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Department of Theatre and Dance  
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## Head Over Heels

Department of Theatre and Dance

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Alexander Kasser Theater | Montclair State University

THE 2021/2022 SEASON

John J. Cali School of Music  
Department of Theatre and Dance

# *Head Over Heels*



February 24 | 25 | 26, 2022

Alexander Kasser Theater

Montclair State University

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts  
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

John J. Cali School of Music      Department of Theatre and Dance  
Anthony Mazzocchi, Director      Randy Mugleston, Chair

# *Head Over Heels*

Songs by **The Go-Go's**

Based on *The Arcadia* by **Sir Philip Sidney**

Conceived and Original Book by **Jeff Whitty**

Adapted by **James Magruder**

Director and Choreographer **Lainie Sakakura**

Music Director and Conductor **Kristen Hoyt**

Orchestrations and Arrangements **Tom Kitt**

Scenic Designer **Camyron Chauffe**

Costume Designer **Jannette Fisher**

Lighting Designer **Emily Gocon**

Sound Designer **Maggie Spector-Williams**

Hair/Makeup Designer **Kriszta Hajek**

Associate Choreographer **Georgia Monroe**

Fight/Intimacy Director **Rick Sordelet**

Production Stage Manager **Karly Amato**

## **Cast** (in order of appearance)

Pythio.....	<b>Nathan Angelo</b>
Gynecia.....	<b>Belle Babcock</b>
Pamela.....	<b>Maggie Lickani</b>
Musidorus.....	<b>Erick Sebek</b>
Philoclea.....	<b>Maya Petropoulos</b>
Basilus.....	<b>Charlie Kollar</b>
Dametas.....	<b>Harry Cornelio</b>
Mopsa.....	<b>Lauren Taylor</b>

Ensemble **Joey Cooper, Caroline Desmarais, Madeline Gambon, Brandon Grajales, Patrick Higgins, Elizabeth Legg, Jonah Nash, Lindsey Turner, Jasón Wells**

Swings **AJ Love, Audrey Kate Taylor**

Understudies **Liam Driscoll** (Basilus, Dametas), **Daniel Hurt** (Pythio), **Elizabeth Legg** (Pamela), **Mike Mags** (Musidorus, Dametas), **Madeline Gambon** (Gynecia, Mopsa), **Audrey Kate Taylor** (Philoclea)

Original Broadway Production produced by Christine Russell, Louise Gund, Donovan Leitch, Rick Ferrari, Gwyneth Paltrow, Scott Sigman, Hunter Arnold, Tom Kirdahy, Jordan Roth

The World Premiere of *Head Over Heels* took place at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Bill Rauch/Artistic Director; Cynthia Rider/Executive Director

Developed with the support of New York Stage and Film & Vassar's Powerhouse Theatre, Summer 2016.

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.  
Produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing ([www.broadwaylicensing.com](http://www.broadwaylicensing.com)).

Duration: Two hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

# Musical Numbers

## Act I

“We Got the Beat” .....	Company
“Beautiful” .....	Pamela, Ensemble
“Vision of Nowness” .....	Pythio, Ensemble
“Get Up and Go” .....	Basilus, Gynecia, Dametas, Philoclea, Pamela, Company
“Mad About You” .....	Musidorus, Ensemble
“Good Girl” .....	Philoclea, Mopsa, Pamela
“Vision of Nowness/Beautiful” (Reprise) .....	Musidorus, Pythio, Ensemble
“Automatic Rainy Day” .....	Pamela, Mopsa
“Cool Jerk” .....	Company
“Vacation” .....	Mopsa, Ensemble
“How Much More” .....	Pamela
“Our Lips Are Sealed” ...	Musidorus, Philoclea, Pamela, Mopsa, Pythio, Ensemble

## ~~Intermission~~

## Act II

“Head Over Heels” .....	Musidorus, Philoclea, Mopsa, Pamela, Company
“This Old Feeling” .....	Gynecia, Basilus
“Turn to You” .....	Mopsa, Pamela, Ensemble
“Heaven Is a Place on Earth” .....	Pythio, Gynecia, Ensemble
“Lust to Love” .....	Basilus, Ensemble
“Here You Are” .....	Philoclea, Gynecia, Pamela, Basilus, Company
“Mad About You” (Reprise) .....	Company
“Finale” .....	Company

**Time and Place:** Arcadia, Bohemia, Lesbos, and other classical locations

## Orchestra

Conductor/Keyboard **Kristen Hoyt**  
Guitar 1 **Kenny Brescia**  
Guitar 2 **Eliel Pepito**

Bass **JP Bernabe**  
Drums **Matt Vera-Corcoran**  
Orchestra Manager **Tessa Dolce**

## Director's Note

I was drawn to direct *Head Over Heels* because of its story centered around self-discovery, self-acceptance, and societal acceptance, a struggle that we still wrestle with today. The journey of our tender and colorful characters is a reminder that love is always worth fighting for, be it romantic love, familial love, or even lost love. Set in a magical utopia of an Elizabethan pastoral gender-queer fairytale, this '80s pop-rock musical comedy is hilariously captivating and relatable.

It has been an honor and joy to explore the world of Arcadia with this exceptional group of talented theater artists. My hope is that you leave the theater feeling the same euphoric celebration that our characters feel when they fully accept and love themselves.

Warmly,  
*Lainie Sakakura*

## Arts + Cultural Programming

**Jedediah Wheeler** | Executive Director  
**J. Ryan Graves** | Director of Production  
**Laurel Broly** | Business Administrator

**Camille Spaccavento** | Marketing & Media Director  
**Patrick Flood @ Flood Design** | Art Director  
**Blake Zidell Associates** | Media Representative  
**Percy Cole Media** | Website  
**Claudia La Rocco** | PEAK Journal Editor  
**Maya Siguenza** | Administrative Assistant

**Colin Van Horn** | Technical Director  
**Andy Dickerson** | Production Coordinator  
**Kevin Johnson** | Audio Supervisor  
**Chrissy D'Aleo Fels** | Company Liaison

**Robert Hermida** | Audience Services Director  
**Jeff Lambert Wingfield** | Box Office Manager  
**Maureen Grimaldi** | House Manager  
**William Collins** | Assistant House Manager  
**Jacob Batory, Tony Jordan, Shannon Mulraney,**  
**Martin Pyda** | Box Office Lead Associates  
**Susan R. Case** | Program Copy Editor  
**Bart Solenthaler** | Program Layout Design

## Production Staff

**Mark Hardy** | Coordinator of Musical Theatre  
**Michael O. Mitchell** | Music Supervisor  
**Sarah Brett England** | Musical Associate  
**Mysti Stay** | Coordinator of Design, Technology,  
and Management

**Peter J. Davis** | Production Manager  
**Mary Gragen** | Assistant Production Manager  
**Cyndi Kumor** | Production Associate

**Lisa Grimes** | Social Media and Promotion Manager  
**Linda Moats** | House Manager  
**Dalton Gorden** | Production Office Assistant  
**Erhard Rom** | Scenic Design Mentor  
**Benjamin Merrick** | Technical Director  
**Daniel Graham** | Assistant Technical Director  
**Daniel Haussler** | Head Carpenter  
**Jeanette Meises** | Scenic Charge Artist  
**Alison Merrick** | Props Supervisor

**Robin McGee** | Costume, Hair and Makeup Design Mentor  
**Judith Evans** | Costume Shop Supervisor  
**Jeanette Aultz** | Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor  
**Amanda Phillips-Balingit, Katie Pippin,**  
**Robin Ankerich** | Drapers

**Marlene Olson Hamm** | Wardrobe Supervisor  
**Nicholas Kolin** | Lighting Design Mentor  
**Osman M. Morales** | Head Electrician  
**Zachary Brienza** | Assistant Electrician  
**Megan Culley** | Sound Design Mentor  
**Daniel Gonko** | Head Sound Technician/Mentor  
**Nick Kanderis** | Assistant Sound Technician  
**Mysti Stay** | Stage Management Mentor

## College of the Arts

**Daniel Gurskis** | Dean  
**Ronald L. Sharps** | Associate Dean  
**Christine Lemesianou** | Associate Dean  
**Linda D. Davidson** | Assistant Dean  
**Zacrah S. Battle** | College Administrator  
**Abby Lillethun** | Art and Design  
**Anthony Mazzocchi** | John J. Cali School of Music  
**Keith Strudler** | School of Communication and Media  
**Randy Mugleston** | Theatre and Dance  
**Patricia Piroh** | Broadcast and Media Operations

## Staff for Head Over Heels

**Jordan Conklin-Yousef** | Assistant Director  
**Sarah Brett England** | Rehearsal Accompanist  
**AJ Love** | Assistant Choreographer  
**Caroline Desmarais** | Dance Captain  
**Kriszta Hajek** | Assistant Costume Designer  
**Winnie Ng Zhen** | Assistant Lighting Designer  
**Sam Bloch** | Head Electrician  
**Lauren BonavitaCola, Joey Messana,**  
**Jack Wyrch** | Assistant Head Electricians  
**Ashantah Kerr** | Props Head  
**Lauren BonavitaCola** | Light Board Operator  
**Dan Mackle, Jack Wyrch** | Follow Spot Operators  
**Prince Bawuah** | Sound A1  
**Mikaela Koran, Zoe MacBryd** | Sound A2  
**Ari Michel-Hamblin** | Wardrobe Head  
**Myren Mandap, Dakota Rios,**  
**Mario Rizzi** | Wardrobe Crew  
**Eponine Myles, Brianne O'Callaghan,**  
**Glory De La Cruz** | Assistant Stage Managers

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### Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:

The Alexander Kasser Theater Endowment Fund

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# Production Bios

**The Go-Go's** (Songs) are band members Charlotte Caffey, Belinda Carlisle, Gina Schock, Kathy Valentine, and Jane Wiedlin, and they will forever have the beat! These female pioneers formed The Go-Go's in 1978 and were an integral part of the LA punk scene. The Go-Go's made history as the first, and to date only, all-female band that both wrote their own songs and played their own instruments ever to top the *Billboard* charts. Their 1981 debut album, *Beauty and the Beat*, was #1 on the charts for six consecutive weeks and it remains one of the most successful debut albums of all time. Other albums include *Vacation* (1982), *Talk Show* (1984) and *God Bless the Go-Go's* (2001). With a 1982 Grammy nomination for Best New Artist, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a place in history that no other band can claim, it is assured that the Go-Go's will keep going with a classic catalog of songs that transcends time, trends and genres.

**James Magruder** (Adaptation) made his Broadway debut with the book for *Triumph of Love*. His adaptations of Marivaux, Molière, Lesage, Labiche, Gozzi, Hofmannsthal, Dickens, and Giraudoux have been staged across the country and in Germany and Japan, and his dissertation, *Three French Comedies*, was named an “Outstanding Literary Translation of the Year” in 1997. Also a fiction writer, he has published *Sugarless*, a Lambda Literary Award Finalist; *Let Me See It*, a story collection; *Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall*; and the just-released *Vamp Until Ready*. He teaches dramaturgy at Swarthmore College and French drama at the Yale School of Drama.

**Lainie Sakakura** (Director) is a New York City–based director choreographer. She is the recipient of the 2015 Joe A. Callaway Award for Outstanding Choreography and 2002 Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Choreography. Other credits include *Fosse*, Dance Reconstruction (1999 Tony Award Best Musical) and *Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Book/Direction (musical adaptation of the *New York Times* Bestseller *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford). Sakakura directed work in New York City at the Cherry Lane Theatre, Peter Jay Sharp Theatre, Summer Stage, Neighborhood Playhouse, and Theatre 71. She was a Broadway performer in six original casts, including *Chita Rivera The Dancer's Life*. Current projects include *Cabaret*, choreographer—Goodspeed and *My AAPI Broadway Story: Breaking Barriers*, concept/direction—Lincoln Center Public Library for the Performing Arts, Bruno Walter Auditorium. She has 33 years' teaching experience. [Lsakakura.com](http://Lsakakura.com)

**Kristen Hoyt** (Music Director) is a multifaceted educator, vocalist, accompanist, arranger, and music director. She helped build a nationally acclaimed theater program in Hoboken, NJ, providing theater education and quality productions to thousands of children, spanning from ages 5 to 18, at no cost. As a jazz vocalist, Hoyt has opened for the likes of Chaka Khan, Kurt Elling, and John Pizzarelli and has performed with Swingadelic, Norman Simmons, and the late James Moody. Favorite productions include *The Full Monty*, *City of Angels*, *Gypsy*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Curtains*. Most notably, she is Henry and Peter's mom. [kristenhoytmusic.com](http://kristenhoytmusic.com)

**Camyron Chauffe** (Scenic Designer) is a senior in the Design, Technology, and Management program concentrating in scenic art. Her previous design credits at MSU include *Top Girls*, and she has recently student charged *The Names We Gave Him* and *As You Like It*. She is grateful for this learning experience and to work with a talented team of artists.

**Jannette Fisher** (Costume Designer) is a senior at MSU studying Production Design Management with a minor in Musical Theatre and a certification in makeup artistry. Being able to collaborate on such a beautiful show with such a strong team has made this show such a pleasure to work on. She intends to take all she has learned from this experience on her future projects.

**Emily Gocon** (Lighting Designer) is a graduating senior at MSU, studying to complete her degree in Theatre Design, Technology and Management with a concentration in lighting design and technology. Some of her design credits include *Elephant* and *Blue/Orange* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting), *Top Girls* (MSU), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Broadway Arts Lab Company).

**Maggie Spector-Williams** (Sound Designer) is a graduating senior at MSU. She is concentrating in audio/sound design within the Television and Digital Media major in the School of Communication and Media. Her previous design credits include *Top Girls* (MSU) and *Grease* (Spencer Community Theatre, Spencer, IA). She has also music directed Disney's *The Lion King KIDS* (Spencer Community Theatre) and assistant music directed *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Teaneck New Theatre).

**Kriszta Hajek** (Hair/Makeup Designer) is a senior in the BFA Design, Technology, and Management program concentrating in hair and makeup design. Recent designs include *As You Like It* (MSU main stage, fall 2021), *Top Girls* (MSU virtual, spring

2021), *Working: The Musical* (MSU virtual, fall 2020), and *Urinetown* (MSU main stage, fall 2019).

**Rick Sordelet** (Fight and Intimacy Coordinator) has served as this country's most prolific fight director for over 28 years. He and his son, Christian, created Sordelet Inc., an action-based company providing stunt coordination, fight direction, and intimacy consulting for film, television, and theater. He has worked on over 80 shows on Broadway, from *Beauty and the Beast* and *Lion King* all the way to *Tina*. Sordelet just returned from the UK, where he revived the fight direction on Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, coming to Broadway next season. Rick and Christian are the resident fight directors for the Santa Fe Opera, where they staged the fights for *As You Like It* and *Eugene Onegin*. They are also stunt coordinators for television and film: 12 years with *Guiding Light*, four years with *One Life to Live*, both seasons with *Kevin Can Wait* and *The Crew*, both starring Kevin James. Their most recent film is *Ben Is Back* starring Julia Roberts. They are currently filming *One True Loves* with Simu Liu and Phillipa Soo. Sordelet taught at Yale School of Drama for 22 years as well as at Kean University, Montclair State, and the William Esper Studio. From fight direction and teaching, Sordelet developed into a writer as well, selling several screenplays and a television series. He and his partner, David Blixt, run an E-publishing company called Sordelet INK.

**Karly Amato** (Production Stage Manager) is a sophomore in MSU's Theatre and Dance Department concentrating in stage management. Her previous credits at MSU include assistant stage manager for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Brooklyn's Bridge*, and *The Ultimate Cahoots*. Other management credits include the productions of *Motherhood: The Musical* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Broadway Theatre of Pitman.

## Cast Biographies

**Nathan Angelo** (Pythio) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major from San Jose, CA. He previously appeared in *Brigadoon* in the Alexander Kasser Theater and had just closed *The Names We Gave Him* last winter. @nathangangelo

**Belle Babcock** (Gynecia) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Bradenton, FL. Regional credits include the New York State Theatre Institute and the Mac-Haydn Theatre. Other credits include *The Names We Gave Him* (Cecile, MSU), *Young*



*Frankenstein* (Inga, Venice Theatre), *Mamma Mia* (Sophie, Venice Theatre), *Urinetown* (Hope, Venice Theatre), *Hairspray* (Amber, The Players Centre), and *Cinderella* (Ella, Booker High School). @bellebabcock

**Joey Cooper** (Ensemble) is a junior Musical Theatre major at MSU and is very excited to Go-Go the Kasser down in *Head Over Heels*. Previous credits include *Rent* (Steve/ others) and *Titanic the Musical* (Jim Farrel/Notorious Jay Yates).

**Harry Cornelio** (Dametas) is a Bronx native and attends the BFA Musical Theatre program at MSU. He was previously seen in *Brigadoon* (Andrew McLaren) directed by Andréa Burns and *Working* (Freddy Rodriguez) directed by Peter Flynn. He is a proud alum of Rosie's Theater Kids. @theotherprinceharry

**Caroline Desmarais** (Ensemble/Dance Captain), originally from New Hampshire, is a sophomore Musical Theatre student and pursuing a minor in Environmental Justice as a member of the Honors Program at MSU. Some of her favorite credits outside of MSU include *The Addams Family* (Morticia) and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Kitty).

**Liam Driscoll** (Basilus/Dametas Understudy) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major. Past credits include *The Names We Gave Him* (Swing), *Working* (Anthony Coelho/First Responder), and *Titanic* (Lightoller).

**Madeline Gambon** (Ensemble, Gynecia/Mopsa Understudy) is a Los Angeles, CA, native and Musical Theatre major. Previous credits at MSU include *Rent* (Alexi Darling/ Ensemble), *Top Girls* (Lady Nijo), and *Working* (Theresa Liu). @madeline.gambon

**Brandon Grajales** (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Rahway, NJ. His recent theater credits include *Brigadoon* (Ensemble), *Catch Me if You Can* (Frank Jr.), *Pippin* (Pippin), and *A Chorus Line* (Mark). @Brandongrajales

**Patrick Higgins** (Ensemble) is a freshman Musical Theatre major performing in his first MSU production. Some of his favorite credits outside of MSU include Baby John (Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*), Billy Elliot (*Billy Elliot: The Musical*), and Mark Anthony (*A Chorus Line*).

**Daniel Hurt** (Pythio Understudy) is currently a second-year Musical Theatre major. Previous credits include Angel in *Rent*, Gabriel in *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods*, and the Jester in both JTCC and the JCC's productions of *Once Upon a Mattress*. @danieljeromee

**Charlie Kollar** (Basilius) is thrilled to be returning to the Alexander Kasser Theater. A second-year student at MSU, he previously appeared as Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*, The Prince in *Into the Woods*, and E.F. Farrington in *Brooklyn's Bridge*.

**Elizabeth Legg** (Ensemble, Pamela Understudy) is a freshman Musical Theatre student from Indianapolis. Her favorite past credits outside of MSU include *Bring It On: The Musical* (Campbell) and *Our Town* (Emily Webb). *Head Over Heels* is her first show at MSU.

**Maggie Lickani** (Pamela) is a junior Musical Theatre major at MSU. Her previous roles at MSU include Maggie in *A Chorus Line*, Madame Aubert in *Titanic*, and Suzanne in *The Names We Gave Him*. @maggielikcni

**AJ Love** (Swing/ Assistant Choreographer) is a first-year student in the BFA Musical Theatre program. Previous roles include Tommy Djilas (*The Music Man*), Albert (*Newsies*), and Zacky (*Big Fish*). Love has worked at multiple regional theaters in New Jersey as well as iTheatrics in New York City workshopping musicals. Love is thrilled to be assistant choreographing his first show and would like to thank Lainie Sakakura for letting him be a part of the creative process. @ajlo.ve

**Mike Mags** (Musidorus/Dametas Understudy) is a current sophomore Musical Theatre major. Past credits include Valjean (*Les Misérables*), Emmett (*Legally Blonde*), Jack (*Into the Woods*), Joseph (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*), Tony (*West Side Story*), Quasimodo (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), Ensemble (*Rent*), and Ensemble (*Bring It On*). Mags is also a Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir and Paper Mill Playhouse Conservatory alumnus.

**Jonah Nash** (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Atlanta, GA. His recent theater credits include *Rent* (Benny/Angel US), *A Chorus Line* (Richie), *Newsies* (Crutchie), and *Brigadoon* (Ensemble). @jonahnash

**Maya Petropoulos** (Philoclea) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Metro Detroit, MI. She is overjoyed to return to the Alexander Kasser Theater, where she has previously worked on *A Chorus Line*, *Brigadoon*, and *Rent*. @mvpetrop

**Eric Sebek** (Musidorus) is a junior Musical Theatre major. He worked professionally with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes as Patrick in the 2016–19 and 2019–20 seasons. At Nutley High School he played Pippin and Jack

Kelly in *Newsies*. At MSU he has played Fleet in *Titanic* and Cigar in the new musical *The Names We Gave Him*. He is represented by Jason Bercy Talent.

**Audrey Kate Taylor** (Swing/Philoclea Understudy) is a Richmond, VA, native and is thrilled to be in her first production at MSU as a freshman BFA Musical Theatre major. Her favorite regional credits outside of MSU include *Tuck Everlasting*, *13! the Musical*, and *Junie B. Jones* at Virginia Repertory Theatre. @audreykkate

**Lauren Taylor** (Mopsa) is currently a BFA Musical Theatre sophomore, and she feels so blessed to be returning to live theater and the Alexander Kasser stage with such an amazing production. Her past credits include Judy in *A Chorus Line* and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*. Let's Go-Go! @laurenctay

**Lindsey Turner** (Ensemble) is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Chesapeake, VA. A few previous credits include *Once on this Island*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Grease*, and the original stage debut of *Freaky Friday*. She is thrilled to be an addition to this amazingly talented cast and team, and grateful for the opportunity to perform in her first MSU production!

**Jasón Wells** (Ensemble) is a senior Musical Theatre major and is extremely excited to be a part of such a talented cast for his last show at MSU.