

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA

THURS-SAT,
MAR 21 - 23, 7:30PM

SAT,
MAR 23, 2:00PM



AUSTIN
ARTS
CENTER
AT TRINITY COLLEGE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Many years ago, our music director, Lisa Williamson, and I worked together on Massenet's opera *Cendrillon*. This opened a deep curiosity for me about the fairy tale *Cinderella*. I have always been drawn to this story in its many forms: *The Turkey Girl* from the Zuni, the Chinese *Tale of Yeh-Shen*, *The Golden Sandal* from the Middle East, and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* from Zimbabwe, to name a few. As a theater artist, I am excited about pieces in which I can see myself in all the characters. Fairy tales have a way of becoming a mirror for us, and how they are staged can be a barometer for what our society is reflecting on and moving toward.

Our production uses the book by Douglas Carter Beane, and because of this, we are introduced to some new characters and their new concerns. Our landscape is one of unrest, with tensions between the monarchy and the village. We have political activists, royal figures desperate to cling to the status quo and squash change, and compassionate moments between the stepfamily and Cinderella. These important complications allow us (artists and audience) to enter the timelessness of Cinderella with our current questions and wonderings.

Cinderella is able, with the help of a wise Godmother and some magic, to see beyond initial appearances. Rags are made into riches, everyday objects-worn and broken- hold a mystery, magic, power, and beauty far beyond superficial wealth. The one covered in ashes and dust is the most brilliant jewel of all. That is a joyful proposition.

Thank you for being here and accompanying us as we journey through this enchanted tale!

Michelle Ong-Hendrick
Stage Director

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Gerald Mosell Musical Theater Fund

AUSTIN
ARTS
CENTER
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

The Department of Theater and Dance
presents

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS
LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
NEW BOOK BY DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE
ORIGINAL BOOK BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
ORCHESTRATIONS BY DANNY TROOB
MUSIC ADAPTATION & ARRANGEMENTS BY DAVID CHASE

Stage Direction by
MICHELLE ONG-HENDRICK

Choreography by
ALLIE MIKALATOS '26

Lighting Design by
JEREMY WINCHESTER

Scenic and Costume Design by
CALYPSO MICHELET

Music Direction by
LISA WILLIAMSON

Stage Management by
KATHLEEN KELLY '26

CINDERELLA IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
ON BEHALF OF THE RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN ORGANIZATION.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

CINDERELLA CAST

Ella

SYDNEY YU

Topher

BEN RUSHTON

Marie

SAVANNAH BROOKS

Madame

GRACE FANGMANN

Gabrielle

LILY KIRN MCMAHON

Charlotte

JENSINE WAGNER

Sebastian

STEVEN SHEN

Jean-Michel

BRAYDEN ESLER

Lord Pinkleton

NORDELIS VEGA

Ensemble

BELLA CHIRKIS, KRISTEN CASTRO,
MARY EAST, KENNA HARRISON, KATAMA HAZELTON,
JADE MELLITZ, LILY MELLITZ, AMANDA RIVERA

ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

Flute

GONZALO CORTES

Guitar

AUSTIN TEWKSBURY

Viola

ALLIE HENDERSON

Piano

DAVID MAROTTOLO

Bass

CHRISTIE ECHOLS

Drums/Percussion

MCCOY PLAISTED

MORE CINDERELLA PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBERS

Production Manager
LAURA GISONDI

Costume Shop Manager
SOULE GOLDEN

Technical Director
ELISA GRIEGO
Sound Technician

SEAN BUENAVENTURA, DOWN RIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Wardrobe Crew

Costume Shop First Hand/Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor
ELINA KHINDOVA '27

Costume Design Assistant
CASSIDY WILLIE-LAWES '24

Costume Design Assistant/Stitcher/Wardrobe Crew
MIA RODRIGUEZ '26

Costume Crafts/Wardrobe Crew
OLAIDE OGUNSHOTE '26

Costume Stitcher/Wardrobe Crew
SOPHIE APONASENKO '27

Costume Stitcher/Wardrobe Crew
LYNN CHENG '26

Costume Stitcher
CARLA SCHMIDT '27

Wardrobe Crew
NICKY VEGA '25

Run Crew

Stage Left Assistant Stage Manager
AYOUBA SWARAY '24

Assistant Stage Manager, Projection Operator
REN LOGAN '24

Light Board Operator
JENNA BRUSTAD '25

Sound Assistant
OLIVIA ROBINSON '24

Spot Light Operators
LIU RESTREPO '27, HAMZAH AL-SHAMMARI '27, CARLA SCHMIDT '27

Stage Right Deck Crew
VANYA KARABADJI '24

Lineset and Deck Crew
WADANA KAKAKHEL '27, AMANDA THRUL '27, CARLA SCHMIDT '27

CINDERELLA CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Savannah Brooks '26 (Marie) is a sophomore History major with a minor in Community Action. You may have seen her in past Trinity productions such as *Machinal* (Ensemble), *Futurity* (Sergeant), and *Hamlet* (Hamlet). She is a managing editor for the Trinity Tripod and works in Admissions, Athletics, and at the Watkinson Library.

Bella Chirkis '27 (Ensemble/Knight/Lord) is a freshman who double majors in English and Theatre and Dance with a dance concentration. This is Bella's first production at Trinity College. She has performed in the past as a featured dancer in *Mamma Mia*, *A Chorus Line*, and *The Lion King*, as well as ballet productions in *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*. She is so excited to be able to perform for the first time at Trinity College.

Mary East '27 (Ensemble/Racoon/Lady) is a freshman and intends to double major in English Literature and Political Science. This is her first production at Trinity! Her favorite past productions are *The Addams Family* (Wednesday) and *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs). She is a member of the Trinity Mock Trial team.

Brayden Esler '27 (Jean-Michel) is a freshman intending to double major in Theater and Dance and Psychology. This is Brayden's second production at Trinity, with his first being in the dance production of JOY! this past semester. Some of his favorite past roles include Mark Cohen (*Rent*), Marius (*Les Misérables*), Ren McCormack (*Footloose*), and Billy Elliot (*Billy Elliot*). He is also a member of *The Trinity Pipes* a capella group.

Grace Fangmann '26 (Madame) is a sophomore double majoring in English Creative Writing and Educational Studies. This is her second production at Trinity, including her role as Ophelia in *Hamlet* (2022). Some of her previous roles include Alice (*You Can't Take It With You*), M'Lynn Eatenton (*Steel Magnolias*), and Mary Poppins (*Poppins*). She is a member of the Trinity College Cheer Team, the *Chapel Singers*, and the *Quirks a cappella group*.

Kenna Harrison '26 (Ensemble/Knight/Lord) is a sophomore majoring in Political Science and Theater & Dance (and yes, she knows that's a weird combination). Though this is her first-ever production at Trinity, Kenna has been acting since she was very young, be it pretending to be hurt to get her brother in trouble as a kid, playing Gretel in a high school production of *The Sound of Music* (that would have been amazing if it hadn't been canceled due to the covid outbreak - she's totally over it though), and acting in a handful of student films. Kenna has had a lot of fun working

with the cast and crew, and she hopes you enjoy the production as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it!

Katama Hazelton '26 (Ensemble/Knight/Lord) is a sophomore double majoring in Psychology and Theater & Dance. This is her first production at Trinity. Some of her favorite past productions include *Grease* (Sandy), *Fame: The Musical* (Cameron Diaz), and *Lord of The Flies* (Simon). She is a member and choreographer for the Trinity College Elementals, a hip-hop dance group.

Lily Kirn McMahon '24 (Gabrielle) is a senior double majoring in Theater & Dance and English Literature. This is her fifth production at Trinity. She most recently assistant-directed *Machinal* (2023). As an actor, she has performed as Ada Lovelace in *Futurity* (2023), a puppeteer in *The Pillowman* (2022), and Senator Fipp in *Urinetown* (2021). She is excited for this “full circle moment” as her first lead was Queen Constantina in *Cinderella* over eight years ago! She is the president and music director of the *Trinity College Quirks* (“The Quirks” - a cappella group) and is so excited to get to work alongside so many Quirks in this production.

Jade Mellitz '26 (Ensemble/Mouse/Lady) is a sophomore majoring in Studio Arts with a special interest in Movement and Art. This is Jade’s second production at Trinity, including her multiple roles as a dancer in the college’s bicentennial show, *JOY!* (2023). Some of her favorite past productions include featured roles in *The Nutcracker Ballet* (Shubert Theater, New Haven). She has co-written, choreographed, and performed lead roles in several full-length original musical productions, including *We’ve Got It All* (2018) and *Wicked: The Parody* (2017). Jade is the Vice President of Trinity’s Musical Theater Club and an officer in the Student Accessibility Group on campus. Jade thanks her parents, her twin sister, Lily, God, her family, friends, and the amazing director, cast, and crew of the show!

Lily Mellitz '26 (Ensemble/Mouse/Lady) is a sophomore majoring in Theater and Dance and minoring in Classical Tradition. Her campus involvements include Big Sister/Little Sister, Venture, Musical Theater Club, Students For Accessibility, Trinity Tripod, Trinity Film Festival, and working as an Admissions tour guide. Lily made her Trinity debut in the fall production of *JOY!* and is so excited for *Cinderella*. She thanks God, her parents, her friends and family, her Trinity community, and her twin sister Jade.

Amanda Rivera '27 (Ensemble/Dance Captain/Fox/Lady) is a Puerto Rican Hartford native and is a freshman majoring in Psychology. This is her second production at Trinity after being in *JOY!* this past fall. This

is the first musical production she's been in since COVID. She is part of the Ballroom dance team at Trinity and The Musical Theatre Club. Amanda looks forward to her time at Trinity and is excited to perform in the ensemble of *Cinderella* with such an amazing cast!

Ben Rushton '25 (Topher) is a junior majoring in Psychology. This is his first production at Trinity, but he has performed in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho), *The Addams Family* (Mal), and a few others that Ben isn't sure he can fit in this bio. He is an enthusiastic member of the Trinity College *Accidentals* a cappella group and performs as a bass in the *Chapel Singers* on campus. In his free time, Ben likes to ponder things and lift weights.

Steven Shen '25 (Sebastian) is a junior, and this is his third production in Trinity College, including his performances in the ensemble in *Futurity*, the Defendant Lawyer in *Machinal*. He is very excited to show you the world of *Cinderella* and how the characters interact with each other.

Nordelis Vega '27 (Lord Pinkerton) is a First-year and prospective Human rights major. This is her first production with Trinity, and she is more than excited to play the role of Lord Pinkerton for this production. She is one of the first-year representatives for LVL and is also in the Tones. She has had a wonderful time during this production and can't wait for the audience to see this fantastic production!

Jensine Wagner '25 (Charlotte) is a junior majoring in Computer Science. This is her second production at Trinity, including her role as Telemachus in *The Food Odyssey* (2022). Some of her stand-out past productions include *Shrek* (the Dragon), *Into the Woods* (Little Red), and *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian the Crab). She is the captain of Trinity College Cheer and is a part of many different music groups across campus, including The Chapel Singers and The Quirks.

Sydney Yu (Jiani) '25 (Ella) is a junior who is double majoring in Theater & Dance, and Music. Her hometown is Beijing, China. Her previous roles in Trinity productions include Chorus Leader/Head of Society in *Futurity* (2023), Laertes in *Hamlet* (2022), and Emily/Soldier 2 in *Food Odyssey* (2022). At Trinity, she is the assistant music director of the Quirks a cappella group, a part of Chapel Singers, and a Quest leader. Sydney is really excited to play Ella in her little corner and be Grace's (a Quirk) daughter, and Lily's (a Quirk) and Jensine's (and another Quirk) stepsister! Hooray!

CINDERELLA PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Kathleen Kelly '26 (Stage Manager) is a sophomore majoring in Public Policy & Law and Theater & Dance from Long Island. Last spring, she assistant stage managed *Futurity* and is so excited to be back working with such an amazing cast and production team! When not working backstage as a stage manager, she is working backstage as a stage tech here at the AAC. She enjoys reading, watching bad reality tv with her roommate (hi Mia), facetimeing with her cat (hi Fitz) and practicing her coffee making skills. She is so excited to finally share the magic that is Cinderella!

Ren O. Logan '24 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theatre and Dance. This is his first time being an ASM for a Trinity Production. He is very excited to work on the backend of things instead of his usual place on the stage. He is also a member of the Trinity College Accidentals and SLE.

Calypso Michelet (Costume and Scenic Designer) is a French costume and set designer currently based in New York City. She studied literature and performing Arts in Paris and specialized in architecture and costume building. After gaining experience in renowned shops such as the Paris Opera Garnier and the New York Theater Workshop, she moved to the United States to train as a designer at the Graduate school of the University of Massachusetts.

Her interest in reflecting on social conflicts and her flair for building dramatic tension led her to design a great number of tragedies and modern plays. Alongside her work on *Cinderella* and last year's production of *Futurity*, she also recently worked as an Assistant Designer for the Miami City Ballet production of *Firebird* and as a costume design instructor at Keene State College (NH).

Allie Mikalatos '26 (Choreographer) is a dancer and choreographer from Portland, Oregon. She toured with State Street Ballet for two seasons, was an original cast member of Selah Dance Collective's *Rite of Spring*, and collaborated with Christina McCarthy as a dancer/puppeteer in *The Magic Flute*. Allie has presented choreography at Vancouver School of the Arts, State Street Ballet, and in numerous festivals. Most recently, she choreographed scenes in *Machinal*, directed by Teri Incampo. Allie is thrilled to be a part of the magic of *Cinderella*.

Michelle Ong-Hendrick (Director) is a director, teacher, producer, actor and lover of stories. At Trinity College, she directed the plays *Eurydice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and the musical *Futurity* by César Alvarez. As the

resident stage director for the opera program at The University of Connecticut, she staged *Dido and Aeneas*, *Bessie and Ma*, *She Loves Me*, *Suor Angelica*, *Cendrillon*, *HMS Pinafore*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Barber of Seville*, Noye's *Fludde* and *Albert Herring*.

She has also staged *La Traviata* for PanOpera, *Le Mariage aux Lanternes*, and the East Coast premiere of *The Three Hermits* for the Hartt School and *Le Mariage aux Lanternes* and *Les Bavards* for the Intermezzo Opera Festival.

As the founding Artistic Director of Hartford Opera Theatre, Michelle directed *The Rape of Lucretia*, *A Little Night Music*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *The Telephone*, *Hand of Bridge*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Bastien und Bastienne*, *Der Schauspieldirektor*, the world premiere of *Tom Sawyer* and seven new 10-minute operas in the New In November series, which she inaugurated.

Her professional work as an actor includes roles at Hartford Stage, TheaterWorks, PlayMakers Repertory Company, the Ko Festival, and New World Theatre. This summer, she will direct Eisa Davis' award-winning play *Bulrushes* at Silverthorne Theater.

Michelle was an Associate in Opera at The Hartt School of Music for ten years and has been a Visiting Assistant Professor at Trinity College since 2006. Michelle earned a BA from the University of Massachusetts and an MFA from the University of North Carolina, Professional Acting Training Program. Prior to her theatrical career, Michelle was a competitive figure skater, ranked 7th on the East Coast and 3rd in New England.

Ayoub Swaray '24 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theatre and Dance. While he's been in many Trinity productions before such as *The Pillowman* (2022) and *JOY!* (2023), this is his first time helming the role of assistant stage manager. He is excited to work alongside a talented and passionate team as he completes his last school production at Trin!

Lisa Williamson (Music Director) is proud to lead the musicians and actors for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. She previously served as music director for *Futurity* at Trinity College and as director and music director for *A Little Magic Flute*, an adaptation of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* for UConn Opera Outreach. She has extensive credits on stage in opera and concert including recent appearances with Brief Cameo Productions at the Ivoryton Playhouse, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Hartford Opera Theater, and the Hartford and New Haven Symphony Orchestras. She teaches classical and musical theater voice at the University of Connecticut. In

2022, she earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Connecticut. She lives in Eastern Connecticut with her husband, Adam, and son, Jack, and spends her free time in her own little corner with her nose buried in a book.

Jeremy Winchester (lighting designer) is a designer and director for theatre, dance, and opera, with a deep background of experience in Theatre for Young Audiences, as well as new project development and arts-based activism for social justice. Winchester is also an Affiliated Artist of Pacific Performance Project/east, with whom he has designed multiple world premieres. From 2012 to 2016, Winchester served as the Executive Artistic Director of Flint Youth Theatre and, for six years thereafter, served on the Board of Directors for Theatre for Young Audiences/USA.

Winchester holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma and an MFA from the University of Washington. He is an Associate Professor of Theatre at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where he also serves as the Director of MOSAIC. www.JWinchesterTheatre.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

THEATER AND DANCE SENIOR THESES

Cassidy Willie-Lawes

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Performance Lab, Trinity Commons

Caroline Fredrick and Lily McMahon

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Garmany Hall, Austin Arts Center

Ugne Tumonyte

Monday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Media & Performance Lab, CCAN

Ren Logan

Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Performance Lab, Trinity Commons

Tara Iyer

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity College Chapel Courtyard

WHAT'S YOUR MOVE?

AN EVENING OF STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY CONCERT

Thursday & Friday, April 18-19, 7:30 p.m.

Goodwin Theater, AAC

SAMBA FEST

Saturday, April 20, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Main Quad

LESSONS CONCERT

Tuesday, April 23, Common Hour

Trinity College Chapel

JAZZ CONCERT

Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.

Goodwin Theater, AAC

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES CONCERT

Thursday, April 25, Common Hour

Recital Hall, GMH

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

Lucas Conant	Dance Musician
Mellissa Craig	Visiting Lecturer
Deborah Goffe	Artist-in-Residence
Michelle Ong-Hendrick	Visiting Lecturer
Teri Incampo	Visiting Assistant Professor
Asaad Jackson	Dance Musician
Michael Kaplan	Visiting Lecturer
Barbara Karger	Associate Professor
Peter Kyle	Associate Professor and Department Chair
Margo Caddell	Program Coordinator
Rebecca Pappas	Assistant Professor
Mitchell Polin	Associate Dean for Curriculum, Professor
Godfrey Simmons, Jr.	Visiting Lecturer
Elliot Wallace	Dance Musician

AUSTIN ARTS CENTER STAFF

Margo Caddell	Program Coordinator
Evan Field	Design Associate
Laura Gisondi	Production Manager
Deborah Goffe	Executive Director
Soule Golden	Costume Shop Manager
Elisa Griego	Technical Director

STAGE TECHNICIANS

Hamzah Al-shammari '27
Margaret Amaral '24*
Jenna Brustad '25*
Miranda Connolly '27
Christian Espinosa '25
Alex Ivan Goiris Ayala '26
Bridget Kahan '25
Wadana Kakakhel '27
Kathleen Kelly '26
Kayla Walsh McCarter '27
Abigail Nick '24*
Liu Restrepo Sanabria '27
Ulises Rachid Criach '26
Olivia Robinson '24*
Carla Schmidt '27
Amanda Thrul '27
Aurora Trani '24*
Catherine Wallace '25*

BOX OFFICE/ FRONT OF HOUSE

Rabiatu Ba '24
Saanvi Bajaj '27
Oshinee Bandara '27
Lynn Cheng '26
Felix Goldmann '25
Aleema Kelly '26
Taha Moula '27
Bailey Orban '26
Olivia Robinson '27
Kennedy Simeon '25
Kayla Tipton '25
Melanie Vazquez '24

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS

Sophie Aponasenko '27
Lynn Cheng '26
Bridget Emerson '24
Elina Khindova '27
Olaide Ogunshote '26
Mia Rodriguez '26
Carla Schmidt '27
Nicky Vega '25

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Sophie Aponasenko '27
Taha Moula '27

**leads*

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