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Head Over Heels

Department of Theatre and Dance

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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
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 ................................................. Nathan Angelo
Gynecia ............................................. Belle Babcock
Pamela ............................................. Maggie Lickani
Musidorus ........................................... Erick Sebek
Philoclea ............................................ Maya Petropoulos
Basilius ............................................. Charlie Kollar
Dametas ............................................ Harry Cornelio
Mopsa ............................................. Lauren Taylor

Ensemble Joey Cooper, Caroline Desmarais, Madeline Gambon, Brandon Grajales, Patrick Higgins, Elizabeth Legg, Jonah Nash, Lindsey Turner, Jásón Wells
Swings AJ Love, Audrey Kate Taylor
Understudies Liam Driscoll (Basilius, 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).
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” ................................................................. Basilius, 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, Basilius
“Turn to You” ........................................................................ Mopsa, Pamela, Ensemble
“Heaven Is a Place on Earth” ................................................. Pythio, Gynecia, Ensemble
“Lust to Love” ...................................................................... Basilius, Ensemble
“How You Are” ................................................................. Philoclea, Gynecia, Pamela, Basilius, 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
Lauren Brally | Business Administrator

Camille Spaccavento | Marketing & Media Director
Patrick Flood | Art Director
Blake Zidel 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’Allegro | Company Liaison
Robert Hermita | Audience Services Director
Jeff Lambert Wingfield | Box Office Manager
Maureen Grimaildi | House Manager
William Collins | Assistant House Manager
Jacob Batory, Tony Jordan, Shannon Mulaney, 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 Kumro | 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
Osmar M. Morales | Head Electrician
Zachary Brienza | Assistant Electrician
Megan Culley | Sound Design Mentor
Daniel Gokor | Head Sound Technician/Mentor
Nick Kandris | Assistant Sound Technician
Mysti Stay | Stage Management Mentor

College of the Arts

Daniel Gurski | Dean
Ronald L. Sharps | Associate Dean
Christine Lemeshanou | 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 Piro | 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
Krisztal Hajek | Assistant Costume Designer
Winnie Ng Zhen | Assistant Lighting Designer
Sam Bloch | Head Electrician
Lauren Bonavitacola, Joey Messana, Jack Wyyrch | Assistant Head Electricians
Ashtanah Kerr | Props Head
Lauren Bonavitacola | Light Board Operator
Dan Mackie, Jack Wyyrch | Follow Spot Operators
Prince Bawuah | Sound A1
Mikaela Koran, Zoe MacBryd | Sound A2
Ari Michel-Hamblin | Wardrobe Head
Myren Mandal, Dakota Rios, Mario Rizzi | Wardrobe Crew
Eponine Myles, Brianne O’Callaghan, Glory De La Cruz | Assistant Stage Managers

Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:
The Alexander Kasser Theater Endowment Fund
PEAK Performances Patrons
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To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or @peakperfs.
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
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

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
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 (Basilius/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. @maggielikcani

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. @audreyykkate

**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.