TikTok: @meredithwolting



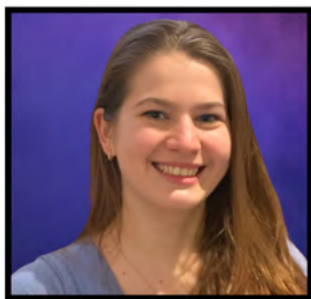
Mack Flynn (*Sound Designer*)

Community theatre has been a cornerstone in Mack's life since he was a child. He has since made a career in theatre arts, rock and roll, and corporate AV and has had the honour of working with many talented artists throughout his life. He is thrilled to have added Alexander Showcase Theatre to that list. Most recent work includes Sound Design for AST's *Anything Goes* and SMT's *Bridges of Madison County*, and set design for CCP's *Legally Blonde*.



Chris Humphrey (*Lighting Designer*)

Current: Houseman at Arts and Letters Club; Technical Consultant at St. Anne's Parish Hall; *The Gondoliers* with St. Anne's Music and Drama Society. Also returning to Iqaluit for the "Alianait Festival", "Canada Day", "Nunavut Day" this summer.



Nataliya Kozyrina (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Meet Nataliya Kozyrina, the unsung hero behind the magic of *Anastasia*. As an assistant stage manager, Nataliya assists Laurice and Vinnie in taking crucial notes throughout the rehearsals, helping with props, set creation, and final sound design! You could also find Nataliya operating sound at the tech booth throughout the show run! Say "hi" if you see her! Nataliya's dedication to theatre started at Blue Canoe Theatrical Productions, followed by Alumnae Theatre Company, leading up to this amazing life-changing experience! She's done lighting and sound op, marketing campaigns, video trailers, set builds, and props creation for over 10 shows, although this has been her first ASM experience ever. Besides theatre, Nataliya has multiple... MULTIPLE aspirations. She is a videographer, filmmaker on independent sets, foley artist, art installer, dancer, flutist, loyal friend, and 9-to-5 Associate Account Executive at an Audio Visual company, Quest AV. While the spotlight might rarely shine on Nataliya, her contribution and deep passion for arts and the *Anastasia* musical fuel her commitment to bringing this heart-warming story to life.



Akane Shimazu (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Akane LOVES music, dance, and musicals! Akane came from Japan two years ago to study Music and Digital Media Arts, and did Chicken's Happenings, with many life-sized chicken crafts happening all over the college, last year as a final installation art project at the college. Her current passion is playing piano, drumming in a band, and watching *Anastasia*. Her secret talent is food reviewing by creating a weird short movement when she eats something unbelievable.



Jo-Anne Wurster (*Rehearsal Accompanist*)

Jo-Anne started studying music when she was eight. An accomplished composer and pianist, she has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (music honours) degree from York University and Grade 10 piano through the Royal Conservatory of Music. Her vast knowledge of various cultures, periods and artists is an inspiration for her compositions, which can be heard in many theatrical productions, as well as weddings and other private commissions. She has worked as rehearsal pianist for many theatrical productions, as relief organist and choir conductor for many churches and congregations, as well as accompanying recitals, concerts and weddings.



Paris
holds the key
to your 

Visit the Parisian gallery in the theatre lobby and experience the city of love, with photos taken by our very own Seth Mukamal.

Like what you see?

You can take one of these photos home with you today for a minimum donation of \$50.00

*Do you have questions or want to learn more?
Look for a volunteer wearing an "Ask Me" badge!*

SHOW HISTORY

- 1987 | Trial By Jury
- 1989 | The Mikado
- 1990 | Pirates of Penzance
- 1991 | H.M.S Pinafore
- 1992 | The Gondoliers
- 1993 | Yeomen of the Guard
- 1994 | Pirates of Penzance
- 1995 | Oklahoma
- 1996 | Ruddigore
- 1997 | The Mikado
- 1998 | Fiddler on the Roof
- 1999 | The Merry Widow
- 2000 | Sweeney Todd
| H.M.S Pinafore
- 2001 | Die Fledermaus
- 2002 | Iolanthe
- 2003 | The Gondoliers
- 2004 | The Most Happy Fella
- 2005 | The Mikado
- 2006 | Fiddler on the Roof
- 2007 | Pirates of Penzance
- 2008 | Guys & Dolls
- 2009 | Yeomen of the Guard
- 2010 | Cabaret
| The Fantasticks
- 2011 | My Fair Lady
| It's a Wonderful Life
- 2012 | Man of La Mancha
| It's a Wonderful Life
| Mambo Italiano
- 2013 | Young Frankenstein
| The Crucible
- 2014 | The Mystery of Edwin Drod
| A Christmas Carol
- 2015 | Sweeney Todd
| Lend Me A Tenor
- 2016 | The Addams Family
| A Christmas Carol
- 2017 | Kiss Me Kate
| Pygmalion
| 30th Anniversary
- 2018 | The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- 2019 | Guys & Dolls
| 12 Angry Jurors
- 2022 | Cinderella
| Anne of Green Gables:
A Radio Play
- 2023 | Anything Goes
| Music Hall Revue

Remembering Our Founder



Angela McIntosh Hawaleshka
(December 14, 1936 - October 19, 2019)

Our beloved Angela passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, October 19, 2019, with her devoted husband, Fred, at her side. Of proud Scottish roots, Angela was born in Berkhamsted, UK. She is survived by her brother-in-law, niece, nephew and many great and great-great nieces and nephews in the UK.

Angela was a brilliant, respected and unique teacher, a staunch and supportive friend, and an unwavering believer in, and nurturer of, the possibilities within everyone she knew. She founded and loved The Alexander Singers (the summer choir that never stopped!), which grew into The Alexander Singers and Players (as the group began to perform Gilbert and Sullivan operettas) and finally became Alexander Showcase Theatre (as they transitioned to performing Broadway shows).

She has left this world a better place.