



PRESENTS...

# **MEAN GIRLS**

## **HIGH SCHOOL VERSION**



**January 26, 27, 28, 2024**

At BlackRock Center for the Arts  
Based on the Original Motion Picture  
Music by Jeff Richmond  
Lyrics by Nell Benjamin  
Book by Tina Fey

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

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

Produced in part by Free Range Humans

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# STATEMENT

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Thank you!



# ABOUT THE FREE THEATRE

The Free Theatre provides an inclusive, supportive environment in which passionate students have the opportunity to be at the helm of the collaborative and creative process of producing theatre, regardless of financial means. The Free Theatre was formed in June 2018 by a small group of dedicated high school seniors with the desire and drive to create a non-profit 501(c)3, student-run, tuition-free company for students who are passionate about creating theatre.

All of our shows have been directed, choreographed, stage-managed and designed by high school students. Adults, professionals in all aspects of theater, are present as advisors and mentors to students, as well as serve as an advisory board to the company. The Free Theatre has existed completely on individual donations and grants since our inception. We are always looking for new avenues to keep us fully funded so that all students, regardless of financial means, may continue to attend tuition-free.

We acknowledge that this performance is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Piscataway and Manahoac people.





# ABOUT MEAN GIRLS

Since it premiered in 2004, *Mean Girls* has cemented itself as one of the most quotable movies of all time. Tina Fey's script, while heightened, was relatable to teenagers worldwide. The story spawned an ill-fated sequel, a Broadway musical, and a new film adaptation. What is it that keeps us returning to *Mean Girls*? It's because the story's theme of being true to yourself despite peer pressure is more relevant now than ever. Teenagers today have no choice but to be self-aware of how they're perceived, both in-person and online. It can be easy to forget who you are when you're constantly barraged with images of who you should be. *Mean Girls: The Musical* updates the classic movie and provides much-needed catharsis from the stress of being young through laughter and music. I hope you enjoy watching *Mean Girls: The Musical* as much as I had working on it.

~ Molly Carson, Dramaturg



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"It's a cautionary tale," Janis Sarkisian sings in the opening minutes of *Mean Girls*. This story tells us how truly cruel people can be, how popularity makes us powerful, and how high school can easily be the worst experience of our lives. But that's not the real world—fortunately, the social terror of *The Plastics* remains stowed in our scripts. Bringing a high school narrative to a high school group was an adventure that proved to be far more challenging than it had seemed. This company has pushed through the harsh truths and challenging themes of the no-holds-barred depiction of high school that is *Mean Girls*. Its explorations of kindness, friendship, and finding your identity are brutally honest, which is what I love about this show. And though this story is evergreen, I hope you'll be able to take away a new sweet moment from this performance, or just revel in the glory of your high school days (past or yet to come). But in the end, I hope you'll be reminded that though "mean is easier than nice," kindness is always the best way forward.

~ Elias Bernstein, Director



# MUSICAL DUMBERS

## ACT ONE

Mean/It Roars	Janis, Damian, Cady, Ensemble
It Roars (Reprise)	Cady
Where Do You Belong?	Janis, Damian, Ensemble
Meet the Plastics	Regina, Gretchen, Karen
Stupid With Love	Cady, Aaron, Ensemble
Apex Predator	Janis, Cady, Ensemble
What's Wrong with Me?	Gretchen
October 3rd	Cady, Aaron
Sexy	Karen, Ensemble
Someone Gets Hurt	Regina, Aaron, Featured Dancers
Revenge Party	Janis, Damian, Cady, Ensemble
Rockin' Around the Pole	Bippy Lee, Ensemble
Fearless	Cady, Gretchen, Karen, Ensemble

## ACT TWO

Mean (Reprise)	Janis, Damian
Stop!	Damian, Stop "Trio", Tappers
What's Wrong with Me? (Reprise)	Gretchen, Mrs George
Whose House is This?	Kevin G., Ensemble
More is Better	Cady, Aaron
Someone Gets Hurt (Reprise)	Janis, Damian, Cady
World Burn	Regina, Ensemble
I'd Rather Be Me	Janis, Ensemble
Do This Thing	Cady, Matheletes
I See Stars	Company

# CAST LIST

Cady Heron

Janis Sarkisian

Damian Hubbard

Aaron Samuels

Regina George

Gretchen Wieners

Karen Smith

Kevin G.

Mrs. Heron

Mr. Heron

Mrs. George

Ms. Norbury

Mr. Duvall

French Teacher

Coach Carr

Mr. Buck

Bippy Lee

Joy Charbonneau

Ella Loudermilk

Lukas Gutierrez

Adrian Cabrera

Catherine Brady

Karma Reeves

Madelyn Behling

Zephyr Scalzi

Cassidy Harper

Aaron Chou

Sabrina Steel

Jen Jeon

Addy Hill

Katie Musick

Quinn Creel

Sonia Thanicatt

Jen Jeon

## FEATURED DANCERS

Anaya Alexander, Emma Gadbois, Karolina Kellogg, Katie Musick, Luna Karnsuwan

## FEATURED TAPPERS

Madelyn Behling, Emma Gadbois, Nate Kauffman, Karolina Kellogg, Lukas Gutierrez, Ella Loudermilk, Chase Pasekoff



# CAST LIST

## “STOP” TRIO

Molly Carson, Milo Dowling, Katie Musick

## ENSEMBLE

Tina Akumbu, Anaya Alexander, Molly Carson, Quinn Creel, Milo Dowling, Piper Estok, Morgan Foote, Emma Gadbois, Luna Karnsuwan, Nate Kauffman, Karolina Kellogg, Val Lewin, Katie Musick, Chase Pasekoff, Kylee Solt-Linville, Zeph Sanders, Zephyr Scalzi, Sonia Thanicatt

## SWINGS

Anaya Alexander, Milo Dowling, Jen Jeon, Zeph Sanders, Sabrina Steele, Sonia Thanicatt



# LEADERSHIP

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Elias Bernstein
Assistant Directors	Abby Mendez, Megan Stickles
Music Director	Marci Shegogue
Choreographer	Avery Hook
Assistant Choreographers	Nate Kauffman, Tina Akumbu

## ADMIN TEAM

Company Manager	Chase Pasekoff
Marketing Director	Nate Kauffman
Dramaturg	Molly Carson
Accessibility Co-Coordination	Sofia Ali, Molly Carson
Special Events Organizer	Milo Dowling

Fight Choreographer	Amelia Talbot
Fight Captain	Zeph Sanders



# LEADERSHIP

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager

Brinlyn Cohen-Rider

Asst. Stage Managers

Jaylen Foote, Ethan Seldin

Costume Designers

Jen Jeon, Taryn Ryan

Hair and Makeup Designer

Harley Craun

Props Designer

Lingwen Xu

Lighting Designer

Sean Cooper, Gabrielle Gah

Sound Designer

Sabrina Steele

Sound Technicians

Ivy Speck, Zach Fischer

Projections

Harley Craun, Lingwen Xu

Scenic Designer

Harley Craun, Lingwen Xu

## CREW

Anisa Spiegth, Andrey Chernyak, Daniel Chernyak, Danny House, Connor McMaster, Nise Mendez, Avery Savino, Zoey Scheraga, Basil Pendleton, Josephine Gardner, Michael Brown, Paulina Ortiz, Kaitlynn Proffitt, Riley Mahoney, Ana Johnson, Anderson Lazo



# MEET THE COMPANY

**Tina Akumbu (Asst. Choreographer, Ensemble)** has never had a better time in theatre than they've had at the Free! *Mean Girls* is their first show with the company and they can't wait to be a part of more! Outside of theatre they enjoy watching video essays, writing, and making jewelry!

**Anaya Alexander (Featured Dancer, Ensemble, Swing)** is very excited about this production of *Mean Girls*. This is Anaya's first production with the Free Theater. Anaya loves to be onstage and aspires to be a star on Broadway!

**Sofia Ali (Accessibility Coordinator)** is really happy to have worked on her first Free Theatre production. She would like to thank everyone who comes to watch the show for supporting the arts.

**Madelyn Behling (Karen Smith, Tapper)** is thrilled to be making her Free Theatre debut as Karen Smith in *Mean Girls*. Offstage, Maddy loves to tap dance and write songs. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support, as well as the Free Theatre company for being so welcoming. Enjoy the show!

**Elias Bernstein (Director)** is a senior at Churchill and is thrilled to be joining The Free Theatre for his third production. He would like to thank his family and the entire production team and wishes the cast and crew a safe and exciting run of the show.

**Catherine Brady (Regina George)** is thrilled for her onstage debut with the Free Theatre. Catherine music directed and conducted the Free Theatre's *Footloose*, and in her spare time, she likes to play music and work with her high school theatre program, QO Theatre.



# MEET THE COMPANY

**Adrian Cabrera (Aaron Samuels)** is excited to be a part of *Mean Girls*. This is his first production with the Free Theatre. His favorite activities include playing guitar and watching romance movies.

**Molly Carson (Dramaturg, Ensemble, "Stop" Trio)** is excited to be involved with their fourth Free Theatre show! They are a dual-enrolled music major at Frederick Community College. They enjoy screenwriting, media criticism, playing piano, and baking.

**Joy Charbonneau (Cady Heron)** could not be more hyped to play another ginger, optimistic math nerd onstage! She loves performing like it's breathing and also writes music and takes the train wherever she can. They have been compared to late summer, Hozier songs, and rose quartz.

**Aaron Chou (Mr. Heron, Ensemble)** is excited to be a part of the cast for *Mean Girls*! This is his first production with the Free Theatre, and his second musical production overall.

**Brinlyn Cohen-Rider (Stage Manager)** is stoked for this production of *Mean Girls*. This is Brinlyn's third production here with the Free Theatre. Some of her interests are crocheting, guinea pigs, and baking.

**Harley Craun (Hair & Makeup Designer, Scenic Co-Designer)** is so happy to be a part of *Mean Girls*. This is Harley's fifth production with the Free Theatre. In her spare time, Harley loves to do special effects makeup and sewing.

**Quinn Creel (Coach Carr, Ensemble)** is so excited to be apart of *Mean Girls*! This Quinn's second show with the Free Theatre. He likes to watch movies and play with his pets.

# MEET THE COMPANY

**Milo Dowling (Special Events, Ensemble, "Stop" Trio, Swing)** is so excited to be participating in his fifth show with the Free Theatre and his first as the special events organizer! He is a senior at Sherwood High School and when he's not practicing for the Free Theatre, he loves participating in his school shows there!

**Piper Estok (Ensemble)** ecstatic to be in her first free theatre show! She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Zach Fischer (Sound Technician, Bass)** is super excited to be a part of *Mean Girls*. This is his first show with the Free Theatre. He is a sound lead at QO Theatre and has playing bass for 3 years!

**Jaylen Foote (Asst. Stage Manager)** is happy to be here! This is Jaylen's first production with Free Theatre! In their spare time they like to play video games, talk to her friends and read!

**Morgan Foote (Ensemble)** is glad to be able to be a part of *Mean Girls*. This is her first production with the Free Theatre.

**Emma Gadbois (Featured Dancer, Tapper, Ensemble)** is so excited to be in her first Free Theatre show. She Dances competitively at 24/7 Dance studio.

**Gabrielle Gah (Lighting Designer)** is thrilled to be apart of the Mean Girls Production here at Free theatre. At her own high school she's one of two lights chiefs and really enjoys doing lights. In her free time she loves to hangout with friends and watch movies.

# MEET THE COMPANY

**Lukas Gutierrez (Damian, Tapper)** is ecstatic to make his debut in the Free Theatre as Damian. He has always loved performing and this will be his 8th production and he can't wait! When he's not on stage you can find him walking his puppy (Jasper), hanging out with his besties, and finding any chance to take the spotlight <3

**Cassidy Harper (Mrs. Heron, Ensemble)** is ecstatic to be in the mean girls cast. This is her first show with the Free Theatre. She's interested in music and jewelry making in her free time.

**CeCe Hartford (Light Crew)** is excited to be apart of her first show at Free Theatre. She goes to Urbana High School and is apart of their drama department (Sound Board, Music, Sound Effects, Light Board and Stage Crew); she also goes to Governor Thomas Johnson High School for the Academy for the Fine Arts (Dance Focus). She hopes to pursue a career in technical theater/production and hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Addy Hill (Mr. Duvall, Ensemble)** is a full time Montgomery College student and is so excited for her second show with The Free. She is so grateful for the dedicated cast, crew, and creative team that have worked on this show. Outside of theatre, Addy spends her days with her robotics team, hiking, and contemplating transcendentalism.

**Avery Hook (Choreographer)** is super excited to be choreographing Mean Girls. This is Avery's fifth production with the Free Theatre. In her spare time, Avery loves dancing, singing, choreographing, and reading with her dog.



# MEET THE COMPANY

**Jen Jeon (Costume Co-Designer, Ms. Norbury, Bippy Lee, Swing)** is thrilled to be in *Mean Girls*, her sixth production with the Free Theatre. She would like to thank her family, Free Theatre alumni, their friends, and Marci for always believing in them. She's so excited for her senior season!

**Luna Karnsuwan (Featured Dancer, Ensemble)** is delighted to be part of Free Theatre's *Mean Girls*. This is Luna's first show with the Free Theater. In her spare time, she enjoys talking to her friends and taking walks

**Nate Kauffman (Asst. Choreographer, Marketing Director, Tapper, Ensemble)** is super excited to be a part of *Mean Girls*. This is Nate's third production with the Free Theatre. In his spare time, he loves to dance, and play with his dog.

**Karolina Kellogg (Featured Dancer, Tapper, Ensemble)** is a sophomore at Quince Orchard. This is Karolina's first production with the Free Theatre and she is overjoyed to start her debut on the BlackRock stage! In her free time she loves to dance and spend time with her friends.

**Val Lewin (Ensemble)** is so excited for the opportunity to perform another show with the Free Theatre. This is her second show with the Free, her first being *Footloose*. Outside of theatre, she enjoys writing, learning languages, and leadership.

**Ella Loudermilk (Janis Sarkisian, Tapper)** is very excited to be in her first Free Theater production! She loves to dance, read, and write. She is very thankful to the entire company for their kindness and generosity.



# MEET THE COMPANY

**Abby Mendez (Asst. Director)** is so excited to be a part of *Mean Girls* this season and watching this show come to life has been wonderful. This is Abby's third production with the Free Theatre and first one on creative team!

**Katie Musick (French Teacher, Featured Dancer, "Stop" Trio, Ensemble)** is very excited to join Free Theatre in this production of *Mean Girls*! This is Katie's first production with the Free Theatre. Outside of Theatre, she loves to participate in student advocacy, playing her guitar, and hanging out with her family and friends!

**Chase Pasekoff (Company Manager, Tapper, Ensemble)** is so excited for this production! He is a senior at Quince Orchard and has been a part of the Free Theatre since the summer of 2020. He is also Company Manager for the 2023-24 season and has enjoyed his role. In his free time, he loves writing, playing piano, hanging out with friends, and listening to music.

**Karma Reeves (Gretchen Weiners)** is overjoyed to be included in the production of *Mean Girls*, their first show with the Free Theatre. After school, Karma participates in their dance classes, school dance team, and after school clubs. They love to perform, dance, and create art.

**Taryn Ryan (Costume Co-Designer)** is a senior at Stone Ridge. She is thrilled to be part of her third Free Theatre production. She enjoys doing photography and hanging out with friends and family in her free time.

# MEET THE COMPANY

**Zeph Sanders (Fight Captain, Ensemble, Swing)** is so happy and grateful to have the opportunity to be in *Mean Girls!* This is Zeph's first show with the Free Theatre and they want to thank the entire cast and crew for being so welcoming. When they're not busy onstage, they love doing anything art related or going on nature walks.

**Avery Savino (Crew)** is super excited to be a part of this year's show. This is Avery's first production at Free Theatre, but they hope to participate in many more. They would like to thank their parents for always driving them to the theater and hope you enjoy the show!

**Zephyr Scalzi (Kevin G., Ensemble)** is thrilled to be in The Free Theatre's production of *Mean Girls*. This is Zephyr's third show with The Free Theatre. In their free time, Zephyr enjoys reading, drawing, and dancing.

**Ethan Seldin (Asst. Stage Manager)** is excited to be assistant stage manager in his third show with the Free Theatre. Ethan loves hanging out with his friends.

**Kylee Solt-Linville (Ensemble)** is thrilled to be a part of her first Free Theatre production! You can almost always find Kylee singing and dancing or reading a book! She would like to thank the cast and crew for working together to make this amazing production happen!

**Ivy Speck (Sound Technician)** is super excited to be apart of *Mean Girls*. This is their first show with the Free Theatre. They also participate in QO Theatre, and love to hang with their cat!

# MEET THE COMPANY

**Sabrina Steele (Sound Designer, Mrs. George, Swing)** is so excited to be a part of one of her favourite musicals! This is her second production with the Free Theatre and her first time sound designing. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, sewing, and playing hockey.

**Megan Stickles (Asst. Director)** has loved working on Mean Girls! This is her first production with Free Theatre, and you can also find her in the Stone Ridge theater department. She also loves to read and play cello and a bit of guitar.

**Sonia Thanicatt (Mr. Buck, Ensemble, Swing)** is so excited to be in Mean Girls! This is their third production with the Free Theatre. Outside of theatre, they like to roller skate, and play video games.

**Lingwen Xu (Props Designer, Scenic Co-Designer)** is thrilled to be working at the Free Theatre's production of Mean Girls. This is Lingwen's fifth year at the Free and her third show as the Props Designer. When she's not doing theatre, you can find Lingwen drawing!

# STAFF

Managing Director  
Production Manager

Marci Shegogue  
Seoyoung Kim

# MENTORS

Ginger Ager, Gustavo Ballesteros, Kate Bryer, Claire Gellilo  
Megan Holden, Rikki Howie Lacewell, Seoyoung Kim  
Hailey LaRoe, TJ Lukascina, Kristina Martin  
Marci Shegogue, Rooster Skylar Sultan

# PIT BAND

Conductor/Keys 3  
Keys 1  
Drums  
Guitar  
Bass  
Flute/Piccolo

Marci Shegogue  
Marcello Silva  
Dean Ceresini  
Jimmy Smith  
Zach Fischer  
Wren Manderscheid





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Marci Shegogue

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Hailey LaRoe, Lisa Young

# ALUMNI ADVISORS

Grace Awono, Claire Gelillo, Gillian Gravatt,  
Ari Rubenstein, Anna Well

# PARENT LIAISON

Tina Craun



# DONORS

Thank you to our generous Donors this 2023-24 season! Please forgive any errors and omissions, we are currently updating the list here and on our website for July 2023-Jan 2024

Karen Fleming  
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Israil Ali  
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Carmen Ramiro  
Simon Sinnreich  
Deron Lovaas  
Bridget Ellis  
Mercedes Loudermilk  
Ivonne Magdelano  
John Henry  
Monica Kander  
Kim Summers  
Pamela Garrido  
Kathleen Brannon  
Caleb Bannen

Wendy Dowling  
Nancy House  
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# ONLINE AUCTION

January 19-29, 2024

[bit.ly/winterauction2024](https://bit.ly/winterauction2024)

Check out some of our awesome items you can bid on. The auction will close January 29th. All proceeds will go towards the Free Theatre Company.







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Book & Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Book by Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar

Based on an original concept by Jack Viertel

Original Broadway Production directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw

Originally Produced on Broadway by Bill Damaschke, Dori Berinstein

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Are you interested in FREE classes in directing, choreography, music directing, lighting, scenic, costumes, props, theatre games and more?

Follow the Free Theatre for more updates as we announce our summer schedule and sign-up information!



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