

IN THE HEIGHTS

THE FREE THEATRE
MAY 24TH-26TH, 2019



THE FREE THEATRE

The Free Theatre was formed by a group of dedicated high school seniors who have 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.

OUR FOUNDERS

Matthew Ciazza, Pria Dahiya, Jenny Dalrymple, Kira Gandolfo, Carlos Hernandez, Lily James, Emmy Lane, Devin Lucas, Julia McGowan, Jasmine Mondshine, Michael Votaw

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Kuchar	Chairman
Scott Selman	Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
Bob Dalrymple	Secretary & Counsel to the Board
Lauren Selman	
Keith Tittermary	
Heather Wagner	
Devin Lucas	Student Member of the Board

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Adin Walker	Chair	Lauren Katz
Zach Harris	Vice-Chair	Justin Marks
Julia Bratburd		Jhonny Maldonado
Katie Gerad		Leo Scheck
Bryce Guldesky		Bryan Stopak

IN THE HEIGHTS

Presented with support from Linowes and Blocher LLP

Music and Lyrics By

Lin-Manuel Miranda

Book By

Quiara Alegría Hudes

Originally Conceived By

Lin-Manuel Miranda

Originally Produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, Jeffrey Seller, Jill Furman Willis, Sander Jacobs, Goodman/Grossman, Peter Fine, Everett/Skipper

Development of In The Heights was supported by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center during a residency at the Music Theater Conference of 2005.

Initially developed by Back House Productions



Cast:



	Friday Night/ Saturday Matinee	Saturday Night/Sunday Matinee
Usnavi:	Kenny Rodriguez	Carlos Hernandez
Vanessa:	Emily Gordon	Kira Gandolfo
Benny:	LJ Jackson	Saidou Sosseh
Nina:	Julia Laje	Julia Laje
Abuela:	Parker Dymond	Néa Ranganthan
Sonny:	Christopher Gresh	Christopher Gresh
Kevin:	Michael Votaw	Michael Votaw
Camila:	Christina Williams	Paloma Boccasam
Carla:	Simone Arrington	Hana O'Looney
Daniela:	Melissa Marks	Katarina Gorlenko
Jose:	Benjamin Molina	Benjamin Molina
Yolanda:	Emmy Lane	Jenny Dalrymple
Bolero Singer:	Lily James	Lily James
Graffiti Pete:	Ari Rubenstein	Merrick Willeford
Piragua Guy:	Nathan Weisbrod	Nathan Weisbrod

Dance Features: Claire Gelillo, Meredith Jones, Juliana McDonald, Michelle Williams, Isabella Russo, Jenny Dalrymple, Emmy Lane, Jasmine Mondshine

Swings: Gillian Gravatt, Gabriella Fine, Brenna Girard, Sophia Anthony, Ella Ryan, Julian Galkin, Anna Well, Ari Rubinstein, Josie Reich

Production Team:



Director:	Pria Dahiya
Music Director:	Marci Shegogue
Choreographers:	Jenny Dalrymple & Emmy Lane
Stage Manager:	Brianna Kelly
Assistant Stage Managers:	Mackenzie Jones & Ashley Cheung
Company Manager:	Devin Lucas
Company Manager Apprentice:	Lindsay Kaplan
Production Manager:	Hope Villaneuva
Stage Management Consultant:	Olivia Viola
Lighting Designer:	Hailey LaRoe
Master Carpenter:	Ellen Houseknecht
Set Construction:	Hugh Kaplan & Jim Kelly
Costume Designer:	Emily Gordon
Program Designer:	Lindsay Kaplan
Keyboards:	Marci Shegogue, Garrett Jones
Bass:	Connor Holdridge
Guitar:	Cameron Sledjeski
Drums:	Rodrigo Posada
Woods:	Lindsay Williams, Catherine Hammes
Trumpets:	Jacob Brady
Trombone:	Joshua Fleming
Percussion:	Nathan Weisbrod, Ari Rubenstein, Kenny Rodriguez, Ben Molina

Meet our Cast



Sophia Anthony (Ensemble) is junior at Northwest High School who loves acting, singing, and writing. This is Sophia's first production with the Free Theatre and she's ecstatic to have met and worked with these amazing people. She would like to thank her parents for all their support, Mrs. Shegogue, and everyone on the production staff! Some of her previous roles include Skylar in *Bring It On*, Carolyn in *Bridges of Madison County*, and Eva in *Kindertransport*.

Simone Arrington (Carla) is thrilled to be a part of *In the Heights*! The freshman's theatre experiences started at age five when she took her very first training class and hasn't stopped since. Past shows include *Dynamic (Take the Stage Performance)*, *Elevate (Take the Stage Performance)*, and *Connected (Take the Stage Performance)*. Previous experiences also includes extensive training with people such as Jared Zirilli, Ben Platt and Stephen Crisp. Simone would like to thank Pria for being the best director and she's so blessed to be able to work with such a talented cast!

Paloma Boccasam (Camila) is a junior at Washington International School. Some of her favorite productions include, *Catch Me If You Can (featured dancer)*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Olive)*, and *Chicago (Hunyak)*. Besides Musical Theatre, Paloma has been dancing for many years. She loves being a part of the Free Theatre and wants to thank Pria, Marci, and Kevin for their work on this incredible production

Matthew Ciazza (Founder) is a senior at Georgetown Day School. He has participated in regional dinner theatre, the Augusto Boal Summer Workshop, and the Carnegie Mellon University Summer Musical Theatre Pre/College. He feels that The Free Theatre is destined to succeed because it was created from a passion for independent art, free from restrictions.

Pria Dahiya (Director/Founder) is a 12th grader at Bethesda Chevy Chase HS and will be attending the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in the fall to study Directing. She would like to thank the incredible cast, the show's talented and unparalleled choreographers, creative team, and production team, and her family for their support.

Parker Dymond (Abuela Claudia) is a sophomore at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. They are very excited to be in their second show with The Free Theater after performing as an ensemble member in *Mamma Mia!* They are also active in their school's theater program, and they recently played the Mother Abbess in a production of *The Sound of Music*.

Jenny Dalrymple (Choreographer/Yolanda/Founder) is a senior at Winston Churchill High School. She has been singing, dancing, and acting for as long as she can remember. When she performed in her first show in sixth grade, she knew that musical theater was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life. Some of her favorite roles have included Roxie in "Chicago", Lorraine in "All Shook Up", and Cinderella in "Cinderella". She will be attending Shenandoah Conservatory to get a B.F.A in Musical Theatre. In her opinion, the biggest benefit of being in a theater company is being part of the family behind the scenes that creates the magic. This is the main reason why she is part of The Free Theater.

Gabriella Fine (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of the Free Theatre! Gabriella is a Sophomore at The Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville. She has been doing musical theatre since kindergarten. Some of her favorite productions include "Fiddler on the Roof" (Shprintze), "The Boyfriend" (Maisie), "The Music Man" (Gracie Shinn), "Catch Me if You Can" (Judge), "Chicago," "Hairspray," and "The Wizard of Oz." She would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

Julian Galkin (Ensemble) is a freshman at Georgetown Day School. He is thrilled to be in In The Heights at the Free Theatre! Being part of The Free has been such a fun and new experience. Previous shows include Urinetown (Hot Blades Harry), Bye Bye Birdie (Albert), James and the Giant Peach (Grasshopper), and Anything Goes (Billy).

Kira Gandolfo (Vanessa/Founder) is so excited to be performing in her first and last show with the Free Theatre. She is a senior at Walt Whitman High School and previously directed Mamma Mia! at the Free Theatre. She would like to thank her parents, Marci, Scott, Kevin, Theo and her cuatro amigos for supporting her through all of this! Enjoy the show!

Brenna Girard (Ensemble) is a sophomore at Poolesville High School. She is a part of her school's lacrosse team and theatre program, and is very glad to be doing costuming and performing in The Free Theatre.

Emily Gordon (Vanessa/Costumes) is a rising freshman at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC for musical theater. She is so thankful for the opportunity to star in and costume design this show. Credits include; Round House Theatre: Sloppy Firsts (Bridget), WildWood Summer Theatre: Spring Awakening (Martha), Sandy Spring Friends School: She Kills Monsters (Agnes), Pippin (Fastrada), MCSDT; West Side Story (Anita). Emily would like to thank her parents for always believing in her.

Katarina Gorlenko (Daniela) is a sophomore at Walt Whitman High School and is incredibly excited to be in her second Free Theatre show! Her previous productions include "The Little Mermaid" (Sebastian), "The Music Man" (Marian Paroo), "Big Fish" and of course the Free Theatre's very first production of Mamma Mia! She thanks her amazing family, mentors and friends for their love and support!

Gillian Gravatt (Ensemble) is a sophomore at Walt Whitman High School. Her past shows include the Little Mermaid (Flotsam), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Linus Van Pelt), Ragtime, Chicago, and Mamma Mia. She would like to thank the cast and crew of the Free Theatre for their dedication to the program.

Christopher Gresh (Sonny) is a junior at Winston Churchill and is very excited for this upcoming production of "In The Heights!" Along with The Free Theatre, Chris is also active at his high school's program, recently playing the role of Sebastian in "Cinderella." Outside of musical theatre, Chris also enjoys playing and writing music, and hanging out with his friends. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Carlos Hernandez (Usnavi/Founder) is excited to be reprising the role of Usnavi, previously done at Clarksburg High School (2017 Cappie Nominee Lead Actor in a Musical). Most recently he portrayed Sam Carmichael in the Free Theatre production of Mamma Mia. He would like to thank his parents, the entire free theatre team and his vocal teacher Andrew Hann for the support.

Lionel "LJ" Jackson (Benny) is extremely proud to be working alongside The Free Theatre for the second time playing the role of Benny. A DC native and working out of Northern Virginia, LJ is known for roles in productions such as Mamma Mia, The Drowsy Chaperone, and Dead Avenue. This summer, LJ will be relocating to Savannah, Georgia to further pursue acting in theatre and film; and is excited to see how he will take his work to the next level.

Lily James (Bolero Singer/Founder) is a senior at Walt Whitman High School and is thrilled to be a part of In The Heights! Some of her favorite roles include Claire in On the Town, Siobhan in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, and Laurey in Oklahoma! She will be attending Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the fall to receive a BFA in Musical Theatre. She would like to thank her fellow founders, Marci, Kevin, Scott, Pria, and the entire cast and crew for making this show, and this year, possible!

Meredith Jones (Featured Dancer/Ensemble) is in 7th grade at Holy Trinity. She has enjoyed musical theater since she was really young, musical theater is her safe space where she can be as weird and creative as she wants outside of school. She has played many different roles in many different shows but has enjoyed every part she has played!

Julia Laje (Nina) is currently a junior at Stone Ridge in Bethesda and has done her fair share of equity and community shows in the D.C. area. Her favorite roles include Marta in *The Sound of Music* at the Olney Theater Center, Fan and Belinda Cratchit in her two years performing in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theater, Gigi in the world premiere of *The Kids Table* at The Theater Lab, Annie/Six (Cell Block Tango) in Chicago at Act Two at Levine and Rosie Mulligan in *Mamma Mia* at the Free Theatre. Julia is very excited to be a part of *In the Heights* and is looking forward to participating in more of the company's productions in the future.

Emmy Lane (Yolanda/Choreographer/Founder) is a rising senior at Walt Whitman High School. She has been performing in musical theatre for the past 10 years. Some of her favorite productions include "Mamma Mia," "Les Miserables," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," "Bat Boy," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "All Shook Up." She also has worked as an apprentice choreographer on productions such as "Chicago," "Oklahoma," and "Catch Me If You Can." Emily has been dancing for 14 years in styles including ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, and her favorite, hip hop. Emily is thrilled to be a part of The Free Theatre Company because of the chances students will get to explore the opportunities theatre offers beyond performing in order to cultivate the total artist.

Devin Lucas (Bolero Singer/Company Manager/Founder) is a senior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. She is thrilled to be a part of The Free Theatre and feels fortunate to be working with such a wonderful and engaged team of students and professionals. A few of her favorite roles onstage have been Brenda in "Catch Me if You Can," Agnes in "She Kills Monsters," and Uzo in "Godspell," but some of her favorite work in theatre has happened offstage as a company manager. Outside of theatre, she loves writing, drawing, and being involved in student activism. She hopes that The Free Theatre will give passionate students the opportunity to create and collaborate through art.

Juliana McDonald (Featured Dancer/Ensemble) is so happy that she got to do "In the Heights" for her first ever production! Thank you to the amazing cast and crew!and thanks Bibi.

Julia McGowan (Founder) is a rising senior at Walt Whitman High School. She has been doing musical theatre since elementary school and has loved every second of it. Some of her favorite roles have included Ado Annie in "Oklahoma!," Celisse in "Godspell," Cinderella in "Into the Woods," and Mona in "Chicago." She spent the past summer at the National High School Institute for acting, also known as Cherubs, at Northwestern University. She is so excited to work with The Free Theatre, as she knows that everyone will work their hardest to make it the best it can be.

Melissa Marks (Daniela) is a senior at Winston Churchill High School and is thrilled to be able to play Daniela in *In The Heights* with the Free Theatre. After almost two years, Melissa is back on the stage to perform one last time before going away to college next year at WashU in St. Louis. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her throughout her musical theatre career and her company for being so welcoming. Enjoy the show!!

Benjamin Molina (Sonny/Percussion) is excited for his first production in The Free Theatre; he's played Twig and Papa Ge in *Bring It On* and *Once* on this Island at Northwest High School. Though only doing theatre for a year and a half, starting his sophomore year, it's helped him grow so much as a character.

Jasmine Mondshine (Featured Dancer/Founder) is a senior at Washington-Lee High School and is so excited to be part of the creation of The Free Theatre. She has an extensive dance background and loves to share all she has learned with the company. She is passionate about an array of social justice issues and feels like The Free Theatre will be the perfect place to use art to help enact change. She strongly believes everyone deserves access to arts education.

Hana O'Looney-Goto (Carla) is a freshman at Richard Montgomery High School. She has been involved with numerous theatre companies in the area, including Kensington Arts Theatre, Damascus Theatre Company, Rockville Little Theatre, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company. She would like to thank her family for their support and the incredible cast and crew of *In the Heights* for a spectacular show!

Néa Ranganthan (Abuela Claudia) is a senior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and she is so excited to be in her second show with the Free Theatre! She loves her role and thrilled to be a part of such a diverse and iconic show. She would like to thank Marci and Kevin for all their guidance and especially Pria for being an amazing friend, peer, and director all throughout high school!

Josie Reich (Ensemble/Costumes) is very excited to be part of the inaugural season of the Free Theatre and perform her second show with the company. Past shows include *Saturday Night Fever* (Pauline), *Into the Woods, Jr.* (The Baker's Wife), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), *Anything Goes, Jr.* (Moonface Martin), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph), and *Seussical the Musical* (Sour Kangaroo). Josie would like to thank her parents, her brother, and her entire family, as well as her voice teacher Nakia Verner for being so supportive.

Kenny Rodriguez (Usnavi/Percussion) is overjoyed and humbled to be able to play their dreamrole onstage and be apart of this show; This show is one they hold very close to their heart. Kenny is current a double major in Classical Vocal Music and Theatre Performance at Montgomery College and when they get their degrees from there they plan to attend Howard University. Previous credits include: Officer Barrel (Urinetown, MC), Hovstad (An Enemy of the People), Pablo (Sister Act, Summer Dinner Theatre), Juano (West Side Story, Summer Dinner Theatre), Hud (Hair, MC), Templar (Nathan The Wise, MC)

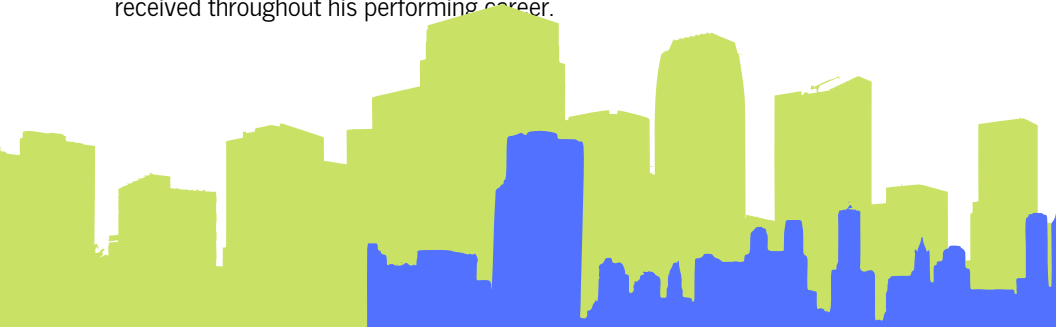
Isabella Russo (Featured Dancer/Ensemble) is a Sophomore at H-B Woodlawn. Past shows include "Mamma Mia!," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Sweeney Todd," "Crystal Skies," and "Ragtime." She would like to thank everyone at the Free Theatre for making this all possible and is so grateful to have had this opportunity!

Ari Rubenstein (Grafitti Pete/Percussion) is a Sophomore at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. He has been involved in theater for over 5 years and has played many roles such as Jack Kelly (Newsies), Kermit the Frog (Muppets), and Horton the Elephant (Seussical). Ari is excited to be in his first show at the Free Theater, specifically being in, In The Heights!

Ella Ryan (Ensemble) is a sophomore at Walt Whitman High School. Previous shows include Mamma Mia!, Catch Me If You Can, Fame!, Oklahoma, and Chicago. She would like to thank the cast and crew, her friends and family, Marci, Pria, Devin, Jenny, Emmy, and Kevin. Thanks for such a wonderful year everyone!

Saidou Sosseh (Benny) is a student at Clarksburg High School, and an actor with The Free Theatre and Young Artists of America. When he is not on stage, he enjoys writing, recording music, and painting.

Michael Votaw (Kevin) is so incredibly excited to be a part of The Free Theatre! Michael is a senior at Winston Churchill High School. Michael's favorite performances include 'Oklahoma!" (Judd), "Parade" (Judge Roan), "Cinderella" (Topher). He would like to thank and appreciate his wonderful family and friends for all the support he has received throughout his performing career.



Nathan Singer Weisbrod (Piragua Guy) is a sophomore at the Edmund Burke School. He is thrilled to be with the Free in its first year! Some of his previous roles include Nigel in the Free's "Mamma Mia," Bill Austin in Burke's "Mamma Mia," Captain Walker in "Tommy," Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors," Andrew Carnes in "Oklahoma," seven different characters in "Ragtime," including Henry Ford and Willie Conkin, Thénardier in "Les Misérables," Nick in "Godspell." When not in rehearsal, Nathan enjoys playing drums (which he has done professionally!), guitar, ukulele, and piano. He will be attending Interlochen Center for the Arts this summer. He would like to thank his parents for their constant support, as well as Pria, Jenny, Emmy, Devin, Heather, Brianna, Marci, Scott, Kevin, his percussion bros, and most of all, the cast of the Free Theatre.

Christina Williams (Camila) is a junior at Northwest High school and is thrilled to be in her 2nd show with the Free Theatre. Some of her previous credits include Lisa in Mamma Mia! (Free Theatre), Jojo in Seussical, Andrea in Once on this Island, and Jovie in Elf the Musical. This production has been an amazing experience and she has loved getting closer with the crew, pit, and her castmates.

Anna Well (Ensemble) is very excited to be a part of the Free Theatre's production of "in The Heights!" Anna is a freshman at the Berman Hebrew Academy. Anna enjoys playing softball and volleyball when offstage. Some of her favorite roles include: "Joseph and the Technicolor DreamCoat" (Narrator), and "Get Smart" (Betsy Wong). Anna has also been in multiple productions of "The Wizard of Oz."

Michelle Williams (Featured Dancer/Ensemble) is a sophomore at Northwest High school. Some of her past roles include Eva in Bring It On, Amber in Hairspray, Erzulie in Once On this Island, and Brooke Wyndham in Legally Blonde. She is so excited to be a part of her first Free Theatre production and has loved working with everyone in the cast and crew!

Merrick Willeford (Grafitti Pete) is a junior at Winston Churchill High School. Previous shows: Mamma Mia! (Sky).

Shout Outs



Juju, We love you! Mommy, Daddy, and Bibi

Ari, You light up a stage and you light up our lives!!

Love, Mom, Dad, Benjamin, Sabrina, and Jojo

Devin Grace - Here's to your kind heart, immense grace, extraordinary work ethic, and boundless commitment to all in which you believe.

We see you and love you completely, L6

MERRICK!!! YOU ARE AWESOME!!! MOM, DAD AND JASMINE LOVE WATCHING YOU BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WE LOVE HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU GIVE AND IT SHOWS. THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU!!

Julian, Break a leg!! We love you! "Check one two three. Check one two three...Okay, we got traffic on the west side / Get off at 79th, and take the left side / Of Riverside Drive, and ya might slide". Congratulations to the entire cast of In the Heights!

Xoxo Mom, Dad, & Charli

Congratulations to LJ and Kenny, our amazing Super-Seniors! Thank you for sharing your positive energy, strong work ethic, and awesome sense of camaraderie.

We love you! - The Free Theatre

We're so proud of you Parker! Best wishes to you and your castmates.

Love, Mom, Dad, Evan & Tabasco

Congratulations to the production goddesses, Brianna, Lindsay, and Mackenzie on a job well done! Thanks for all of your hard work this year.

The company will be in great hands! Love, Devin

Pria, we are so proud of all of your hard work and achievements and we can't wait to see "In the Heights!" We look forward to watching more of your future work in college. With love, from Mom, Dad, Asha and Julia

Chris, We are so proud of you. We are excited to see your performances.

Love, Mom, Dad & Nick

Congratulations BEN. We're so proud of your hard work.

We love you. Mom, Dad, Melissa, & Gabriella

Dear Kat Gorlenko! Keep doing what you love! Looking forward to seeing you and your castmates on stage. You all brighten our world with your talent.

Love, Mom, Dad, Max and Sasha

Gabriella! We love you! Love, Abba, Mommy, Zachary, Sylvia and Lily

Hana: Congratulations for being an amazing Carla and for being part of such a fantastic Ensemble! You never cease to amaze us with your passion and drive both on and off stage. We're so proud of all you've accomplished already and so excited about your future. Love Mommy and Daddy (and Wren!)

To my dearest Néa, Good Luck and may you always be inspired!

Paciencia 4 Fe! Lots of Love, Mum

Brenna- We are in awe of all that you do and are so proud!! You are our sunshine!

Have fun out there! Love- Your Girard Clan

Emily, We love you and are so proud of all that you have accomplished! You inspire us and make us smile!! Continue to reach for the stars!!! Best of luck to you and the whole cast and crew of In The Heights.

Love, Mom, Dad, Claire, Rebecca, Sadie, Grandma, the Billmans and the Scotts

Emily, we are so proud of you!!! Break a leg and congratulations to you and your castmates! Love Dad, Mom, and Becca!

Show them what you can do, L!!!! We love you and support you

--Mom, Dad, Sydney & Valerie

Christina, we can never get "enough" of your sweet voice and your love of performing. We are so proud of you. Break a leg! - Mom & Dad

Break a leg, Michelle. We love seeing you shine in everything you do! We are so proud of you. - Love Mom & Dad