



ARTS UNDERGRAD
THEATRE SOCIETY

**NATASHA, PIERRE & THE
GREAT COMET**
OF 1812

BY DAVE MALLOY

**THE ARTS UNDERGRADUATE THEATRE SOCIETY
WELCOMES YOU TO ITS
2025/26 MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION**

We would like to acknowledge that McGill University and Théâtre Plaza are built on unceded Indigenous lands. Lands which have long served as a meeting and exchange site for many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples including the Kanien'kehà:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron-Wendat, and Anishinaabeg, among others.

We recognize and respect the Kanien'kehà:ka as the traditional caretakers of the lands and waters upon which we meet today. Turtle Island has long served as a space for storytelling and creativity, and we are grateful for the opportunity to create on this land.

Special thanks to Claudio Bustamante, Julie Anne Simoneau, and the Théâtre Plaza staff, Marcus Kelly, Gavin Aitken-Morrow, and Laure Chaboussant, CopiEUS, Prof. Sean Carney, Prof. Katherine Zien, the Segal Centre for Performing Arts, and the McGill Department of English, the AUTS Advisory Committee, and the Arts Undergraduate Society. This production would not be possible without your support!

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THE ARTS UNDERGRADUATE THEATRE SOCIETY PRESENTS:

NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

by

DAVE MALLOY

MUSIC DIRECTOR
JEREMY GREEN

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
MILAN MIVILLE-DECHENE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OWEN SABOL

STAGE MANAGER
MOLLY MACEACHERN

ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER
MAYA KOJIMA

VOCAL DIRECTOR
KATIE CLIFFORD

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS
DANIELLE GROSS ASHER PEARCE

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
LILY DODSON

PRODUCER
ANNA BROSOWSKY

Broadway premiere presented by Howard and Janet Kagen, Paula Marie Black, Carole Shorenstein Hays, Jenny Steingart and Jason Eagan, Mary Lu Roffe and Susan Gallin, Diana DiMenna, Mary Maggio/Sharon Azrieli/Robin Gorman, Darren Sussman/Roman Gambourg/Lev Gelfer, Tom Smedes, John Logan, Lisa Matlin, Margie and Bryan Weingarten, Daveed Frazier, Argyle Productions./Jim Kierstead, In Fine Company/Hipzee, Gutterman & Caiola/Backdrop Partners, Siderow Kirchman Productions/Sunnyspot Productions, Gordon/Meli Theatricals, Rodger Hess/Larry Toppall, Daniel Rakowski./Matt Ross/Ben Feldman, Mike Karns, The American Repertory Theatre (Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Quinn, Executive Producer; Diane Borger, Producer), and Ars Nova. Originally commissioned, and world premiere produced by Ars Nova; Jason Eagan, Founding Artistic Director; Renee Blinkwolt, Managing Director. Further developed and produced by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University; Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Quinee, Executive Producer; Diane Borger, Producer.

NATASHA, PIERRE & GREAT COMET OF 1812 is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The first time I saw *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, I was enthralled by its unique spectacle; it was unlike anything else I had ever seen in a theatre. It seemed to me that every production element was pushed to the extreme—a true testament to the flexibility and power of musical theatre. I soon came to realize that these components embody the show's unique storytelling style that is derived from its source material: a rousing 70 pages of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Renowned for its level of detail and challenging of genre conventions, Tolstoy himself viewed the book as a sort of experiment in the literary form. This boundary-pushing precision is carried through in *Great Comet* as it defies musical theatre conventions; pulling lines directly from *War and Peace*, having characters narrate their own actions, and drawing from a range of musical and theatrical traditions throughout its sung-through dialogue. The attention to detail and storytelling style, paired with the dramatic tension of Napoleon's imminent invasion where the characters' lavish lifestyles will inevitably crumble, lend themselves to unconventional staging, which makes the emotions feel real, immediate, and bursting with intensity directly in front of you.

This story, its themes, and events are also especially relevant to young people today. One of the most unique benefits of staging this show with a group of university students is the ability to portray these characters closer to their ages in *War and Peace*. Suddenly, we can better empathize with their actions and internal conflicts. We understand them as hopeful young romantics, isolated purpose-seekers holding themselves back from achieving their fullest potential, and dazed partiers drinking to fill personal voids as they distract themselves from an uncertain political environment. These nineteenth-century characters and their experiences are more similar to us all than we might initially expect.

This youthful context provides an opportunity to emphasize the show's themes of reflexivity and self-acceptance, interrogating the characters' internal and external reckless behaviour. At several points in the show, characters are offered opportunities to face themselves and reflect on their actions—some welcome this challenge, and others avoid it. Only those who accept themselves, embrace the uncertainty of the future, and take action begin to see change.

I hope this show makes you lean in, reflect, and hopefully, inspire change in your own life and the lives of others. *Are you ready to wake up?*

With gratitude,
Milan Miville-Dechene

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Malloy is a composer/writer/performer/orchestrator. He has written fourteen musicals, including *Moby-Dick*, a four-part musical reckoning with Melville's classic novel; *Octet*, a chamber choir musical about internet addiction; *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, an electropop opera based on a slice of Tolstoy's *War & Peace* (12 Tony nominations, including Best Musical, Score, Book, and Orchestrations); *Ghost Quartet*, a song cycle about love, death, and whiskey; *Preludes*, a musical fantasia set in the hypnotized mind of Sergei Rachmaninoff; *Little Bunny Foo Foo*, a forest entertainment for small people; *Three Pianos*, a drunken romp through Schubert's "Winterreise"; *Black Wizard/Blue Wizard*, an escapist RPG fantasy; *Beowulf – A Thousand Years of Baggage*, an anti-academia rock opera; *Beardo*, a reinterpretation of the Rasputin myth; *Sandwich*, a musical about killing animals; and *Clown Bible*, Genesis to Revelation told through clowns. He has won two Obie Awards, a Smithsonian Ingenuity Award, a Theater World Award, the Richard Rodgers Award, an ASCAP New Horizons Award and a Jonathan Larson Grant, and has been a MacDowell fellow and Composer-in-Residence at Ars Nova and the Signature Theatre. He lives in Brooklyn. www.davemalloy.com

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"Prologue".....	Company
"Pierre"	Pierre, Company
"Moscow"	Marya D., Natasha, Sonya
"The Private and Intimate Life of the House".....	Bolkonsky, Mary
"Natasha & Bolkonskys".....	Natasha, Mary, Bolkonsky
"No One Else".....	Natasha
"The Opera"	Company
"Natasha & Anatole"	Natasha, Anatole
"The Duel"	Pierre, Dolokhov, Anatole, Hélène, Company
"Dust and Ashes".....	Pierre, Chorus
"Sunday Morning"	Natasha, Sonya, Marya D.
"Charming"	Hélène
"The Ball"	Natasha, Anatole

20 Minute Intermission

ACT II

"Letters"	Company
"Sonya & Natasha".....	Sonya, Natasha
"Sonya Alone"	Sonya
"Preparations".....	Anatole, Dolokhov, with Pierre
"Balaga".....	Balaga, Anatole, Dolokhov, Company
"The Abduction".....	Company
"In My House"	Marya D., Natasha, Sonya
"A Call to Pierre"	Pierre, Marya D., Chorus
"Find Anatole".....	Pierre, with Natasha, Hélène, Anatole, Chorus
"Pierre & Anatole".....	Pierre, Anatole
"Natasha Very Ill"	Sonya
"Pierre & Andrey".....	Pierre, Andrey
"Pierre & Natasha".....	Pierre, Natasha
"The Great Comet of 1812".....	Pierre, Company

THE GREAT COMET FAMILY TREE



GODMOTHER

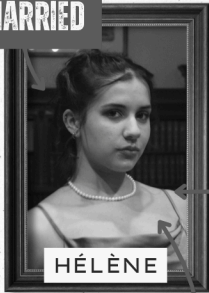
COUSINS



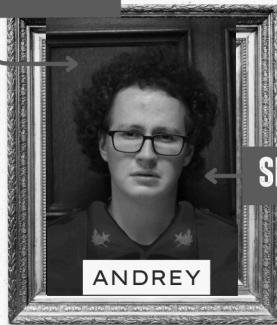
OLD FRIENDS



MARRIED



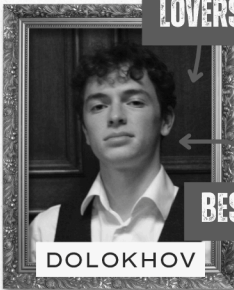
BEST FRIENDS



SIBLINGS



LOVERS



SIBLINGS

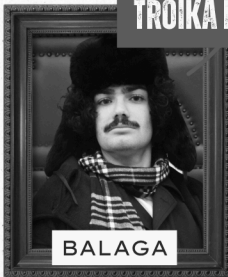
BEST FRIENDS



FATHER



TROIKA DRIVER



SYNOPSIS

Moscow, 1812, just before Napoleon's invasion of Russia and the burning of the city. As the story begins ("Prologue") we meet Pierre, a wealthy aristocrat having an existential crisis, living a slothful life of wine, philosophy and inaction.

Meanwhile, the young, newly engaged Natasha Rostova and her cousin Sonya arrive in "Moscow" to stay the winter with Marya D., Natasha's godmother, while Natasha waits for her fiancé, Andrey, to return from the war. Marya D. tells Natasha that she must visit her future in-laws, the demented, miserly old Prince Bolkonsky and his spinster daughter Mary ("The Private and Intimate Life of the House"), to win their affection and secure the marriage, which is critical to the Rostovs' status and fortune. However, Natasha's visit ends in disaster ("Natasha & Bolkonskys"), and she leaves missing Andrey more than ever ("No One Else").

The next night Natasha is introduced to decadent Moscow society at "The Opera"; there she meets Anatole, a young officer and notorious rogue ("Natasha & Anatole"). After their interaction, Natasha feels confused and tries to remember her love for Andrey ("Natasha Lost"). Anatole, his friend Dolokhov, and Pierre go out drinking; they are met by Hélène (Pierre's wife and Anatole's sister), who taunts Pierre. Anatole declares his intention to have Natasha, although he is already married. Pierre finds his wife's familiarity with Dolokhov offensive and challenges him to a duel, almost getting himself killed ("The Duel"). Afterward, Pierre reflects on his life ("Dust and Ashes"). Natasha and her family go to church ("Sunday Morning"); later, Hélène arrives and invites Natasha to the ball that night ("Charming"), where Anatole seduces Natasha ("The Ball").

Natasha and Anatole make plans to elope, and Natasha breaks off her engagement with Andrey ("Letters"). Sonya finds out about the plan and realizes it will mean Natasha's ruin ("Sonya & Natasha"); she determines to stop her at any cost ("Sonya Alone"). That evening, Anatole and Dolokhov plan for the elopement ("Preparations") and call on their trusted troika driver, "Balaga," to take them to Natasha's house. However, "The Abduction" is thwarted at the last moment by Marya D.

After scolding a grief-stricken Natasha ("In My House"), Marya D. sends out "A Call to Pierre" asking him to help handle the crisis. Pierre kicks Anatole out of Moscow ("Find Anatole"/"Pierre & Anatole"); Natasha poisons herself ("Natasha Very Ill"); Andrey returns. Pierre explains the scandal to him and asks him to be compassionate, but Andrey is unable to forgive ("Pierre & Andrey"). Finally, Pierre visits Natasha ("Pierre & Natasha"). After their meeting, Pierre experiences a moment of enlightenment while seeing "The Great Comet of 1812" in the night sky.

ACTING COMPANY



CHRISTOPHER BOENSEL (Andrey/Old Prince Bolkonsky)

Hello hello! I'm a U2 Linguistics major and I'm SO excited for you to see this amazing production of *Great Comet!* I've loved working with our incredible cast, crew, and production team to bring such a unique show to life. I'm also very sorry if you're my cheap French thing >:)

ig: @hardy.har.i.have.a.guitar



MIRA COHEN (Marya Dmitryevna)

Mira is thrilled to be back with AUTS in her final year at McGill after taking a hiatus from theatre to study abroad in Mexico. She previously appeared on the AUTS stage as Elle in *Legally Blonde* and has worked professionally in Washington, DC at Studio Theatre, Arena Stage, and the Washington National Opera. Mira would like to thank her family and friends for being here and is endlessly grateful for the AUTS community that has shaped her time at McGill.



KAYA D'AIGLE EDWARDS (Hélène)

Kaya is super excited to be doing her second show with AUTS! Coming from a music theatre background and now doing classical voice at McGill, she is over the moon to be able to do both classical and mt, at the same time. When she's not performing, she is listening to full cast recordings, talking about how much she loves her siblings and/or drinking a rum and coke. Recent credits include Jenny (*Company*) and Jane Doe (*Ride the Cyclone*) and she is thrilled to be part of an intricate show like *Great Comet* with such a talented group of people!



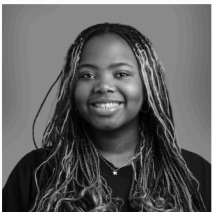
KATE DIETZ (Maid servant)

Kate Dietz is a music student at McGill studying voice performance. She's originally from Hackett's Cove, Nova Scotia, and loves singing in styles from baroque and classical to jazz and musical theatre. Her recent performances include Handel's *Messiah* with Ensemble ArtChoral, McGill's student opera production of Kurt Weill's *Down in the Valley*, and the soprano solo movement in Fauré's *Requiem* with I Musici de Montréal. Kate is thrilled to be a part of this production and to share the stage with such a talented and enthusiastic cast!



MIRANDA DE LUCA (Sonya)

Miranda is a 2023 graduate of Randolph College for the Performing Arts, and is currently in her third year pursuing a B.Ed in Secondary English at McGill. She ultimately strives to inspire the next generation of theatre-lovers, just as she was inspired growing up. Miranda is thrilled to return for her third production with AUTS, a community that continues to feel like home. Select credits include: *Company* [2025] (Amy), *Into the Woods* [2024] (Rapunzel), *Attached* [Montreal Fringe Festival 2024] (Alex), and *Legally Blonde* [2024] (Margot). Prepare to be swept up in this delightfully broken time machine! @mirandaxdeluca



MICHAIAH EJIM (Ensemble)

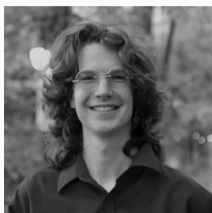
Hi! I'm Micaiah Ejim. I am a first year student hoping to major in psychology. I live in the Middle East and I'm so excited to be a part of AUTS. I have had a passion for the arts since I was a little kid. I love dance, writing music, acting etc. A lot of effort has been put into *Great Comet* so I really hope y'all enjoy the show!

ACTING COMPANY



ARIEL GOLDBERG (Mary)

I am a UO student in the Faculty of Arts from Toronto, Ontario. *Great Comet* has been my favourite musical since childhood, and I am so excited to make my AUTS debut in this production! Thank you to the entire AUTS team for creating such an incredibly fun, supportive and creative atmosphere, and for helping to make my first year of McGill so special!



CALLUM HARDING (Servant)

Callum Harding is a U1 Classical Saxophone Performance Major at the Schulich School of Music. He found his passion for the arts at a very young age, and found he thrived when balancing the relationship between Theatre and Music. Callum is thrilled to once again perform in a theatrical setting and hopes to continue juggling his passion for Classical Saxophone and Theatre in his career.



RYAN JACOBY (Dolokhov)

Ryan is a U1 Anatomy and Cell Biology student from Toronto who is incredibly excited to be a part of *Great Comet*! Ryan's favourite part of the show is taking shots on stage. Past theatre credits include: *The Manitou Cabaret*, *Check Please*, *Eliza: an Uber Story*, and *Gleenis*. Hope you enjoy the show!



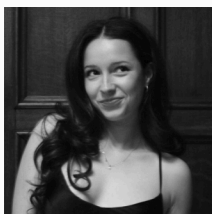
JOSEF JAKUBEC (Ensemble)

Hi! I'm Josef, I'm a U1 INTD and Poli Sci student, and this is my first production with AUTS. I love theatre, and being able to sing, dance, and rehearse for such a great show with such great people has been the highlight of my year! I am incredibly grateful to be part of this wonderful cast and to have met each of the incredibly talented people who have helped this show come to life. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!



CLAIRE LATELLA (Natasha)

Claire is SO excited to be back with AUTS in one of her dream roles! A second year Classical Voice Performance major, she's delighted to have such a fabulous outlet for musical theatre at McGill and so grateful to be working with such a wonderfully talented cast and crew. Working on this strange and fabulously challenging show has been incredibly rewarding and so much fun and she's super excited for people to see the hard work everyone has put into it. She wants to thank her family and friends for their unwavering love and support! Enjoy our crazy weird show :)



AMELIA MIVILLE-DECHENE (Ensemble)

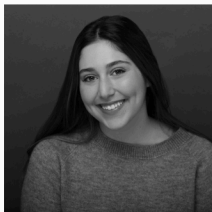
Amélia Miville-Dechène (she/her) is a UO Arts student intending to major in Political Science and Gender, Sexuality, Feminist, and Social Justice Studies. Amélia is a graduate of the Etobicoke School of the Arts Music Theatre program, and has trained in voice, dance, and drama through various programs across Québec City and Toronto. Outside of rehearsals, she spends her time playing volleyball, songwriting, and DJing. As a big fan of *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, she is thrilled to help bring this bold and beloved show to life, and absolutely ecstatic to be a part of her first AUTS production!

ACTING COMPANY



EMMA NASH (Ensemble)

Emma is so excited to be back on stage with such a wonderful cast in this incredible production. She is grateful to the artistic team and crew for their countless hours of dedication and their support throughout the process. She hopes you enjoy the show!



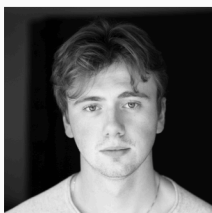
RUBY RITTENBERG (Ensemble)

Ruby Rittenberg is a U2 Arts student from Toronto, studying Cultural Studies and Communications. This production marks her first time working with AUTS, and she is thrilled to be involved. Her past performance credits include *Mean Girls*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Newsies*. In her free time, Ruby is an avid Letterboxd user and loves spending time up north.



ADAM SIBLINI (Balaga)

Adam is a U2 student studying Computer Science with a minor in Music Technology and is thrilled to be a part of this incredible musical! Previously, he played Paul in AUTS' production of *Company* and is elated to be back! Outside of AUTS, he is a member of Chromatones A Cappella, so there's no shortage of singing in his schedule. Adam would like to thank his friends and family for all the support, as well as the exceptionally talented cast and crew for their hard work and dedication to this production. Enjoy the show and don't slip on the ice :)



SAM SNYDERS (Pierre, AUTS Communications Director)

On the precipice of post-grad life, Sam is stoked to round out his McGill experience playing pretend with some of his favourite people. Previous credits include *Forget About Tomorrow* (Here For Now Theatre), *Sphinx* (TNC), *Medea* (Player's Theatre), *Pomona* (McGill Dept. of English). With AUTS: *Company* (Associate Director), *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Warner). Thanks, always, to his family and friends for their support, and for keeping him – relatively – sane. Enjoy!



FRANK WILLER (Anatole)

Frank (Anatole) is a U1 Anatomy and Cell Biology student and is thrilled to be returning for a second year with AUTS. Recent credits include Bobby in *Company* with AUTS, and Mark in *Rent* at Etobicoke School of the Arts.



ARTISTIC COMPANY



ALEXA AKADA (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Alexa is a U1 student in the Faculty of Arts, majoring in statistics. They are the lead makeup and hair designer for the show. Her favorite musical is *Sweeney Todd* and her favorite song in *Great Comet* is "No One Else". Their favorite thing about being in AUTS is the amazing support from the production team, fellow designers, and cast, and she would like to thank her sister for being her makeup inspiration from a young age.



SOPHIA ALGRA (Set Designer)

Sophia is a U2 Philosophy and Art History student from BC. This is her first show with AUTS, and she is so grateful for the opportunity to set design such an amazing production. Her favourite song from the show is "Charming." She would like to thank her parents, Tyler, and especially Jarod, for all their support, and hopes you enjoy the show.



KATIE CLIFFORD (Vocal Director)

Katie is a fourth-year voice performance student and is thrilled to be back on the production team for her final year with AUTS! Previous vocal direction credits include *You're Never Alone: A Musical Cabaret*, *Peter and The Starcatcher*, and *Company*. An active performer, she has recently appeared as Diana (Orpheus in the Underworld) and Genovieffa (Suor Angelica) at the Queens Summer Vocal Institute in New York City. Through McGill, she is involved with Song Interpretation, Contemporary Opera Ensemble, and Opera McGill. She is deeply grateful for her experiences the past three years with AUTS and hopes you enjoy the show!



GABI DAWSON (Lighting Designer)

Gabi is excited to be a part of *Great Comet* as her first show with AUTS and has loved collaborating with the cast and crew this year! She is a U1 English Major from New Jersey, where she worked on productions as the head of her high school's lighting department. Her previous lighting credits include *42nd Street* and *Urinetown*, and her dream musical to design would be *Chicago*. She'd like to thank the AUTS team for this opportunity and her friends and family for their support!



ZOYA DRAPER (Sound Designer)

Zoya Draper is a U1 Chemical Engineering student at McGill. She is very happy to be back working with AUTS for the second year. Zoya has worked on shows as Technical Director, Director, Stage Manager, and Technician. A few favorites include *The Addams Family*, *Achilles*, *Mamma Mia: the Musical*, and *Company*! Zoya is so grateful for this experience and all the people working on this show. Enjoy!



JEREMY GREEN (Music Director, Piano)

From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jeremy is a second-year philosophy student at McGill. A multi-instrumentalist, he performs regularly on piano, clarinet, and saxophone. He is thrilled to be returning to AUTS, serving last year as music director for *Company* and *You're Never Alone*. He is incredibly grateful for all the amazing people who have helped bring this incredible show to the stage!

ARTISTIC COMPANY



DANIELLE GROSS (Assistant Stage Manager)

Danielle is a U1 management student and she is thrilled to be a part of her second production with AUTS, taking on a different role as assistant stage manager! Past theatre credits include *Company*, *Mean Girls* and *Newsies*. She is also incredible at inner tube water polo and encourages everyone to watch her play in the McGill intramural league!



LEILA KHELOUATI (Props Designer)

Leila is in her final year at McGill, where she studies English: Drama and Theatre, and Education. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with the amazing cast and crew of AUTS! Enjoy the show, and don't be shy to dance and sing along.



MAYA KOJIMA (Associate Choreographer)

Maya is overjoyed to be part of her very first AUTS production! She is in her second year at McGill University, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Behavioural Science and English Literature. Having grown up immersed in the performing arts, Maya trained as a competitive dancer in multiple styles, performing across Canada and the United States. She has taught dance in her hometown of Winnipeg, Manitoba, working with all levels and styles. Maya is deeply thankful for the welcoming, creative environment and feels fortunate to choreograph alongside such a talented and inspiring cast and team!



MOLLY MACEACHERN (Stage Manager)

Molly is a U1 student at McGill studying English literature, and is so excited to be back with AUTS for her second year! After stage managing and technical directing her high school theatre program, she was an asst. stage manager for AUTS's *Company* last year, and is thrilled to have been able to work on *Great Comet*. She'd like to thank her parents for their continued support, and her roommate and friends for accommodating her insane schedule!



MILAN MIVILLE-DECHENE (Director/Choreographer)

Milan is in U2 studying English: Cultural Studies and Music Entrepreneurship. He is thrilled to bring one of his favourite stories to life at McGill, in Montréal, and with the stellar AUTS team, following a summer spent working on *Great Comet* in Toronto with Musical Stage Co./Crow's Theatre/Mirvish. For the AUTS: Producer/Production Manager of *Company*, Producer of *You're Never Alone*, *Legally Blonde*. Up next: *The Pottery Play* (Players/MDF), Cultural mediation for *Que notre joie demeure* (Théâtre du Nouveau Monde). He would like to thank his family for their unwavering support—especially his grandma Nada who is the biggest *War and Peace* fan he knows! Enjoy the show!



CLARA O'BRIEN (Assistant Costume Designer)

Hi I'm Clara, getting to be co-costume designer with Mirei has been such a joy. Feeding creativity and nurturing my passion for art through sewing and design is so important to me, especially at McGill where there isn't much space for it in classes. Storytelling via costume is incredibly special, I'm glad I get to share it with so many people through AUTS!

ARTISTIC COMPANY



ELLIE PANET (Sound Operator)

Ellie is excited to be participating in her first AUTS production this year. She is a second-year McGill student studying mechanical engineering. Ellie has worked on previous shows as a lighting operator, sound operator, and camera operator. Her favourite show to work on was *Mary Poppins*, and her favourite show is *Hadestown*.



ASHER PEARCE (Assistant Stage Manager)

Asher is a UO student from Richmond, Virginia, where he began backstage theater in middle and high school. This is his first AUTS production and he has enjoyed getting to know everyone and everything about *Great Comet*. He can't wait to continue working with AUTS and getting involved with more theater at McGill!



DANA PRATHER (Intimacy Director)

Dana Prather is an emerging theatre artist, multidisciplinary creative, and arts administrator. Born and raised on Treaty 7 Territory, they are now based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal where they recently graduated from McGill University. Dana has proudly worn many hats in the theatre community, including performer, dancer, director, intimacy director, playwright, producer, dramaturg, and more. Select intimacy direction credits *Cutlass: A Tale of The Pyrates* *Bonny & Read* (Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre), *Company* (AUTS), *Pindorama* (MBC Productions), and *Hand to God* (Players' Theatre). Coming up, they are co-producing *Simmer Fest*, a festival of experimental feminist performance works, for Imago Theatre.



OWEN SABOL (Assistant Director)

Owen is a U1 Cultural Studies student from Toronto. After an amazing experience producing AUTS's *Cabaret* last year, he is elated to be back working on this production of *Comet*! He wants to give a big thank you to the talented cast and crew who have made this process memorable and endured many long rehearsal days to bring our vision to life! He would also like to thank the incredible exec, production and design teams. When not at rehearsal or prepping for rehearsal, Owen works as the Executive Producer for TVM (Student Television at McGill).



MIREI UEYAMA (Costume Designer)

Trekking from the Macdonald campus, Mirei is a U1 student in environmental biology and this is her first show working with AUTS! Though she misses her theater community in New York City, she can't wait for you to see the costumes for this production that took a lot of time designing, making, and coordinating! She hopes you enjoy the show!!



MARS VASQUEZ-PLYSHEVSKY (Assistant Set Designer)

Mars (they/them) is a U1 students at McGill studying Sociology, Linguistics, and Education. They're originally from New York City. In their time at university, Mars has designed sets for AUTS and other groups, working on shows like *Company*, *Iolanthe*, and *Patience*. *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* is their favorite musical of all time (followed closely by *Anything Goes*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Cabaret*), so they're very excited to be working on the show this year! Outside of theatre, Mars trains as an aerial circus performer!

MUSICIANS



JOHN WOLFART (Percussion)

John started playing piano at the age of four at his home in Ottawa, although his passion for music remained latent until his discovery of the drum kit at the ripe age of 13. He attended the Canterbury H.S. Fine Arts Program, studying percussion and playing in numerous bands curricularly and otherwise. He is presently a second year Physics student, and hopes to pursue graduate studies and academia. He is thrilled to be back this year, involved in such a star-studded production, and is making steady progress on his ambitions of taking over the world with an army of bloodthirsty rats.



NINA HOWELL (Bass)

Nina is thrilled to be playing in the pit for her second AUTS show! *Great Comet* is her 5th musical to date, but her first time playing on stage and in costume. She currently studies classical bass at the Schulich School of Music, in addition to completing a dual degree in Environmental Science. She wants to thank her family and friends for their love and support, and the STM for not going on strike during tech week. She hopes you enjoy the music (and the show)!



LEONARD CHEN (Guitar)

I play guitar as a side gig. Walking my dog and cleaning after him is my profession. Play music here and there just to support my dog as a single dog owner. Life is tough when you have a corgi. Oh and I have a dog.



RAY COX-CASALS (Violin)

Ray is a Chilean-Canadian grad student in linguistics at UdeM, researching the psychology of speech sounds. He started Celtic fiddle at 15, wrote his first symphony by 18, and picked up Flamenco (using his Spanish grandma's castanets) during his undergrad at McGill. Having served his duty as tenor and music director for Chromatones A Cappella, he is currently the violinist for the folk-pop band, the Bloodfarts (album just released!). As a composer, singer, conductor, violinist, pianist, guitarist, scientist, pastry bake-ist, and just about "anything-ist," Ray hopes to infuse *The Great Comet* with its signature dash of folk violin.



ABIGAIL MACLEAN (Oboe/English Horn)

Abby is an oboist currently studying under Anna Petersen at McGill for a Bachelors in Oboe Performance. She has performed in large and small ensembles like the McGill Wind Orchestra, Beethoven Orchestra, and Calgary Youth Orchestra, among others. When not performing, Abby loves to play Netball, and has played for Team Canada internationally.



SABINA CROW (Cello)

Sabina Crow (she/her) is a UO Arts student at McGill University, originally from Toronto, Ontario. She has been playing the cello for over 15 years and has performed in a variety of orchestral, chamber, and solo settings. *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* marks Sabina's debut with AUTS. She is thrilled to contribute to the energy and emotion of this vibrant show alongside such an exceptionally talented cast and crew.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



ANNA BROSOWSKY (President/Production Manager)

Anna is honored to be back in her 4th and final year with AUTS, where her previous credits include *Company* (director), *Legally Blonde* (SM) and *Hair* (ASM). Born and raised in Washington DC, Anna studied at the Studio Theater and the Shakespeare Theatre Company, and helped lead the Teen Performance Company at Round House Theater. Anna made her professional debut stage managing the world premier of *Webster's Bitch* at Playhouse on Park. Anna is a pro potluck hostess, TV consumer, dessert baker and baseball appreciator. She is eternally grateful to the AUTS community for the last four years.



LILY DODSON (Technical Director)

In my second year of AUTS, I am beyond proud of this amazing team and the production that Milan, the whole prod team, and the designers put together! I'm so lucky to have such a strong team, and to have met such amazing friends through AUTS.



ANNA EISENCHTETER (Fundraising Director)

Born and raised in Paris, France, and trained in musical theater, she is thrilled to be the Fundraising Director for a second year. While usually found on stage growing up, she is excited to help bring the show come to life from backstage. Though bittersweet that this is her final year, she can't wait to discover the final product and for the audience to be transported into 1812 Moscow!



NATASHA ELLIS (Events Coordinator)

Natasha wears many hats. She does musical theatre, she travels, but most importantly she plans events for the AUTS! She helps out with the productions wherever she can, and she's very proud and excited for the cast and crew of *Great Comet*! She feels honored to have been a part of the process to bring this incredible show to life! Next year will be her last at McGill and with AUTS, and she's incredibly grateful for the friends, experiences, and opportunities of the last three years!



CLARA PETIT (Financial Officer)

This is my third and final year in AUTS and I couldn't be prouder of how much this club has grown! My love for musical theatre started when I first saw *Annie* on Broadway and to get to keep being part of what I love in University has been so special to me. Seeing Milan build this show from the ground up has been incredible and I can't wait to finally be able to share it. AUTS has brought me some of my best friends and I could not be more grateful for this club. Enjoy the show!



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Hi, I'm their mascot Copibara.

