

THE FREE THEATRE PRESENTS

the

PROM

JUNE 21, 22, 23, 2024

AT BLACKROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

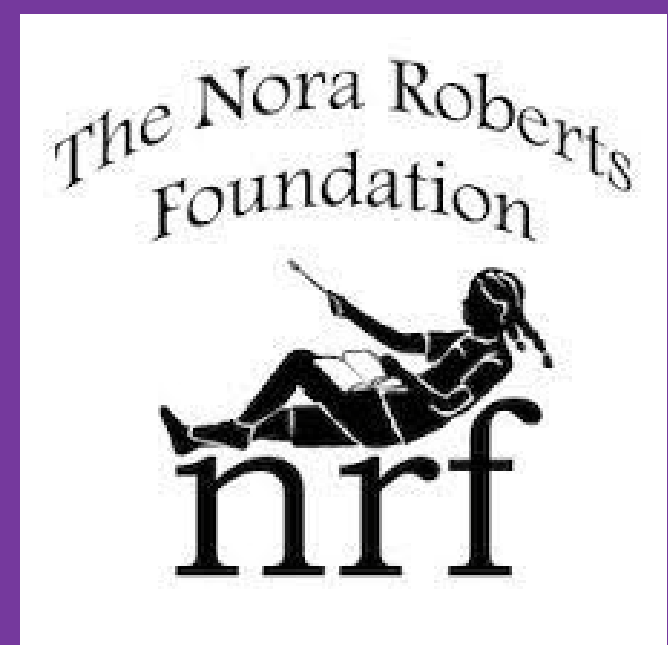
Originally produced on Broadway by Bill Damaschke, Dori Berinstein, Jack Lane

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THANK YOU!

Produced in part by
Free Range Humans, and
generous grants from the
Arts and Humanities Council of
Montgomery County,
The Nora Roberts Foundation
and the Maryland State Arts
Council



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.



ABOUT THE PROM

Since its debut in 2018, 'The Prom' has remained strikingly relevant, reflecting both the progress and setbacks in our society. The musical boldly tackles themes of fear-mongering and scapegoating, resonating with current moral panics surrounding transgender rights, Critical Race Theory, and censorship. These issues are not just hypothetical arguments; they have tangible impacts on individuals' lives and identities.

These arguments often stem from a profitable ignorance that diverts attention from real pressing societal challenges, serving to divide a population that has more in common than they might initially believe. This frame of mind doesn't discriminate based on political affiliation.

The Broadway Stars arrive in Edgewater, Indiana without the praxis to back up their holier-than-thou attitudes. This isn't as outwardly harmful as Mrs. Greene's actions, but it certainly doesn't help Emma and Alyssa's situation.

In the end, it is Emma's voice that cuts through the debate, reminding everyone that the debate shouldn't have existed in the first place. 'The Prom' serves as a reminder to examine where our beliefs come from, why we hold our beliefs, and the impact that our beliefs have on those around us. I hope you enjoy the show as much as I enjoyed working on it.

~ Molly Carson, Dramaturg

DIRECTORS' NOTE

The Prom is a show that, at its heart, is about looking for a sense of acceptance and belonging. No matter your identity, everyone wants to belong. Whether they're a high schooler in Indiana or a celebrity from New York, every character is looking to find a place where they feel seen and appreciated. In the end, we believe that they've all found that, even if it was where they least expected it.

This musical demonstrates the reality that being accepted doesn't begin and end with coming out, and that both being out and proud and in the closet have their pros and cons. This show also represents how a young person can feel seen by meeting an older, out, adult, and being able to see a future for themselves that maybe wasn't as clear before. And whether your journey is in its teens, or fifties, there's always a future possible that wasn't as clear before. While there might not be one universal LGBTQ+ experience, there are common threads in many of our stories, and we feel like The Prom represents how beautifully different yet similar we all are.

As Emma says in her song, Unruly Heart, "I'm who I am and I think that's worth fighting for." The community we have, the culture, and the people we love are all worth how hard we have to fight. If you take anything away from this show let it be to love a little harder and always be kind.

Thank you, and with love,
Abby Mendez and Megan Stickle

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Changing Lives	Barry, Dee Dee, Ensemble
Changing Lives (Reprise)	Broadway Stars
Just Breathe	Emma
It's Not About Me	Dee Dee, Ensemble
Dance With You	Emma, Alyssa
The Acceptance Song	Trent, Godspell Kids
You Happened	Ensemble
We Look To You	Mr. Hawkins
Tonight Belongs to You	Company

ACT TWO

Zazz	Angie, Emma, Fosse Girls
The Lady's Improving	Dee Dee, Featured Dancers
Love Thy Neighbor	Trent, Ensemble
Alyssa Greene	Alyssa
Barry Is Going To Prom	Barry
Unruly Heart	Emma, Ensemble
It's Time To Dance	Company

CAST LIST

Barry Glickman

DeeDee Allen

Sheldon Saperstein

Trent Oliver

Angie Dickinson

Emma Nolan

Alyssa Green

Mr. Hawkins

Mrs. Green

Kaylee

Shelby

Nick

Kevin

Chase Pasekoff

Zephyr Sanders

Milo Dowling

Myles Rathke

Gabriella Loudermilk

Sonia Thanicatt

Elena Schwartz

Cedar Dwyer

Molly Carson

Jen Jeon

Kylee Solt-Linville

Morgan Foote

Val Lewin

SWINGS

**Annalise Grindstaff, Cassidy Harper,
Karma Reeves, Kylee Solt-Linville,
Laurel Strong, Alyssa Warring,
Evan Wong**

FEATURED DANCERS

**Tina Akumbu, Ava Helgeson,
Jen Jeon, Karma Reeves,
Alyssa Warring, Evan Wong**

ENSEMBLE

**Tina Akumbu, Istelle Cox, Bridget Ellis,
Morgan Foote, Annalise Grindstaff,
Cassidy Harper, Ava Helgeson, Jen Jeon,
Val Lewin, Candia Melvin, Beata Mirowicz,
Karma Reeves, Zephyr Scalzi, Addie
Silvestro, Sonia Skolnik, Kylee Solt-Linville,
Laurel Strong, Alyssa Warring, Evan Wong**



LEADERSHIP

ADMIN TEAM

Company Manager

Chase Pasekoff

Apprentice Company Manager

Avery Hook

Marketing Director

Nate Kauffman

Apprentice Marketing Director

Zeph Sanders

Dramaturg

Molly Carson

Accessibility Coordinator

Molly Carson

Special Events Organizer

Milo Dowling

CREATIVE TEAM

Directors

Abby Mendez, Megan Stickles

Assistant Director

Daniel House

Music Director

Marci Shegogue

Assistant Music Director

Ethan Seldin

Choreographer

Avery Hook

Assistant Choreographer

Nate Kauffman

LEADERSHIP

PRODUCTION TEAM

Co-Stage Manager

Co-Stage Manager

ASM

Costume Co-Designer

Costume Co-Designer

Costume Assistant Designer

Costume Assistant Designer

Props Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Scenic Designer

Brinlyn Cohen-Rider

Jaylen “Jay” Foote

Anisa Speight

Taryn Ryan

Harley Craun

Val Lewin

Addison Webb

Lingwen Xu

Gabby Gah

Zach Fischer

River Blake

CREW

Andrey Chernyak, River Blake,

Kelsee Solt-Linville, Riley Mahoney, Anisa Speight,

Averi Gauthier-Skinner, Elisa Stanger, Andy Iazo,

Abby Sarrat

MEET THE COMPANY

River Blake (Scenic Designer) is very happy to spend their first production with the Free Theater working on *The Prom*. He and **Maui**, his service dog, have been working hard on making their first dive into the world of design a good one. The both of them work in the basement in their spare time making art and playing fetch.

Harley Craun (Co-Costume Designer) is one of the co costume designers for the Free Theatres production of *The Prom*. She is very excited to have worked with all her friends. She wanted to thank her parents for always supporting her.

Molly Carson (Dramaturg, Accessibility Coordinator, Mrs. Greene) is excited to be a part of their 5th and final production with the Free Theatre. Outside of theatre, they love writing, baking, singing, film, and piano. They plan on studying screenwriting at Ithaca College in the fall.

Brinlyn Cohen-Rider (Stage Manager) is super excited to be a part of *The Prom*. This is Brinlyn's 4th production with the Free Theatre. In their spare time, they love to listen to music while crocheting.

Istelle Cox (Motel Clerk, Ensemble) After watching her brother and sister perform for years, **Istelle Cox** is excited to take part in her first ever production. In her free time, **Istelle** enjoys writing and watching Reality TV.

MEET THE COMPANY

Milo Dowling (Special Events Organizer, Sheldon) is so excited for his sixth and final show with the Free Theatre! He can't wait to go off to college this fall! In his free time, he enjoys listening to music and writing.

Cedar Dwyer (Mr. Hawkins) can't wait to share this production with you. This is Cedar's first show with the Free Theatre, but past credits include **Dmitry (Anastasia, RMHS)** and **Lewis (Pippin, Imagination Stage)**. In his free time, he can usually be found playing guitar or in a biology classroom.

Bridget Ellis (Ensemble) is so happy to be a part of the ensemble of **The Prom!** This is their first production with the Free Theatre. Bridget will be going to **William & Mary** in the fall and is so excited for what comes next!

Zach Fischer (Sound Designer) is super excited to be here, this is his 2nd show with Free Theatre as he was in pit for **Mean Girls**.

Jaylen "Jay" Foote (Stage Manager) is fired up for **The Prom**. This is Jay's second production with Free Theater. In their spare time she plays video games and does some creative writing.

Gaby Gah (Lighting Designer) is so happy to be able to work with the Free theatre and to be a part of **The Prom**. This is her 2nd production with The Free Theatre. She loves working with lights and is also the head lighting technician at her high school.

MEET THE COMPANY

Annalise Grindstaff (Godspell Kid, Ensemble, Emma Swing) is a senior at West Potomac High School in Virginia, and is so glad she's taken the hour-long drive to get to be with this amazing cast! When not on stage, Annalise loves reading, making art, and arranging music. Break a leg, everyone!

Cassidy Harper (Ensemble, Mrs. Greene Swing) is elated to be in the amazing production that is The Prom! This is Cassidy's second production at the Free Theater. She enjoys musical theater and social media marketing.

Ava Helgeson (Featured Dancer, Ensemble, Fosse Girl Swing) is really happy to be a part of Free Theatre's cast for the first time. Ava is so proud of this production of The Prom and can't wait for the audience to see it.

Avery Hook (Company Manager Apprentice, Choreographer) is super excited to be choreographing The Prom. This is Avery's sixth production with the Free Theatre. In her spare time, Avery loves dancing, singing, choreographing, and reading with her dog.

Daniel House (Assistant Director) is a first time Assistant Director for The Prom. After being in the cast/crew of performances for The Free Theatre for 3 shows, Daniel has decided to take a different route with the creative team. This has been an incredible experience such far and he is so excited to see what this cast can do.

MEET THE COMPANY

Jen Jeon (Kaylee, Featured Dancer, Godspell Kid) is thrilled to be in her seventh and final production with the Free Theatre! She would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support these past four years. In her spare time, Jen loves cooking, baking, singing, and being around her friends.

Nate Kauffman (Marketing Director, Assistant Choreographer) is super excited to be a part of The Prom. This is Nate's 4th production with the Free Theatre. In his spare time, he loves to dance, and play with his dog.

Val Lewin (Assistant Costume Designer, Kevin) is super excited for her third production at the Free Theatre, The Prom. Outside of theater, she enjoys fashion, writing, drawing, playing piano, reading, and learning languages.

Gabriella Loudermilk (Angie Dickinson) is thrilled to be in her second Free Theatre show! She wants to thank the entire company and her family for always supporting her. She loves dancing, reading, and fashion.

Riley Mahoney (Crew) is so glad to have joined the Free Theatre. This is her first show and has been helping with lighting design!

Candia Melvin (Ensemble) is really excited to be a part of The Prom. This is Candia's 1st production with the Free Theatre. In her spare time, she loves to play animal crossing new horizons.

MEET THE COMPANY

Abby Mendez (Co-Director) is so excited for the production of *The Prom*!! Getting to be a part of this community has been one of the best adventures throughout high school. A thank you to all of the friends made along the way, Marci for teaching us in lessons beyond theater, the wonderful creative team, and to every person a part of making our show alive you all are going to go do great things.

Beata Mirowicz Hobart (Godspell Kid, Ensemble) is so excited for this show. This is her very first show with The Free Theatre. She loves musical theatre and loves to read and do crossword puzzles.

Chase Pasekoff (Company Manager, Barry Glickman) is so excited for his final production with The Free Theatre. He has been a member of the company for the past four years and will miss everyone! He will be attending Boston University in the fall and plans to study journalism and advertising.

Myles Rathke (Trent Oliver) is thrilled to be a part of his first Free Theatre show no less *The Prom*. No one is happier than Myles to have been offered such a role like Trent Oliver and has had so much fun creating his own version of Trent. After meeting so many new interesting people in the production, Myles thanks everyone for this experience.

Karma Reeves (Fosse Girl, Featured dancer, Godspell kid, Ensemble, Kaylee/Shelby Swing) is very excited to be in their 2nd production with The Free Theatre, *The Prom*. In their spare time Karma likes to dance, draw, and write.

MEET THE COMPANY

Taryn Ryan (Costume Co-Designer) is thrilled to be working on the Prom. This will be her fourth and final Free Theatre Production. Outside of theatre Taryn enjoys photography and hanging out with friends.

Zeph Sanders (Dee Dee Allen, Fight/Intimacy Captain, Marketing Apprentice) could not be happier to be onstage with this amazing cast and crew. This is Zeph's second production with the Free Theatre, and 13th production total. They want to thank everyone in their life for supporting them, especially their parents.

Zephyr Scalzi (Reporter, Godspell Kid, Ensemble) This is Zephyr's 4th show with the Free Theater. In their spare time, Zephyr likes reading, dance, listening to music and spending time with friends.

Elena Schwartz (Alyssa Greene) is thrilled to be a part of The Prom and her first production with The Free Theatre! She wants to thank her parents and sister for always supporting her. She would also like to thank Marci, cast, and crew for making this experience so enjoyable.

Ethan Seldin (Assistant Music Director) is excited to be the assistant musical director for The Prom. This is Ethan's 4th and final production at The Free Theatre. Ethan enjoys playing violin and guitar in his free time.

Addie Silvestro (Reporter, Ensemble) has been in many productions, but this is her first show at the Free Theatre & she is so excited! Addie loves to write, read too much, & make zines.

MEET THE COMPANY

Sonia Skolnik (Reporter, Ensemble) is a sophomore at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. This is Sonia's first production with the Free Theater. She has loved being in the cast of *The Prom*, and is excited for everyone who gets to see the show!

Kelsee Solt-Linville (Run Crew) is so excited to be in *The Prom*. This is Kelsee's first production with the Free Theater. She wants to thank everyone for the support!

Kylee Solt-Linville (Shelby, Alyssa Swing) is participating in her 2nd free theatre show. She is so happy to be a part of such a wonderful production with such wonderful people!

Anisa Speight (Assistant Stage Manager) is absolutely glad to be a part of *The Prom*. This is Anisa's 2nd production with the Free Theatre. In her spare time, she hangs out with friends and causes miniature chaos with her dog.

Megan Stickles (Co-Director) is so excited to be joining the creative team at the Free Theatre for the second time! *The Prom* is one of her favorite musicals and has such a special place in her heart, so it's been so incredible to get to direct it. You can also find her acting in her school shows, hiking, and playing cello and guitar.

Laurel Strong (Reporter, Ensemble, Nick/Kevin Swing) is thrilled to be a member of *The Prom* cast. It's their first show with Free theater and they spend their free time baking and practicing fiber arts.

MEET THE COMPANY

Sonia Thanicatt (Emma Nolan) is soooo stoked to be a part of The Prom! This is Sonia's 4th and final production with the Free Theatre, and they are very very sad about it. In their free time, they like to roller skate and play video games. In the fall, they will be attending the University of Maryland and majoring in theatre.

Alyssa Warring (Fosse Girl, Featured Dancer, Godspell Kid, Ensemble, Dee Dee/Angie Swing) is a senior this year excited to be performing with Free Theatre for the first time in The Prom!! She will be attending NYU Tisch in the Fall. In her spare time she loves to spend time with family and friends and photography.

Addison Webb (Assistant Costume Designer) is so excited to be involved in her first show at the Free Theatre as an Assistant Costume Designer! She has loved designing for The Prom and is so excited for future shows! In her free time, she loves to read and spend time at the pool.

Evan Wong (Olivia Keating, Featured dancer, Godspell Kid, Mr. Hawkins/Sheldon Swing) is thrilled and somewhat sad to be performing in their last possible show with the Free Theatre. It has been such a fantastic experience and they really appreciate all the amazing people they have gotten to know throughout the process. They would like to thank the Free Theatre for all the wonderful memories!

Lingwen Xu (Props Designer) is thrilled to be doing her last show as The Prom! This is her 6th production with the Free Theatre. Outside of theatre, she loves to do art!

STAFF

Managing Director

Production Manager

Assistant Production Manager

Marci Shegogue

Seoyoung Kim

Sean Cooper

BOARD MEMBERS

Megan Holden, Rikki Howie Lacewell, Hailey LaRoe, Seoyoung Kim, Marci Shegogue, Lisa Young, Grace Awono, Claire Gelillo, Gillian Gravatt, Ari Rubenstein, Anna Well, Tina Craun

PIT BAND

Conductor/Keys 1

Keys 2

Drums

Guitar

Bass

Flute/Piccolo

Reeds

Trumpet

Marci Shegogue

Marcello Silva

Dean Ceresini

Jimmy Smith

Brian Bera

Wren Manderscheid

John Grossman

Sebastian Lee



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-June 2024**

**William Snyder
The Bernstein Family
The Elbridge and Evelyn
Stuart Foundation
The Lucas Family
Carl Settlemyer
Rikki Howie Lacewell
Marci Shegogue
Carole Kunze
Kevin Sockwell
Colleen Morrissey
Deb Stahl
Karen Fleming
Jasmina Kamdar
Michael Kharfen
Israil Ali
Laura Scalzi
Joanna Hook
Beverly Chernai-Wallenstein
Christin Stickles
Elias Bernstein
Maria T.**

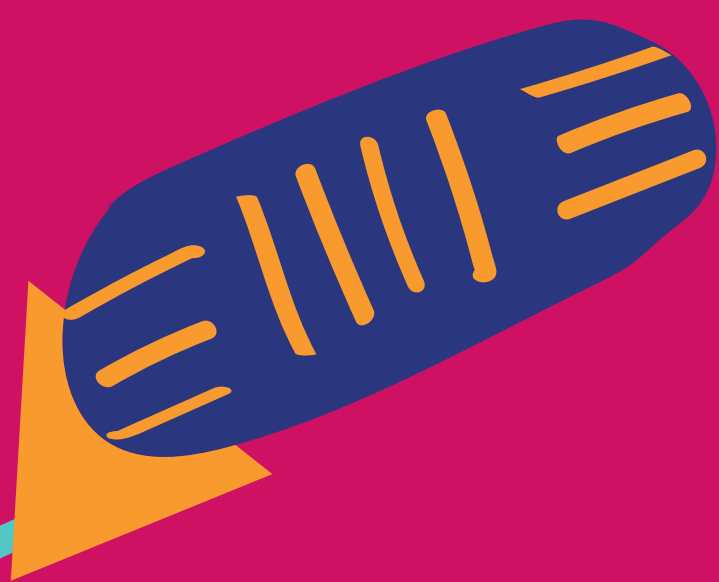
**Bridget Ellis
Mercedes Loudermilk
Ivonne Magdelano
John Henry
Monica Kander
Kim Summers
Wendy Dowling
Nancy House
Stacey Gadbois
Brandi Foote
Mike Scalzi
Susan Dowling
Caleb Banning
Crystal Rathke
Rehya Clark
Amina Ryan
Carmen Romero
Simon Sinnreich
Deron Lovaas
Katie Stauderman
James Siegal
Adam Cohen**

The Free Theatre

Summer Intensives

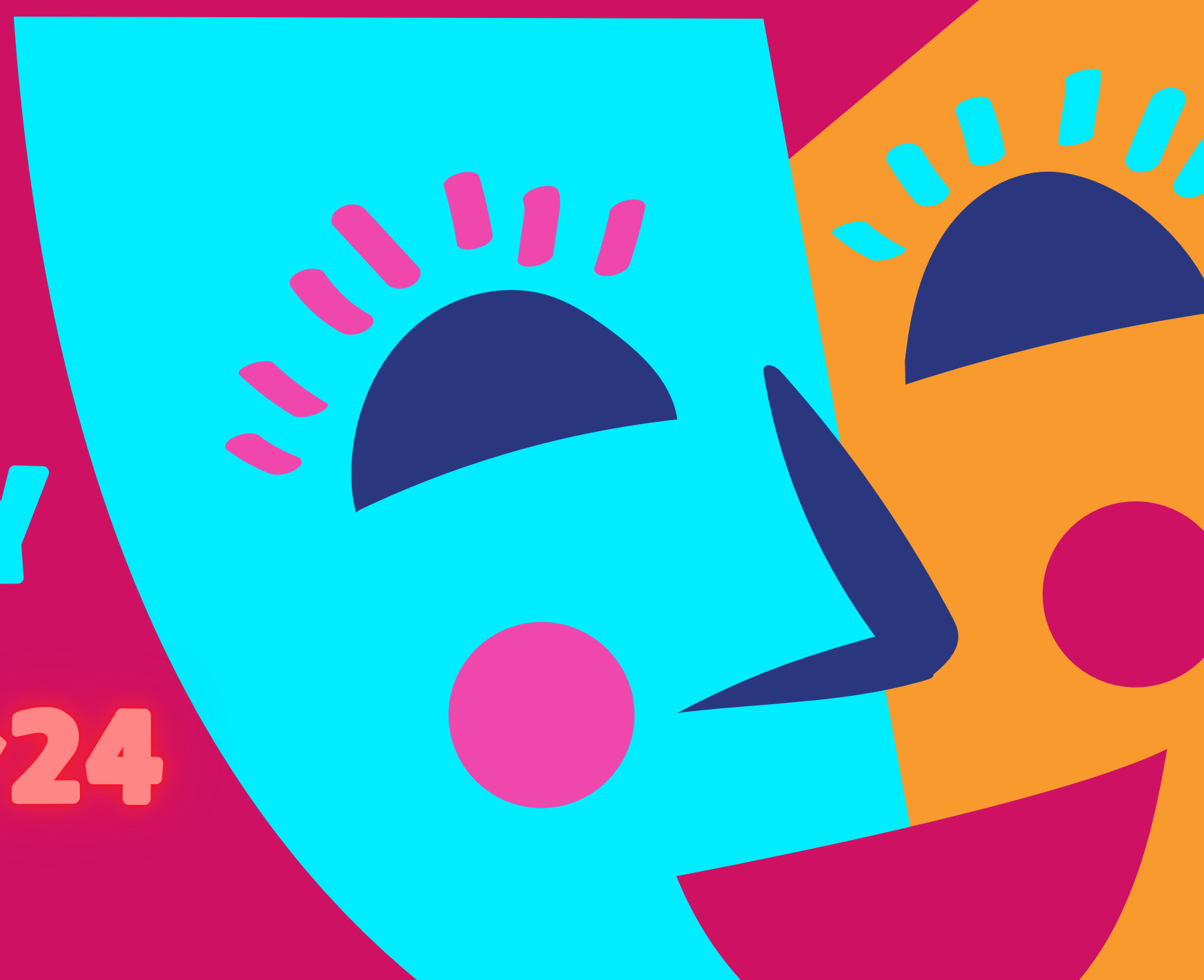
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2024 Class Selection

Directing	Sound Design
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Costume Design	Creating Projections
Scenic Design	Acting a song
Lighting Design	Mastering a Monolougue
Props Design	Vocal Technique
Stage Managment	Playwriting

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through bit.ly/freesummer24
or the QR code below.**



THE FREE THEATRE PRESENTS

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

COMING JANUARY 2025
AUDITIONS AUGUST 2024

BY ANAIS MITCHELL

**HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION IS PRESENTED BY
ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS CORP.**

**For more information regarding
Hadestown: Teen Edition visit our
website: thefreetheatre.org**

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Bobapop Tea Bar Fundraiser!!!



Saturday, June 22nd
from 11:30 am to 9:30 pm

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upon ordering!!

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The Free Theatre

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events. festivals. and more.



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FREE RANGE HUMANS

stories that move



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



Happy Pride

From The Free Theatre

**Make sure to check out our
pride table in the lobby during
intermission or after the show!**



SPECIAL THANKS TO

BlackRock Center for the Arts staff

Toly Yarup

Other Voices Theatre

Elizabeth Lucas, Free Range Humans

Eddie at BobaPop Germantown

Lilly Greenlee, Northwest High School

Costume loans:

Elsbeth Grindstaff

Joan Lawrence, The Arlington Players

Carol Pappas

Ginger Ager, Gene's Costumes

Montgomery College



KEEP IN TOUCH

Instagram: @thefreetheatre

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**Program and Cover Art:
Nate Kauffman, Zeph Sanders,
& Chase Pasekoff**