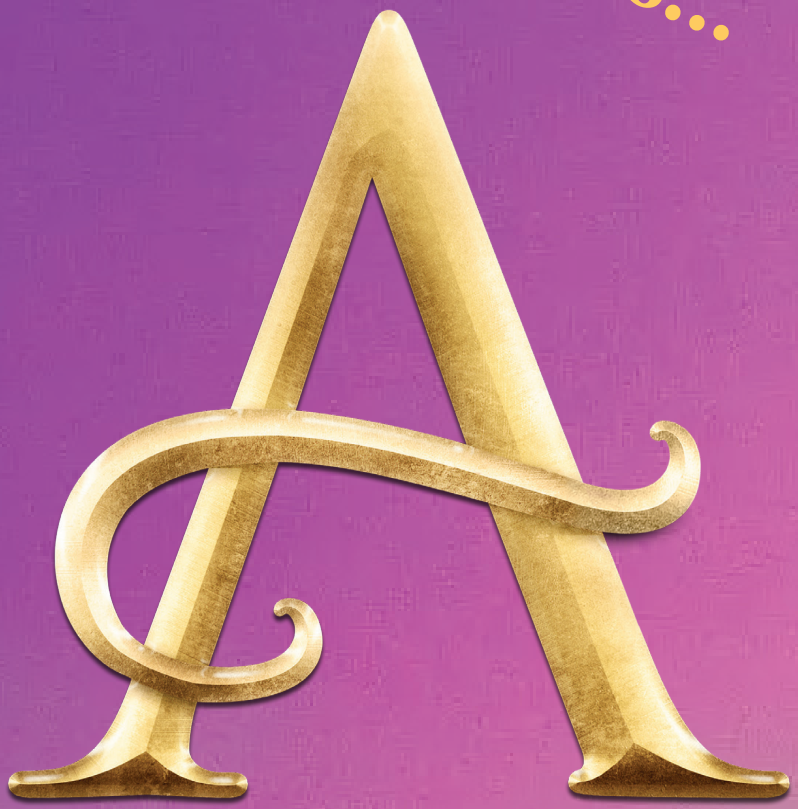
OWL Theatre Presents...



ANASTASIA

THE MUSICAL

YOUTH EDITION

MAY 17TH-19TH

OWL Theatre

Presents...



Inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical
From the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton

Book By
Terrence McNally

Music By
Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics By
Lynn Ahrens

Vocal Director
Seth Bovis

Design Director
Nora Krings

Directed By
Rebekah Rentzel

Asst. Directors
Jaielle Galbreath & Jonas Ruberg

Stage Manager
Ted Dobbins

Choreographer
Dr. Karen Palmen

Asst. Stage Managers
Maggie Jansen & Elly Schibel

Backstage Managers
Mae Heeringa & Maria Imholte

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

ANASTASIA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

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open.spps.org • David Gundale, principal

OWL Theatre's mission is to create a space for students to perform original work, study the classics, and explore different perspectives.

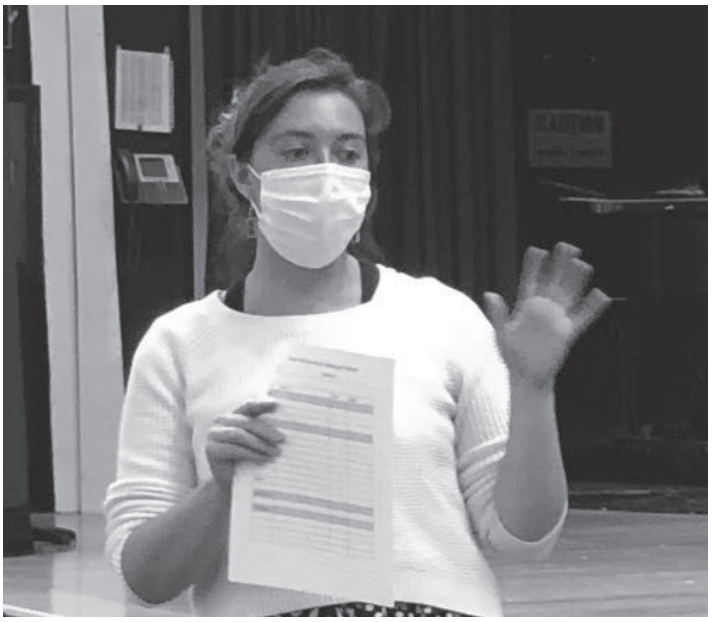
OWL Theatre Program

EDITOR Willa Campion
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Hazel Carroll
CONTRIBUTORS: Artwork by Nox Gebben Green. Plot summary written by Ruby Kate Nolen.

PLAY FEATURE

An Interview with the Director

By Leo Bickelhaupt



Leo Bickelhaupt

Tell us a little bit about how you ended up selecting Anastasia for this spring's performance.

The OWL Theatre Advisory Board of students had a pretty engaged debate about what musical we would do. We chose Anastasia because of its recognizable songs, its empowerment of a female character, and the design department was ready to take on the challenge of making some pretty amazing dresses.

Talk a bit about the challenges of musical production.

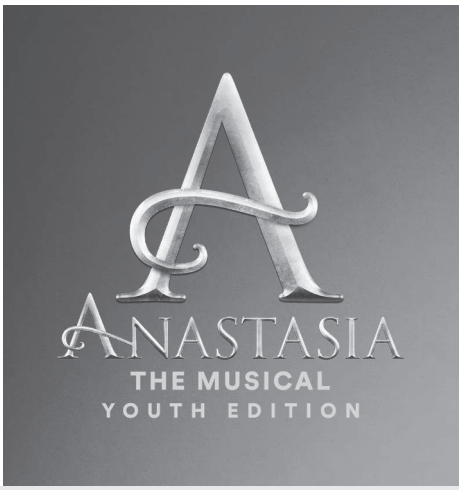
If a play is like a sailboat, a musical is like a cruise ship! It's a big production with a lot of moving pieces, and it's got to look very shiny while doing it. It takes a lot of hard work to make everything come together! I love how it brings so many people's talents together all at once. I've been especially lucky to work with a great team: Seth Bovis as vocal director, Nora Krings as the design director, and Central High School's dance teacher, Dr. Karen Palmen, as our choreographer.

What was the planning process like for a production this large and complicated?

We met with the designers for about a month before the cast was brought in. This includes extensive research into past productions, the Romanov family and Russian history, and the time period. Musical Theatre is also offered as a class during the school day, so students took time to learn how to audition, and then began rehearsing their roles in early March. The most important thing is supporting communication and planning on rehearsing multiple scenes at once. Student assistant directors Elle & Jonas did really wonderful work with the actors to make that possible.

What are you most excited about when it comes to bringing this particular play to OWL?

I am most excited to be doing a musical again! And getting to share that with our audience and our community. It's our first musical post-pandemic, which means only the current seniors had an opportunity to be in a musical before. *Anastasia* in particular is a story about a young woman searching for a family she has lost, and trying to figure out who she really is. The story of how we go about connecting with our past is one many people can relate to, especially as we try to figure out what words like "home, love, and family" really mean to us.



Run Time: 2 hours with Intermission

Acknowledgements:
Clara Raineri, Preston West, Pa Ying Lor, Nora, Nick, Juniper, and Sullivan Krings, John Moe, Tammy Plaman, David Gundale, Eric Hofstad, Liz Rentel, Shiela and Joseph Heil, Electra Cououvianis, Stepha Streng, Paul Meekin, Richard Ley, Anna Funderburgh, Casey Gunderson, Daniel and Heather Ninow, Ginger Carroll, Anna Gorton, Joan Griffin, Holly and Peter Windingstad, and all parent volunteers

Director -
Rebekah Rentzel

Vocal Director -
Seth Bovis

Choreographer -
Dr. Karen Palmen

Assistant Directors -
Jaielle Galbreath and Jonas Ruberg

Design Director -
Nora Krings

Stage Manager -
Ted Dobbins

Backstage Managers -
Mae Heeringa and Maria Imholte

Assistant Stage Managers -
Maggie Jansen and Elly Schibel

Anastasia the Musical
Youth Edition

Book by Terrance McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Cast

Anya	Anna Nowatzki
Dmitry	Daniel Meekin
Vlad Popov	Nick Streng
Dowager Empress	Krista Hines
Lily	Basha Douglas
Gleb Vaganov	Nox GebbenGreen
Young Anastasia & Sasha	Meredyth Osweiler
Tsar Nicholas II	Rhoda Wonders
Tsarina Alexandra	Hazel Carroll
Luda	Ruby Kate Nolen
Galina	Saffron Takle
Alexei	Aidan Lynskey Wells
Mikhail	Violet Baer-Benson
Mira	Natali Pinedo Garcia
Count Leopold & Nikola	Charlie Acosta
Tatiana & Marfa	Claudia Arellano
Olga & Paulina	Maya Reynolds
Maria & Dunya	Elinor McAlpine
Alexi	Joseph Sierra-Zapata
Countess Ipolitov	Emi Sisson
Train Police	Hiroko Zeleke & Zane Sheire
Gorlinsky	Jonathan Ramos Amaya
Ensemble	Paige Rohde, Pat Toohey, Margaret Moe, Hay Ta Kue Moo, Lillyian Yang, Anderson Segura Flores, and Rafa Ponce
Anya Understudy	Paige Rohde
Dowager & Lily Understudy	Hazel Carroll
Dmitry Understudy	Pat Toohey

Design

Sets

Department Heads: Sophia Rose Windingstad & Raina Rossell

Lead Artists: Mikko Liimatta & Duncan Smith

Techies: Charley Cheatham, Jae Lind, and Lucienne Hulson

Costumes

Department Heads: Emi Sisson & Veronica Rohde

Lead Artists: Kate Houle, Oliver Ley, Cal Schmid, & Leo Scoggins

Techies: Lauren Harris & David Heil

Makeup/ Hair

Department Heads: Sofia Maldonado & Lucy Annis-Bercier

Techies: Ara Stender & Evelyn Pennington

Props

Department Heads: Maddie Linstad & Elijah Horn

Lead Artist: Rylan Merwin & Kaden McNamara

Techies: Peyton Brooks & Joseph Sierra

Sound

Department Heads: Alastor Patterson Heisel & Hana Ninow

Lights

Department Head: Maren Sletten

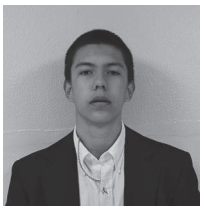
Lead Artist: Moss Windingstad

Techie: Juniper Krings & Johnny Gorton





Actor Biographies



Charlie Acosta

Charlie is a sophmore and plays Count Leopold in *Anastasia*. Outside of school, Charlie enjoys playing soccer. He is very excited for *Anastasia*!



Claudia Arellano

Claudia has only ever performed in one play, *Alice in Wonderland* in sixth grade. She previously didn't enjoy performing because it gave her anxiety. But now that she has found a love of the stage, she's a little more at ease in her position.



Violet Baer-Benson

Violet played a rat in *Alice in Wonderland The Musical* when she was five. Now she is a freshman and eager to be joining the cast of *Anastasia* playing the role of Mikhail.



Hazel Carroll

Hazel is a senior who has spent most of her time at OWL involved in the theatre program. Her favorite roles have been Malcolm in *Macbeth* and The Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*. She would like to thank Rebekah and her family for their endless support as well as the entire Design department for being the backbone of OWL Theatre.



Basha Douglas

Basha is a sophomore and this is their first year at OWL. Outside of theatre, she enjoys dance, choreography, music, and fashion. She is very excited for you to see the show!



Nox GebbenGreen

Nox has been involved in OWL theatre since middle school, working with design crew and acting in other productions. Notably, Nox has been the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, a Narrator in *The Vampire Cat*, and now Gleb in *Anastasia*!



Krista Hines

Krista is a senior and joined theatre this year. She played Ito Soda in the OWL production of *The Vampire Cat* and plans to go to Luther College next year to study anthropology/archaeology. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Hay Ta Kue Moo

Hay Ta is excited to make his debut in the OWL Theatre Department. Notably, he once did puppetry in a play about Greek Mythology in elementary school. He would like to thank his parents.



Aidan Lynskey Wells

Aidan is a sophmore who is excited to be returning to the OWL stage as Alexei. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Elinor McAlpine

This is Elinor's first OWL production. Outside of school, she plays piano and is involved in the Historical Society.



Daniel Meekin

Daniel has been a part of OWL Theatre for many years. You may remember him from his roles in past productions such as *She Kills Monsters* and *The Addams Family*. He is excited to be playing Dmitry in *Anastasia*, his last OWL Theatre production.



Margaret Moe

This is Margaret's second show at OWL. In December, she played Monostatos in the one-act show *The Magic Flute*. Outside of theatre, Margaret sings in choir, plays ultimate frisbee, and runs the OWL Environmental Club.



Ruby Kate Nolan

Previously, Ruby performed in the OWL one-act production of *The Vampire Cat*, as well as her middle school's production of *The Lion King*. Outside of school, she enjoys reading and writing and is very interested in science and engineering.



Anna Nowatzki

Anna is a geek with a love for acting and singing. She has previously acted in OWL productions *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Vampire Cat*. She is so excited to be playing Anya in this production of *Anastasia*.



Meredyth Osweiler

Meredyth Osweiler is just a little guy who is making their debut with the OWL Theatre Department. They are very excited to be involved in this production of *Anastasia*. Outside of school, they enjoy music and baking (often at the same time).



Natali Pinedo Garcia

Outside of school Natali is a part of her church's ministry as the main pianist. Alongside being an ensemble member in *Anastasia,* she is also involved in choir at OWL.



Jonathan Ramos Amaya

Jonathan is very excited to be making his debut on the OWL stage! He plays the role of Gorlinsky and is also a set manager.



Maya Reynolds

Maya is making her debut with the OWL Theatre program playing the roles of Paulina and Olga in this production of *Anastasia*. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Paige Rohde

At OWL, Paige sings in the choir and is an archery captain. She is excited to be a part of this production of *Anastasia* as an ensemble member and the understudy for Anastasia. She would like to thank Veronica and Emi for cutting her out of that dress that one time.



Anderson Segura Flores

Anderson is in the ensamble in *Anastasia* and can't wait for the show. Outside of school, Anderson runs for the Humboldt track team.



Zane Sheire

This is Zane Sheire's first show at OWL. He is very excited to appear in the ensemble for *Anastasia*! Outside of theatre Zane also does Track.



Emi Sisson

Emi has mostly done costumes for past productions with the exception of co-directing *The Magic Flute*. They spend a lot of their time dedicated to choir and is proud to work on another music based thing here at OWL. Emi would like to thank Veronica for being an amazing co-head and her loving babygirl.



Nick Streng

In Nick's time with theatre at OWL he has been in the ensemble for *The Addams Family* and played Humpty Dumpty in *Alice and Wonderland*. Outside of school, he likes to do art and write. Nick would like to thank his family and friends for supporting and encouraging him.



Saffron Takle

In their freshmen year Saffron took an Intro to Theater class which inspired them to become an actor in this play. Their favorite OWL production was *Macbeth* and this is their first time on the stage since the first grade.



Pat Toohey

Pat is really excited to be the understudy for Dmitry and a part the ensamble for *Anastasia*! With the OWL Theatre, he was previously in *Alice in Wonderland*. Outside of school Pat enjoys playing Fortnite.



Rhoda Wonders

This is Rhoda's second show acting at OWL, before she did acting she worked on props. Rhoda acted in the one-acts (*The Magic Flute*), was a techie for *Twelfth Night* and *Play That Goes Wrong*, and then was head of props for *Alice in Wonderland*. Outside of theatre, she plays flute and ultimate frisbee.



Lillyian Yang

This is Lillyian's first year being involved with the spring musical. She has been a part of *Alice in Wonderland* and a nativity play. Outside of school, she likes music and art. She'd like to thank her mother and father and all her mentors and friends who have supported her through this process.



Hiroko Zeleke

Hiroko is ecstatic to be a part of her first OWL production! Previously she she has taken theatre classes and participated in summer camps at Theater Mu. Outside of school Hiroko enjoys watching cartoons, reading books, and practicing Aikido. She would like to thank her mom and brother.

A Historical Tangent

By Hazel Carroll

The Romanovs were the Russian royal family who first assumed power in 1613. Their dynasty lasted 404 years until it was overthrown by the Russian Revolution. In that time they acquired a vast amount of wealth and power. Tsar Nicholas II (the last tsar of Russia) was considered the richest monarch in the world with a family wealth estimated at $45 billion in modern U.S. money. The people that surrounded them were the Russian nobility or bélaya kost. The bélaya kost were Russia's one percent, literally, they represented 1.5% of the country's population. To further separate themselves from the lower classes they only spoke English, German, or French, never Russian. For much of their reign the Romanovs were treated like gods. This view of the family began to shift with the reign of Nicholas II.

Much faith in the reign of Nicholas II was lost when 1,389 people were trampled to death at his and his wife Alexandra's coronation. This event, known as the Khodynka Tragedy, was taken as a bad omen for the rest of the Tsar's reign. The Tsarina Alexandra was another point of contention for the Russian people. Much of the people's ire grew when, in her first nine years of marriage, she failed to give birth to a son, and when she finally had a son he was sickly and weak. In the eyes of the Russian people, the Tsarina Alexandra Fyodorovna had been cursed by God. Any remaining faith the people had in their rulers was lost to the apathy that surrounded World War 1.

After a previous failed revolution in 1907, the revolutionary groups of Russia decided that, with Europe distracted by World War 1 and the people of Russia disillusioned with the monarchy, March 8, 1917 would be the best time to launch a revolution. The main revolutionary parties were the Mensheviks, the Social Revolutionaries, the Anarchists, and, most notably, the Bolsheviks. Within four days the Bolsheviks had taken control of the capital and on March 15, 1917, Nicholas II abdicated and renounced his heir, Alexei. The Bolsheviks then assumed control of the government. This part of the revolution is known as the February Revolution. The Romanov Family was then moved to Tobolsk to be kept under house arrest.

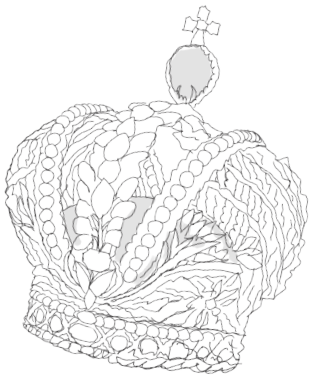
Not all were happy about the overthrow of the Romanovs, much of the Russian nobility as well as some from the lower classes opposed the new regime with so much fervor that the Russian Civil War began on November 17, 1917. The White Russians supported the monarchy and the Red Russians were the Bolsheviks. The White Russians created a plan to rescue the Romanovs from the house in Ekaterinburg where they were being held. On July 17, 1918, fearing the White advance and ensuring no Romanov could be put on the throne again, the Bolsheviks took the family into the basement and executed them. The Civil War ended October 25, 1922 with the annexation of Ukraine. The Revolution ended the next year on July 16.

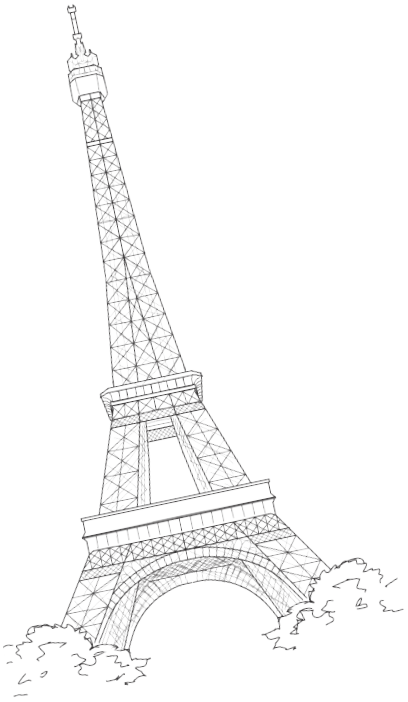
The bodies of seven of the Romanovs were believed to have been thrown down a mineshaft, then burned and buried near a cart track. The bodies were discovered in 1979 and exhumed in 1991. In 2007 the bodies of the Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna and the Tsarevich Alexei were found in St. Petersburg. In the period following the Romanovs deaths many people have come forward claiming to be a member of the lost family. The most famous of these is Anna Andersen, a Polish farmgirl who some still believe may have been Anastasia, despite the fact that Anastasia's body has been found.

PLAY FEATURE

Who, What, When, Where?

Join the OWL Theatre Department as they travel back in time and re-examine the past with a musical lens. This story takes place in Russia in the early 1900's. The royal family has all been killed and most of the population is living in poverty under a new regime. But there's still one spark of hope: a rumor that maybe, just maybe, one of the royal princesses could have survived. The Dowager Empress, who lives in Paris, is offering a reward for the return of her granddaughter, the missing Princess Anastasia. Two con men, Dimitry and Vlad, meet Anya, a girl who can't remember anything about her past and has a striking resemblance to the real princess. The three travel to Paris to escape the new regime and collect the Dowager Empress' reward. As Vlad and Dimitry prepare Anya to play the role of Anastasia, Anya discovers clues to her past. Is she actually the lost princess? Did she really escape execution? And can the trio evade Gleb, the villainous officer who's after Anya? Only time will tell.





PLAY FEATURE

Anastasia Bingo

By Nick Streng

WANTED: Two men and a young woman for the large reward of £0.01!	Fake Anastasias everywhere	People sing about being homesick	Fast & Dramatic costume changes	Countess Ipolitov is dead on both counts
An eager marketeer hopes to sell Count Yusapov's pajamas	The terrific trio is precariously pursued by the police into Paris	"What is Cleveland?"	Lily outparties the party animals	"JUMP!!!!"
Somebody is VERY excited to take a bath	Someone faints	There's a rumor (free space)	Dmitry sings about St. Petersburg	Vlad laughs loudly
A genuine historical artifact is traded for two cans of beans	Directors are seen running around the sides of the auditorium	Vlad teaches the art of identity theft in a happy uplifting song! Yay!	People are emotional	Nobody listens to Gleb
Gleb is seen stalking	Anya is haunted by the ghosts of her past	Dmitry has a change of heart	Love blooms	"Orange blossoms!"















