

Northwestern University's Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

RAMON RIVERA-SERVERA Depts. of Performance Studies & Theatre Chair DIANE CLAUSSEN Managing Director

proudly present



By MEG MIROSHNIK

Scenic Designer SCOTT PENNER

Costume Designer ALYCIA MATZ

Lighting Designer MATT SHARP

Sound Designer MIKHAIL FIKSEL

Fight Choreographer **ALMANYA NARULA**

> Dramaturg JANINE CHOW

Stage Manager JAMIESON FORD WERLING

Director CAITLIN LOWANS

April 27 - May 6, 2018 Ethel M. Barber Theater 30 Arts Circle Drive Evanston, IL

Time & Setting: Moscow 2005: the thrice-nine tsardom in the thrice-ten country

The running time for this production is 95 minutes with no intermission.

Please be advised this production contains strong language, and smoking The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited, including the taking of photographs.

> THE FAIRYTALE LIVES OF RUSSIAN GIRLS recived its world premiere at the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta GA, Susan Booth, Artistic Director

Produced by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven CT, James Bundy, Artistic Director, Victoria Nolan, Managing Director

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of

Program Cover Design: Sully Rathke
Program Editor: Joel Solari, Marketing & Communications Manager

Northwestern University Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts 10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208 Box Office Phone: 847-491-7282











CAST	In Alphabetical Orde
Preston Choi	The Bea
Delia Cunningham	Katyo
	Nastya/Other Katyo
Chloe Howard	Olga/Passpor Office
	Professor/Valenting
	Masho
	Annie
	Baba Yaga/Yaroslavo

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION ILA	11-1
Asst. DirectorsAnn	abel Heacock, Jess Levin
Asst. Costume Designer	Natalia Votinova
Asst. Lighting Designer	Sam Van Loon
Asst. Stage Managers	
	Olivia Zapater-Charrette
Run Crew Head	
Set/Props CrewMaddie	
Wardrobe Crew	
Freyja C	Goldstein, Emily Landreth,
ls	
Wig Styling & Prosthetics	
Light Board Op	
Follow Spot	
Sound Board Op	
Photography	
Promotional Videography	
House Manager	
•	

Front of House Staff

Elizabeth Blair, Hailey Brunson, Avery Goods, Emily Komarow, Chloe Nadon-Enriquez, Alanna Ramquist, Chase Reed, Jackson Simpson, Serena Slagado, Emmet Smith, Kent Steinberg, Calvin Ticknor-Swanson, Kathy Yan

Aspects of the preparation and construction of this production have been executed by student crews under the supervision of professional staff members in the following areas:

COSTUMES: Mia Cavener, Andrew Gordon, Saidie Stone

SCENERY: Jacob Anderson, Lindsey Cooke, Ty Doran, Elizabeth Koehler

PAINT: Paia Amelio, Sophia Civetta, Jake Drummond, Maddy Grady, Cailyn Johnson, Alfredo Maruicio Jr., Riley E. Nelson

LIGHTS: Ezekiel Albro, Alessandra Hernandez, Theo Janke-Furman, Carol Lee, Rishi Mahesh, Lennart Nielsen,

PROPS: Jack Distritz, Harrison O'callaghan, Dana Pepowski, Jonathan Toussaint, Dina Welber, Jessica Vane

SPECIAL THANKS

Northwestern University Arts Circle, Rosie Roche, Northwestern University Office of Global Marketing & Communications, Stephanie Kulke, Kerry Trotter, Jack Posey, Linda Gates, Pauline Moll, SVET Media



CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

PRESTON CHOI (The Bear) is a senior Theatre major in the Playwriting module, and artist in residence for Wave's Past Present Future Residency. His play A GREAT MIGRATION was in the 2017 Agnes Nixon Festival, and plays THIS IS NOT A TRUE STORY, A FEAST, and SALT have been produced through Vertigo Productions. As an actor, campus credits include WHITE, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DAYDREAM, and WHITE SNAKE.

DELIA CUNNINGHAM (Katya) is a freshman Theater major in the Music Theatre Certificate Program. Northwestern credits include FAIR GAME and AND THE MOON WENT WITH HIM. She previously toured with Ivo Van Hove's A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE and appeared in ELEMENTARY, MADAM SECRETARY, and the short films IN THE OFF SEASON and SHELL. She's a proud member of the NYC based theatre collective G45 Productions and is represented by the lovely folks at Innovative Artists.

DIANA DIMIRI (Nastya/Other Katya) is a junior Theatre major at Northwestern. She has been a part of various productions since her arrival, including Lipstick Theatre's production of FOR COLORED GIRLS. She is grateful to be making her first main stage debut in another show that celebrates strong women.

CHLOE HOWARD (Olga/Passport Officer/Professor/Valentina) is a junior Theatre major and Psychology minor in the Music Theatre Certificate and Screen Acting programs. Some NU credits include TWELFTH NIGHT (Olivia), THE WHO'S TOMMY: IN CONCERT, The Waa-Mu Show: BEYOND BELIEF, HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL (Heather McNamara), and WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN (Pepa). She is an actor on Northwestern Sketch Television, and a member of Purple Haze A Cappella and Kappa Alpha Theta. Zhili byli!

CHRISTINA LAYTON (Masha) is a junior majoring in Theatre on the Pre-Medical track. Post credits include: PASSION PLAY (Machinist/ Officer/Director), FLY BY NIGHT (Dophne), THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE (Marcy Park), WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN (Taxi Driver), PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (Slank), SPAMALOT (Galahad), and HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (Gabriella). On campus, she is serving as Executive Director for Seesaw Theatre, producing multiple sensory-theatre for those with autism spectrum condition and other developmental differences.

FELICIA ODUH (Annie) is a sophomore Theatre major and is thrilled to be sharing the Barber stage with such amazing women (and one great bear)! Her notable NU credits include the 76th Annual Dolphin Show's production of RAGTIME (Harlem Ensemble) and IGNITION (Quin). She has also participated in BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS as an actor and playwright. When Felicia isn't acting you can find her in Afrothunda, Northwestern's African student dance group.

LUCETTE PANUSH (Baba Yaga/Auntie Yaroslava) is thrilled to be a part of the fabulous and mystical world that is THE FAIRYTALE LIVES OF RUSSIAN GIRLS. She is a sophomore Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate Program. Previous Wirtz Center credits include FUENTE OVEJUNA and Imagine U's KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL and STELLALUNA, as well as Arts Alliance's HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL. Lucette is also a proud member of Griffin's Tale Children's Repertory Theatre and 'The Bix' Improv.

SCOTT PENNER (Scenic Designer) is a Canadian born Set Designer whose work has been seen across Canada. He is currently in his second year in the Graduate Design program. For The Wirtz Center at Northwestern University: COMPANY, WHITE. Scott's selected theatre credits include: BRAVE LIKE THEM (About Face Theatre Youth Ensemble). CYMBELINE (Stratford Shakespeare Festival); HAIR, THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, (Grand Theatre, London ON); ROMEO & JULIET, BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR, THE DROWNING GIRLS, THE LAST RESORT, LIVING IN THE SPACES, (Globe Theatre, SK); I.ME.YOU. WE., THE SILENT (Dasein Dance Theatre); THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN, HOW IT WORKS, AVENUE Q, LES LIASONS

DANGEREUSES (Sudbury Theatre Centre); RICHARD III, GOODNIGHT DESDEMONA, GOOD MORNING JULIET (Hart House Theatre, Toronto); I LOVE YOU BECAUSE (Angelwalk, Stage West Calgary); THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, STARS OF DAVID (HGJTC, Toronto); OUR TOWN, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, LION IN THE WINTER (Watermark Theatre, PEI); BODY POLITIC, A FEW BRITTLE LEAVES (Buddies In Bad Times Theatre).

ALYCIA MATZ (Costume Designer) is grateful to have worked on THE FAIRYTALE LIVES OF RUSSIAN GIRLS with such a dedicated group of artists. A third year MFA candidate in Costume Design, Alycia previously attended Indiana University, where she earned a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Theatre. Her focus has since shifted more exclusively to costume design as a means of exploring the intricacies of human behavior and interaction. Prior to attending Northwestern University, Alycia fulfilled roles as designer, assistant designer, crafts artisan, first hand, and stitcher at various locales, including Indiana University, Indiana Festival Theatre, PCPA-Pacific Conservatory Theatre, and Opera in the Ozarks. Previous design credits at Northwestern include URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL, THREE SISTERS, IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER, and DANCEWORKS 2018: @HI-SPEED. Alycia is excited to remain in the Chicago area after completing school, with the intent to delve further into all aspects of art, theatre, and performance.

MATT SHARP (Lighting Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate at Northwestern. Recent designs include COMPANY, PASSION PLAY, AGAMEMNON, DISTRACTED BY DISTRACTION FROM DISTRACTION (Danceworks 2017), and ELLIPSIS (Danceworks 2016). East Coast native, English major, and the son of classical musicians, Matt freelanced in Philadelphia for ten years prior to attending grad school, lighting equal measures of theatre and dance. This spring Matt will design SPRING AWAKENING, directed by Alex Mallory, in the MFA Lab Series.

MIKHAIL FIKSEL (Sound Designer) is a designer, composer, musician and a DJ based in Brooklyn and Chicago. Recent theatrical collaborations include projects with The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Playwrights Horizons, The Civilians, Pigpen Theatre Co, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, The Old Globe, Writers Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Center Theatre Group, Studio Theatre, The Flea, Albany Park Theatre Project and Third Rail Projects. Previous film work includes Glitch, The Wise Kids and In Memoriam. He has been honored with multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards. two Lortel Awards, two Drama Desk Nominations, The Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award and he is a proud member of TSDCA and USA. www.mikhailfiksel.com

ALMANYA NARULA (Fight Choreographer) is an international actor, combatant, and fight choreographer from Bangkok, currently residing in Chicago, Recent projects include Nickelback's music video FEED THE MACHINE (Fight Choreographer and Lead Actor), BRUJOS the web series (Fight Choreographer), the upcoming feature film MOLLYWOOD (Stunt Coordinator). Steep Theatre Company's Jeff Recommended production of THE INVISIBLE HAND (Fight Choreographer) and HINTER (Assistant Director), Jackalope Theatre's FRANKLINLAND, 1980, and THE LIGHT FANTASTIC (Fight Choreographer), First Folio Theatre's CAPTAIN BLOOD (Actor), and Victory Gardens' QUEEN (Understudy). She has also appeared in numerous Bollywood films, television and music videos such Pyaar Ke Geet and Say Na Something To Anupum Uncle. She received the 2015 Sarah Siddons Scholarship for being an outstanding theatre student.

JANINE CHOW (Dramaturg) is a second year in the Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama. Her research investigates cultural approaches to



childhood in American musical theatre, and her teaching also involves sound design. Having seen FAIRYTALE LIVES produced once before, she asked to work on this production in order to decipher the tangled threads of so many stories—which only got her further entangled in Soviet architecture, 19th century censorship, post-Soviet feminism, Moscow traffic etiquette, and Russian pop songs from 2005. Mostly, though, it's been a joy to field questions and develop ideas with this brilliantly curious cast and crew. Special thanks to Pauline Moll, whose genius inspired our lobby display.

JAMIESON WERLING (Stage Manager) graduated from Northwestern in June of 2017. She now works as an Assistant Teacher at Chiaravalle Montessori School, spending her days in the delightful presence of 2-3 year olds. Her past Northwestern credits include A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DAYDREAM adapted and directed by David Catlin (SM), Sarah Ruhl's PASSION PLAY directed by Caitlin Lowans (SM) and Tarell Alvin McCraney's IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER directed by Jerrell Henderson (ASM). She is thrilled to once again be in a room with the incomparable Caitlin Lowans.

CAIRO DYE (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior Theater and History major. Her Wirtz Center credits include AGAMEMNON (SM) and A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (ASM), Her professional credits include PERICLES (SM) at Muse of Fire Theatre Company. Cairo is the production manager of Lovers & Madmen and served on the executive board of RAGTIME, the 76th Annual Dolphin Show. Cairo would like to thank the cast, production team, and Wirtz center staff for being extraordinary mentors and collaborators.

OLIVIA ZAPATER-CHARRETTE (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theater and Psychology double major. She is thrilled to be a part of her first Wirtz mainstage rehearsal process with this group of humans. She has stage managed Northwestern student theater productions in the past with WAVE, Seesaw, and Lipstick. She hopes you enjoy the potatoes!

DIANE CLAUSSEN (Managing Director) joined the Wirtz Center staff in 2010 after serving as Managing Director for three years each at Philadelphia Theatre Company and Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. Previously Claussen was the Executive Director of Court Theatre; Managing Director of George Street Playhouse in New Jersey; and Assistant Professor, Managing Director and Director of the Theatre Management Program at Ithaca College. Additionally, Claussen chaired the Board of Trustees of the League of Chicago Theatres. She is a proud graduate of Leadership Evanston Class 21 and she was Co-Chair of the Rotary Club of Evanston's Peace Festival 2016. Claussen and Court Theatre received the ABBY Award for Arts Management Excellence from the Arts & Business Council of Chicago.



Northwestern COMMUNICATION Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

18/19 SEASON

JANE EYRE

Adapted from Charlotte Bronte's novel by Polly Teals Directed by Kathryn Walsh OCT 26 - NOV 11 // Louis Theater

Imagine U presents

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark M. Gesner Directed by Stephen Schellhardt NOV 2 - 18 // Wallis Theater

A CHORUS LINE

Book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante Music by Marvin Hamlisch Lyrics by Edward Klebon Directed and Choreographed by Kurt Domoney NOV 9 - DEC 2 // Barber Theater

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

A comedy in four acts by Anton Chekhov A new version by Stephen Karam From a literal translation by Allison Horsely Directed by Hassan Al Rawas FEB 1 - 10 // Louis Theater

GUYS AND DOLLS

Music and Lyrics by Frank Losser Book by Jo Swarling and Abe Burrows Directed by Nick Bowling FEB 15 - MAR 3 // Barber Theater

lmagine U presents

WHEN SHE HAD WINGS

By Suzan Zeder Directed by Rives Collins FEB 24 - MAR 10 // Wallis Theater

DANCEWORKS 2019

Artistic Direction by Joel Valentin-Martinez MAR 1 - 10 // Louis Theater

SCHILLER'S MARY STUART

A new version by Peter Oswald Directed by Alex Mallory APR 26 - MAY 5 // Barber Theater

THE 88TH ANNUAL WAA-MU SHOW

Directed by TBD MAY 3 - 12 // Cahn Auditorium

VOYEURS DE VENUS

By Lydia R. Diamond Directed by Tasia A. Jones MAY 17 - 26 // Louis Theater

WIRTZ.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

18/19 new subscriptions on sale Single tickets available online Single tickets available in-person & phone

THE PLAYWRIGHT

MEG MIROSHNIK (Playwright) has written THE DROLL (A STAGE-PLAY ABOUT THE END OF THEATRE), THE TALL GIRLS, OLD ACTRESS, and an adaptation of the libretto for Shostakovich's MOSCOW, CHERYOMUSHKI. She is the recipient of a 2012 Whiting Award. Her work has been developed or produced by the La Jolla Playhouse, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Center Theatre Group, South Coast Rep. the McCarter Theatre Center, Alliance Theatre, Yale Rep, the Kennedy Center, among many others. THE FAIRYTALE LIVES OF RUSSIAN GIRLS was a finalist for the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn prize and winner of the 2011-2012 Alliance/Kendeda Graduate Playwriting Award.

THE DIRECTOR

CAITLIN LOWANS is a theatre maker director, and educator who loves new work, unsung feminist plays, and dynamic physical worlds. A New England native, Caitlin formerly served as Associate Artistic Director at Stoneham Theatre (now Greater Boston Stage Company) where she directed 25 Mainstage and 27 youth productions; favorites include WALKING THE TIGHTROPE, a musical adaptation of PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, ROMEO AND JULIET, ROSE AND THE RIME, and MY FAIR LADY. World premieres include Cooper and Kim's SUNFISH: THE MUSICAL at Stoneham, RYAN LANDRY'S M and PSYCHED! for Huntington Theatre Company, A. Nora Long's CLYTEMNESTRIAD and MJ Kaufman's OUTLAW JEAN for Freshink, as well as workshopping Kirsten Greenidge's TONGUE TIED TIGHT AND DELIVERED for Huntington. Other recent projects include a puppet musical STELLALUNA, Sarah Ruhl's PASSION PLAY and SILENCE by Moira Buffini at Northwestern, AVENUE Q at Jean's Playhouse, and IN THE SUMMER HOUSE by Jane Bowles with Fort Point Theatre Channel. Caitlin thanks her wonderful team, especially Annabel Heacock and Jess Levin, whose passion, creativity, and effort made this wild world possible.

A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

The origin of skazki, or Russian folktales, is fundamentally performative. The first skazki were not written down, but passed down through an oral tradition and told by specific narrators in specific places to specific audiences. Though these tales come to us now in picture books and leather-bound volumes, Meg Miroshnik returns us to the folktale tradition by having her characters narrate their own stories. Masha, Yaroslava, Katya, and Nastya inflect the fairytale with their own lives, with idiosyncratic voices and asides that uniquely tie the story to their own experiences and sensibilities. The act of narration weds forbidden folktales from the 19th century to post-Soviet Moscow, linking—for instance—feral predators with domestic abuse.

This play is a subversive, chiaroscuro exploration of our own relationship to stories. What do we do with the stories we have inherited? How do stories from our formative years continue to influence us into adulthood? Russian fairytales seem to live closer to reality than do the many of the stories out of Western (often Disneyfied) tradition. Russian skazki have no once upon a time, nor do they have a happily ever after. Rather, they begin with zhili byli—they lived, they were—and seem to end without fanfare. The future, such as it is, is left untold.

Set in a landscape that shifts from the dangerously fey to the dangerously urban, THE FAIRYTALE LIVES OF RUSSIAN GIRLS is fundamentally a bildungsroman or coming-of-age story-wherein Annie, an American whose Jewish family fled the Soviet Union, returns to Moscow to reap her reward. That reward, frustratingly nebulous at the play's opening, is perhaps her own self-actualization. Annie begins as a listener, absorbing the stories of her mother, of her new friends in Moscow, and of her treacherous aunt. As she learns to navigate the threads of these narratives, however, Annie comes to seize authorship of her own story. The play is her skazka. What follows after, only she can tell.



Use the code WILDCAT for half priced Tier 2 seats on opening night

MAY 4 - 13 CAHN AUDITORIUM TICKETS: (847) 491-7282 WAAMU.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE ORANGE GARDEN. **MAY 4 - 6**

By Joanna Garner Directed by Hassan Al Rawas

The 87th Annual Waa-Mu Show MANHATTAN MIRACLE. MAY 4 - 13

Imagine U & The Waa-Mu Show

WEE-MU. MAY 12 Hosted by Dr. Ryan T. Nelson

National Theatre Live

JULIUS CAESAR MAY 16

By William Shakespeare Starring Ben Whishaw, Michelle Fairley, David Calder and David Morrissey

Directed by Nicholas Hytner

Directed by Stephen Schellhardt

Senior Dance Concert 2018

MAY 17 - 19 RADIATE.

Guest Choreographer Nicole Clarke-Springer

EVER IN THE GLADES. .MAY 18 - 27

By Laura Schellhardt Directed by Rives Collins

Stage Russia HD

MAY 19 DRILLALIANS

By Boris Yukananov

A Stanislavsky ElectroTheatre production

SPRING AWAKENING... .MAY 25 - 27 Adapted and Directed by Alex Mallory

From "Frühlings Erwachen" by Frank Wedekind

MAY 30

JUN 16

National Theatre Live

HAMLET.... By William Shakespeare

Starring Benedict Cumberbatch Directed by Lyndsey Turner

National Theatre Live

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME.

By Mark Haddon

Adapted by Simon Stephens Directed by Marianne Elliot

The Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project

SONGWRITERS IN CONCERT JUN 30

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We thank our donors who make it possible to develop and sustain the quality of productions at Northwestern University. The following individuals and institutions have made gifts to one or more of the following areas: the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts, American Music Theatre Project and the Music Theatre Funds. All gifts were made between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

\$20,000+

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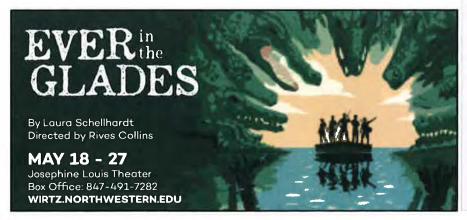
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