


**M** Manhattan  
School of Music  
**MUSICAL THEATRE**  
LIZA GENNARO, DEAN



# The Mystery of Edwin DROOD

A Musical by **Rupert Holmes**

**NOVEMBER 7-9**



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School of Music

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC MUSICAL THEATRE

Liza Gennaro, Dean of Musical Theatre

# ***THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD***

A Musical by Rupert Holmes

Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival  
Joseph Papp, Producer

**Evan Pappas**, Director  
**Liza Gennaro**, Choreographer  
**David Loud**, Music Director

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 | 7:30PM  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 | 7:30PM  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 | 2:00PM & 7:30PM  
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

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**David Loud**, Music Director  
**James Rotondo**, Scenic Designer  
**Debbi Hobson**, Costume Designer  
**John Salutz**, Lighting Designer  
**Scott Stauffer**, Sound Designer  
**Bobbie Zlotnik**, Wig, Hair and Makeup Designer  
**Joshua Larrinaga-Yocom**, Props Supervisor  
**Joseph Heike**, Production Stage Manager  
**Shannon Marie Sullivan**, Dialect Coach  
**Vincent Ortega**, Associate Director  
**Kaitlyn Louise Smith**, Associate Choreographer  
**Shane Schag**, Associate Music Director  
**Aubrey Dearen**, Assistant Costume Designer  
**Audrey Wubbena**, Assistant Lighting Designer  
**Kylie Cottrell**, Assistant Stage Manager

*There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.*

*Please be advised that this production includes the use of haze, strobe, and depictions of drug use.*

# WELCOME FROM LIZA GENNARO, DEAN OF MUSICAL THEATRE

Welcome to our 2025–26 MSM Musical Theatre Production Season! We're thrilled to present *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*—a lively adaptation of Charles Dickens' unfinished mystery, brought to life by MSM alumnus Rupert Holmes ('67, HonDMA '21) and described by *Variety* as “a madcap, interactive whodunit that makes the audience part of the fun.”

In spring we bring you *Violet* at Riverside Church and Stephen Sondheim's, *A Little Night Music* inspired by Ingmar Bergman's 1955 film *Smiles of a Summer Night*. We hope to see you at the talkbacks!

*-Liza Gennaro, Dean of Musical Theatre*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to *Drood* 3.0, the third time's the charm! Because, barring a freak earthquake or asteroid smashing into Claremont Avenue, you're finally going to see *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* onstage at Manhattan School of Music! To explain... MSM was initially going to present *Drood* in March 2020, but, of course, it was sidelined by the pandemic. We then filmed the show with those same fearless students (each socially distanced in separate locations!) in the Fall of 2020 (*Drood* 2.0), with the audience voting for the murderer via texting. (That was quite the feat, believe you me.) And now we bring you *Drood* 3.0, finally on the Mainstage where it belongs. I was lucky to get most of the creative team back together from our 2020 production, but none of them is happier than I that it's all worked out.

Seeing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park was one of the defining moments for me as a young, aspiring actor who had just come to New York. I sat under the stars that night and knew that I was witnessing something truly special. I love a mystery, and Charles Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is one of the great literary mysteries of all time. Dickens died before completing it, leaving no outline or solution to the death of the title character—or revealing whether he was indeed dead at all. Many writers attempted to finish the novel (including one who claimed to have channeled Dickens's ghost), but in 1985, singer/songwriter, playwright, and all-around Renaissance man Rupert Holmes had the inspired idea to turn *Edwin Drood* into a musical. And not just any musical, but one that would call on the audience to solve the mystery each and every night. Everything about the show was pitch-perfect: Wilford Leach's stylish direction, Graciela Daniele's exuberant choreography, an amazing cast, and, of course, the clever and witty writing. The show was a ginormous hit, transferred to Broadway, and won five Tony Awards including Best Musical and two for Rupert Holmes (Best Score and Best Book).

To my great delight I've had the opportunity to work with the geniuses who created *Drood*: Graciela directed me as Marvin at Hartford Stage in a landmark production of *Falsettos*; I had the privilege to work with Rupert in the world premiere of his musical adaptation of Paddy Chayefsky's *Marty*; and *Drood*'s original production stage manager married my best friend and has been by my side countless times with help and advice in my transition from actor to director.

Here at MSM for *Drood* 3.0, I'm beyond thrilled to be collaborating, once again, with Liza Gennaro, who's been an inspiration since we worked together many moons ago, and David Loud, whose career I've held in awe for as long as I can recall. Watching what they've done for this program and working with this group of remarkable students has been a delight since Day One. I wish for these young people (who are the age I was when I first saw *Drood* at the Delacorte) to experience theater that sparks their creativity and that they are lucky enough, like I've been, to work someday with their idols. Perhaps the greatest mystery of all is what the future holds... So now it's "Off to the Races" for *Drood* 3.0. I hope you have a cracking good time!

—Evan Pappas

# THE CAST

Chairman/Mayor Thomas Sapsea	Amron Salgado
Clive Paget/John Jasper	Kenneth Sweeney
Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood	Madeline Faye Kimmel
Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud	(11/7 7:30 pm, 11/9 2pm) Mika Marriott
	(11/8 7:30 pm, 11/9 7:30 pm) Sophia Ivey Stark
Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer	Madelynn Taylor
Janet Conover/Helena Landless	Maithili Ginde
Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless	Fernando Flores
Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle	Daniel Rubinson
Phillip Bax/Bazzard	Joshua Gordon
Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles	Max Jurisic
Nick Cricker, Jr./Deputy	Alexandra Newman
James Throttle/Stage Manager	Will Lawson
Florence Gill/Flo	Isabel Wallach
Nicholas Michael/Horace	Timothy Bevens
Townsmen	Timothy Bevens, Cory Brooks, Matthew Earl, and Carlos Goldberg

## Ensemble

*Celeste Adragna	*Ellie Kuhnle	Kennedy Percival
Ava Bartel	*Leela S. Lopez	Lily Resto-Solano
*Keira Aiyana Dent	Briar Magee	*Yao Zhao

## Understudies & Swings

u/s Clive Paget/John Jasper	Will Lawson
u/s Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless	Cory Brooks
u/s Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle	Matthew Earl
u/s Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud	Ava Bartel
u/s Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood	Danielle Renee Ryan
u/s Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer	Meredith Layne Hungerford
u/s Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles	Kennedy Percival
Swing	Rebecca Pearl
Swing	Jake Vecchio

*\*Denotes Opium Dancers*



# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## Act One

<i>There You Are</i>	Chairman and Company
<i>A Man Could Go Quite Mad</i>	Jasper
<i>Two Kinsmen</i>	Drood, Jasper
<i>Moonfall</i>	Rosa
<i>The Wages of Sin</i>	Puffer
<i>Jasper's Vision (Ballet)</i>	Company
<i>Ceylon</i>	Helena, Neville, Drood
<i>A British Subject</i>	Helena, Neville, Drood, Rosa, Crisparkle and Company
<i>Both Sides of the Coin</i>	Jasper, Chairman and Company
<i>Perfect Strangers</i>	Drood, Rosa
<i>No Good Can Come From Bad</i>	Neville, Rosa, Helena, Drood, Crisparkle, Jasper, Bazzard
<i>Never the Luck</i>	Bazzard and Company
<i>Off to the Races</i>	Chairman, Durdles, Deputy and Company

## Act Two

<i>Entr'acte</i>	Orchestra
<i>England Reigns</i>	Chairman and Company
<i>Settling Up the Score</i>	Puffer, Datchery and Company
<i>The Name of Love</i>	Rosa, Jasper
<i>Moonfall (Reprise)</i>	Rosa, Jasper and Company
<i>Don't Quit While You're Ahead</i>	Puffer, Datchery and Company
<i>The Garden Path to Hell</i>	Puffer
<i>Puffer's Revelation</i>	Puffer
<i>Out on a Limerick</i>	Helena, or Bazzard, or Neville, or Crisparkle, or Rosa
<i>Jasper's Confession</i>	Jasper
<i>Murderer's Confession</i>	Helena, or Bazzard, or Puffer, or Neville, or Rosa, or Crisparkle, or Durdles
<i>Perfect Strangers (Reprise)</i>	Rosa, or Helena, or Puffer and Bazzard, or Neville, or Crisparkle, or Durdles, or Jasper, or Deputy and Company
<i>The Writing on the Wall</i>	Drood and Company
<i>Don't Quit While You're Ahead (Bows)</i>	Company

# ORCHESTRA

David Loud, Conductor

## VIOLIN 1

**Po-Hsuan Chiang**, concertmaster  
*New Taipei City, Taiwan*

**Faith Borkowski**  
*Niskayuna, New York*

**Tomohiko Hosokawa**  
*Tokyo, Japan*

## VIOLIN 2

**Cheng-Cian Li**  
*Hsinchu City, Taiwan*

**Adrian Walker**  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

**Shengbo Tu**  
*Shanghai, China*

## CELLO

**Eric Vasquez**  
*Reno, Nevada*

**Yu-Hsuan Tu**  
*Taipei, Taiwan*

**Frida Rahmani**  
*Maplewood, New Jersey*

## BASS

**Brendan Wiebe**  
*Sparks, Nevada*

## REED 1

**Xinnan Qu**  
*Dalian, China*

## REED 2

**Katherine Christensen**  
*Billings, Montana*

**Ian Fleck**  
*Granada Hills, California*

## REED 3

**Zachary Kern**  
*Cypress, California*

## REED 4

**Pierce Manning**  
*Houston, Texas*

## HORN

**Sarah Bell**  
*Winnipeg, Canada*

**Ben Hommowun**  
*St. Charles, Illinois*

## TRUMPET

**Christian Morales**  
*San Antonio, Texas*

**Ryan Crites**  
*Orlando, Florida*

## TROMBONE

**Leor Arbel**  
*Katy, Texas*

## BASS TROMBONE

**Jack Johnson**  
*San Diego, California*

## PERCUSSION

**Josh Conklin**  
*Basking Ridge, New Jersey*

**Ariel Metzger**  
*Wernersville, Pennsylvania*

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## **Celeste Adragna** (Ensemble/Opium Den Dancer)

Orlando, Florida

Celeste is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions:

*Freshman Pops*. Alpha Psi Omega: *Dance Show*. @celeste.adragna

## **Ava Bartel** (Ensemble, u/s Rosa Bud)

Woodbury, Minnesota

Ava Bartel is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Summer stock: *Spring*

*Awakening* (Marta). MSM productions: *The Pajama Game* (swing). IG: @avabartel

## **Timothy Bevens** (Nicholas Michael/Horace, Townsman)

Hingham, Massachusetts

Timothy is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. Regional: *The Addams*

*Family* (Lucas Beineke), *South Pacific* (O'Brien/Ensemble). MSM productions:

*Freshman Pops* Readings: *Semmelweis* (Phillip Semmelweis), *REB+VoDKa+ME*

(Columbiner), *Born to do This: The Joan of Arc Rock Opera* (deMetz), *Secondary Ed*

(Becker). IG: @timbevans

## **Cory Brooks** (Townsman, u/s Neville)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Cory is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Summer stock: *Jersey Boys* (Barry

Belson/Ensemble), *Grease* (Teen Angel/Ensemble). MSM productions: *The*

*Threepenny Opera* (Beggar/Onstage Swing), *Good Luck in Space* (Lt. Isaac Allerton).

Alpha Psi Omega: *Trap* (Ephraim Salas), *Dance Show*, *Night of Color*, *Winter*

*Cabaret*. Readings: *R.U.R. A New Musical* (Primus/Atticus), *Muddville* (PA), *A*

*Million Aisles Away* (Miles), *A Little Light* (Jordan Harrison), *Newsies* (Ensemble).

@Cor.e.brook

## **Keira Aiyana Dent** (Ensemble/Opium Den Dancer)

Westwood, Massachusetts

Keira is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. Summer stock: *Footloose*

(Rusty). Alpha Psi Omega: *Dance Show*, *Trap* (The Real Kenosha, Norma Pike).

@kkeiradent

## **Matthew Earl** (Townsmen, u/s Crisparkle)

Annapolis, Maryland

Matthew is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Samuel McKelton. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops!* Lab Series: *A Million Aisles Away* (swing), *Poetry & Prose* (Ljova).

## **Fernando Flores** (Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless)

Caracas, Venezuela

Fernando is a senior at Manhattan School of Music. Summer stock: *West Side Story* (Chino), *Sister Act* (Pablo), and *Rent* (Ensemble / u/s Angel) at the Mac-Haydn Theatre, *Bounce: The Basketball Opera* (student). MSM productions: *The Threepenny Opera* (Bob, u/s Macheath), *The Pajama Game* (Joe, u/s Sid Sorokin), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Adult ensemble), *The Secret Life of the American Musical* (Principal).  
@ferjoseflores

## **Maithili Ginde** (Janet Conover/Helena Landless)

Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Maithili is a senior at Manhattan School of Music. Off-Broadway: *The End Of All Flesh* (Girl). Regional Theater: *School Of Rock* (Rosalie Mullins). MSM productions: *Good Luck In Space* (Constance Hopkins), *The Hills Are Alive* (Ensemble /Ludwiga understudy). Alpha Psi Omega: *For Mad Men Only* (Ensemble). Readings: *Boomerangs* (Bridget), *RebVodka+ Me* (Columbiner E), *Good Luck In Space* (Constance Hopkins), *The Hills Are Alive* (Ludwiga).  
@maithili\_ginde

## **Carlos Goldberg** (Townsmen)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Carlos is a senior at Manhattan School of Music. Off-Broadway: *Sunday in the Park with George* (Franz/Denis). MSM productions: *Good Luck in Space* (John Billington), *The Threepenny Opera* (Beggar/Swing), *Forget Me Not* (Swing). Alpha Psi Omega: *For Mad Men Only* (Dirty D), *Dance Show* (Choreographer). Readings: *Mudville* (Coach Goodman), *A Little Light* (Michael).

## **Joshua Gordon** (Phillip Bax/Bazzard)

Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Joshua is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops*.

## **Rebecca Pearl (Swing)**

Westchester, New York

Rebecca is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Andrea Green. Regional theater: *Freckleface Strawberry* (Strawberry). MSM productions: *Freshman Pops* (Performer). MSM MT Lab Series: *The Real Gemma Jordan* (Cover).

## **Meredith Layne Hungerford (u/s Puffer)**

Summerville, South Carolina

Meredith Layne is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Off-Broadway: *Sunday in the Park with George* (Dot/Marie). MSM productions: *The Threepenny Opera* (Lucy), *The Pajama Game* (Assistant Director). Alpha Psi Omega: *Winter Cabaret*. Readings: *Boomerangs* (Freddie), *Mudville* (Boss Carlyle), *The Dark Lady* (Susan). @m.l.hungerford

## **Max Jurisic (Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles)**

Toronto, Canada

Max Jurisic is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *The Threepenny Opera* (Mack The Knife), *The Pajama Game* (Swing). Lab Series: *Mudville* (Coach Goodman). Disney Readings: *The Little Mermaid* (ensemble), *Frozen* (ensemble). Alpha Psi Omega: *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror 12). @max\_jurisic

## **Madeline Faye Kimmel (Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood)**

Los Angeles, California

Madeline is a senior at Manhattan School of Music studying voice with Andrea Green. Summer stock: *The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee* (Olive Ostrovsky). MSM productions: *Forget Me Not* (Gail), *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mom), *The Pajama Game* (Assistant to David Loud). Alpha Psi Omega: President. Readings: *The Dark Lady* (Viola), *The Turning* (Nora), Disney's *Newsies* (Katherine), Disney's *Frozen* (Elsa). @madelinefayekimmel

## **Ellie Kuhnle (Ensemble/Opium Den Dancer)**

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Ellie is a senior at Manhattan School of Music and studies with Claudia Catania. MSM productions: *Into the Woods* (Florinda), *Nine* (Ensemble), *Freshman Pops* (Performer). Alpha Psi Omega: *Godspell* ("Turn Back, O Man" Soloist), *Dance Show* (Dancer), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Stage Manager).

## **Will Lawson** (James Throttle/Stage Manager, Ensemble, u/s Jasper)

Branchburg, New Jersey

Will is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops 2024* Readings: *The Dark Lady* (Will Shakespeare), *Fatty* (Charlie Chaplin/William Randolph Hearst), *Mudville* (Ensemble/Casey u/s), *Boomerangs* (Neil/Nacho Cover). @WillSamLaw

## **Leela S. Lopez** (Ensemble/Opium Den Dancer)

New York, New York

Leela is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Claudia Catania. Summer stock: *Bounce: A Basketball Opera* (Ensemble/Student). MSM productions: *Freshman Pops 2025*. Alpha Psi Omega: *Trap* (Audience Plant/Real Kendra). Readings: *Boomerangs* (Female Cover).

## **Briar Magee** (Ensemble)

Lake George, New York

Briar is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Regional Theatre: *The King's Wife* (Mary Tudor) at the Adirondack Theatre Festival. MSM productions: *The Threepenny Opera* (Dolly/Polly U/S). Readings: *A Million Aisles Away* (Hope), *FATTY* (Virginia Rappe). TikTok: @briardavie

## **Mika Marriott** (Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud)

Birmingham, Alabama

Mika is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music. Regional theater: *Matilda the Musical* (Hortensia). MSM productions: *Freshman Pops 2025*. Alpha Psi Omega: *Night of Color 2024*, *APO Dance Show 2025*. Readings: *Mudville* (Mabel/Ensemble), *The Dark Lady* (Cover), *Survivors* (Mika). @mika.marriott

## **Alexandra Newman** (Nick Cricker, Jr./Deputy)

Cleveland, Ohio

Alexandra is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies with Bob Stillman. Regional Theater: *Mean Girls* (Cady Heron), *The Lightning Thief* (Clarissa/Charon), Cleveland Pops Orchestra (Guest Singer). MSM productions: *Freshman Pops* (Performer). Alpha Psi Omega: *Dance Show* (Dancer), Event Committee (Member). @alexjnewmann

## **Kennedy Percival** (Ensemble, u/s Durdles)

Upland, California

Kennedy is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Regional theater: *Guys And Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Grease* (Sandy), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday). MSM productions: *The Pajama Game* (Mabel), *Into The Woods* (Assistant Director). Readings: *Mudville* (Sally/Josie u/s), *Newsies* (Newsie/ Nun). @k.e.n.n.e.d.y.\_p\_

## **Lily Resto-Solano** (Ensemble)

New York, New York

Lily is a sophomore at Manhattan School Of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops 2025*. Alpha Phsi Omega: *TRAP* (Heche/Menachap Herald). Readings: *The Real Gemma Jordan* (Ensemble). @lilyrestosolano

## **Daniel Rubinson** (Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle)

Long Island, New York

Daniel is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Bob Stillman. Regional theater: *Elf* (The Gateway). NYC: *BOUNCE: The Basketball Opera* (Ardea Arts), *All Grown Up* (54 Below). Alpha Psi Omega: *Trap* (Donovan/ Others). Readings: *Poetry & Prose* (Osip Mandelstam), *Mudville* (Clyde), *Pop Off, Michelangelo!* (Salai). @daniel.rubinson / www.danielrubinson.com

## **Danielle Renee Ryan** (u/s Drood)

Chicago, Illinois

Danielle is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops*, *Good Luck in Space* (Assistant Director and Mullins U/S), *Into the Woods* (Swing). Alpha Psi Omega: *12 Angry Men* (Juror Eleven). Readings: *The Turning* (Ensemble/Swing).

## **Amron Salgado** (Chairman/Mayor Thomas Sapsea)

Williamstown, New Jersey

Amron is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Regional: *Sweeney Todd* at Legacy Theatre (Pireli), *Hair* at Vanguard Theatre (Berger). MSM Productions: *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *Good Luck in Space* (Crackstone), Alpha Psi Omega: *12 Angry Jurors* (#3). Readings: *FATTY* (Buster Keaton), *Poetry and Prose* (Soviet Official), *Good Luck in Space* (Crackstone).

## **Sophia Ivey Stark** (Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud)

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Sophia is a senior at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Andrea Green. MSM productions: *Nine* (Claudia), *Pajama Game* (Ensemble), *Paperboy* (u/s Mr. Spiro and u/s Troy), *Freshman Pops* (Soloist and Percussionist). Alpha Psi Omega: *For Madmen Only* (Ensemble). MSM MT Lab Series: *BRICKS* (Nina, Colette, Book collaborator). MSM Disney Theatricals Readings: *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Frozen* (Ensemble). @sophia.i.stark

## **Kenneth Sweeney** (Clive Paget/John Jasper)

South Pasadena, California

Kenneth is a Junior at MSM and studies voice with Sam McKelton. Regional: *Macbeth* (Donalbain, Young Siward, u/s Macbeth), *Anastasia* (Ensemble). MSM productions: *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf), *The Pajama Game* (The Baby/Ensemble). Alpha Psi Omega: *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror #2). Readings: *Carousel: A Concert* (Dance Ensemble), *A Million Aisles Away* (Clarence), *Frozen* (Ensemble), *The Little Mermaid* (Ensemble). Upcoming at MSM: *A Little Night Music* (Fredrik). @kennethsweeney

## **Madelynn Taylor** (Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer)

Olivebridge, New York

Madelynn is a junior at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Sam McKelton. Regional: *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), *Be More Chill* (Jenna), *Into The Woods* (Witch). MSM productions: *The Pajama Game* (Prez). Readings: *The Turning* (Deidre). @m\_taylor\_

## **Jake Vecchio** (Swing)

Blooming Grove, Pennsylvania

Jake is a sophomore at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Judith Clurman. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops*.



## **Isabel Wallach** (Ensemble, Assistant Choreographer)

Long Island, New York

Isabel is a senior at Manhattan School of Music and studies voice with Janeece Freeman Clark. Regional: *Chicago* (Roxie Hart), *Legally Blonde* (Brooke Wyndham), *A Chorus Line* (Kristine Urich). National Tour: *Annie The Musical* (Duffy). MSM productions: *The Pajama Game* (First Helper), *Bye Bye Birdie* (swing), *Nine* (Assistant Choreographer). Alpha Psi Omega: *For Madmen Only* (Lady Green).

## **Yao Zhao** (Ensemble/Opium Den Dancer)

Beijing, China

Yao is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. Regional Theater: *Remorse* (Zijun dancer), *Abingdon Theater 30th Anniversary Gala* (Featured Dancer). MSM productions: *The Pajama Game* (Ensemble/Assistant Choreographer). Readings: *Her Sound*, *Kristy Cate's concert*, *Dear Brain*, *From Heart*. @uknowyao\_

## CREATIVE TEAM

### **Rupert Holmes** ('67, HonDMA '21), Music, Lyrics, Book, and Orchestrations

Rupert Holmes' musical creation *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* won Broadway's highest honor, the Tony Award for Best Musical, and had a critically-acclaimed Broadway revival in 2012-2013. For *Edwin Drood*, Holmes was the first person in theatrical history to solely win Tony Awards for Best Music, Best Lyrics and Best Book of a Musical. He also orchestrated the original Broadway production and its revival.

### **Evan Pappas**, Director

Evan Pappas (Director) is pleased to be back at MSM putting *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* on the MSM stage after filming it in 2020 (pandemic style). He is extremely proud of his continued association with Dean Liza Gennaro and the successes of *Into The Woods*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (also filmed pandemic style), and *The Hills are Alive!* He is the Artistic Director of The Argyle Theatre in Babylon, Long Island and has directed over 20 musicals for The Argyle. Off-Broadway: *A Letter to Harvey Milk*, *Liberty*, *Wonderful Town*, *DuBarry Was a Lady*. Regional: *Sister Act*, *The Color Purple*, *Kinky Boots* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, *Carousel*, *Evita*, *West Side Story*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Daughter of the Regiment* (Opera North); *The Music Man* (Gainesville Symphony Orchestra); *Lucky Stiff* (Arizona Broadway Theatre); *Murder for Two and My Way* (Depot Theatre); *Funny Girl*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Broadway By the Bay). As an actor, Evan has starred on Broadway in *Parade*, *My Favorite Year*, *Putting It Together*, *A Chorus Line*. Off Broadway: *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* (Outer Critics Nomination), *Café Society Swing*, *The Immigrant*, *Pera Palas*, etc. London's West End: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Follies*. Regional: *Lucky Stiff* (Helen Hayes Award), and many plays and musicals at the Guthrie Theatre, Hartford Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, Olney Theatre, ACT SF, Goodspeed Opera House, etc. Tours: *A Chorus Line*, *Dreamgirls*, *Durante*, *Superstar*, *On Golden Pond*. And over a hundred commercials and voice-overs back in the day.

## **Liza Gennaro, Choreographer**

Liza Gennaro is a choreographer, educator, and dance writer. Her book *Making Broadway Dance*, published by Oxford University Press, was the winner of The 2023 Kurt Weill Book Prize for an outstanding scholarly book on music theater. On Broadway, Liza choreographed the critically acclaimed Broadway revival of *The Most Happy Fella*, directed by Gerald Gutierrez, and the Broadway revival of *Once Upon a Mattress* starring Sarah Jessica Parker. She choreographed Roundabout Theater Company's *Tin Pan Alley Rag* (2010 Outer Critics Circle Nomination, Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical) and has choreographed extensively in regional theaters across the country including 12 consecutive seasons of musicals at the St. Louis "Muny" Opera. Liza collaborated with Stephen Flaherty and Frank Galati on their chamber musical *Loving, Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* for the About Face Theatre in Chicago and choreographed the 30th Anniversary tour of *Annie*. Her dance adaptation of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was presented for five consecutive years at San Francisco Symphony. Liza has served as an elected member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Executive Board, the Tony Award Nominating Committee, and as a Tony voter.

## **David Loud, Music Director**

David Loud's music directing credits include the original Broadway productions of *The Visit*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Curtains*, *Ragtime*, *A Class Act*, *Steel Pier*, and revivals of *Porgy and Bess*, *She Loves Me*, *Company*, and *Sweeney Todd*. As an actor, he originated the role of Manny in *Terrence McNally's Master Class* (starring Zoe Caldwell), played Sasha (the conductor) in *Curtains*, and made his Broadway debut in Harold Prince's original 1981 production of Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*. Off-Broadway, David created the vocal and dance arrangements for Kander & Ebb's *And the World Goes 'Round*. He is a graduate of Yale University and has been on the faculty of the Yale School of Drama, Fordham University, and Boston Conservatory of Music. He is Music Director of the Musical Theatre program at Manhattan School of Music, where he has conducted *Into the Woods*, *The Pajama Game*, *Nine*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *The Land Where the Good Songs Go*, and *Fiorello!* His acclaimed concerts, exploring and celebrating the music of Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Burton Lane, Stephen Sondheim, Frank Loesser, Harold Arlen, Jule Styne, Vernon Duke, Kander & Ebb and George Gershwin, have appeared at the 92nd Street Y, Merkin Hall, Lincoln Center, and City Center. His book, *Facing the Music: A Broadway Memoir*, was recently published by Regan Arts, a division of Simon & Schuster.

## **James Rotondo, Scenic Designer**

James Rotondo (he/him) is a set designer for opera and theatre based in Boston, Massachusetts. Previous MSM productions include *Into the Woods*, *The Pajama Game*, *Romeo et Juliette*, and *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Other recent productions include *Rigoletto* (Vancouver Opera), *The Little Prince* (Pacific Opera Victoria), *Pagliacci* (Glimmerglass Festival), *Man of La Mancha* (Opera North), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Argyle Theatre), *Freaky Friday* and *Legally Blonde* (Prescott Park Arts Festival). Upcoming productions include *Orpheus and Eurydice* at Pacific Opera Victoria and *Così* at the Glimmerglass Festival.

## **Debbi Hobson, Costume Designer**

Debbi is an award winning costume designer in theatre and film for over 20 years. She is always thrilled to work with the incredible creatives and students here at MSM! This is her third time designing *Drood* at MSM and the adventure continues! Previous MSM productions include *Into the Woods*; *Nine*; and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Off Broadway Credits include Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *A Rock Opera*; *A Letter to Harvey Milk*; *A Will to Live*; and *Luft Gangster*. Regional credits include *The Cottage*; *42nd Street*; *Wind in the Willows*; *A Christmas Story*; *Holiday Inn*; and *Guys and Dolls*.

## **John Salutz, Lighting Designer**

John Salutz is a New York based lighting and sound designer whose work has been seen and heard in New York City at Ensemble Studio Theatre, Urban Stages, the York Theatre Co., Queens Theatre, the Tank, and regionally at Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Connecticut Ballet, Argyle Theatre, ACT of Connecticut, Opera North NH, Southeastern Regional Ballet Association, Centenary Stage Co., and Southeast Alabama Dance Co. John was nominated for NY Innovative Theatre Awards for *Cabaret At The End of the World* as well as the *New York Times* Critic's Pick *Red Emma and the Mad Monk*. John is a proud member of IATSE United Scenic Artists Local 829. johnsalutzdesigns.com

## **Scott Stauffer, Sound Designer**

Scott Stauffer's Manhattan School of Music design credits include *Into The Woods*, *Nine*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Paperboy*, *Sunday In the Park With George*, *Don't Stop Me*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Wild Party*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Fiorello!* On Broadway he has designed sound for productions of: *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact*, *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Off Broadway he has designed productions of: *Cat Kid Comic Club*, *A Minister's Wife*, *Bernarda*

*Alba, Third, Spitfire Grill, Elegies, Hello Again, and Hedwig and the Angry Inch.*

Regional credits include: The Argyle Theater, Merrimack Repertory Theater, the University of Michigan, Denizen Theater, Capitol Rep, Hanger Theater, Berkshire Theater Festival, Maltz Jupiter Theater, Engeman Theater, and Alley Theater. Concerts include Lincoln Center for the Performing Art's American Songbook (since 1999), Brian Stokes Mitchell and Chita Rivera at Carnegie Hall, and Actors Fund concerts of *Hair* and *On the Twentieth Century*, as well as many galas and concerts throughout Lincoln Center. As Sound Engineer, his credits include *The Lion King*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel* (1994), *Once On This Island* (1990), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (1987).

## **Bobbie Zlotnik, Wig, Hair and Makeup Designer**

Bobbie Zlotnik (he/him). Bobbie's excited to return to MSM after designing the previous production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, as well as *I Due Figaro*, *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, *The Pajama Game*, and *Into The Woods*. NYC credits; *Emojiland* (Drama Desk Nom.), *Ibsen's Ghost*, *Gene & Gilda*, *Forbidden Broadway*, and countless others. National Tours; *Here You Come Again*, *Emojiland*, *Cocomelon LIVE*, *On Your Feet* (also Ogunquit Playhouse & La Mirada). Film/TV; *The Gilded Age*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Stranger Things*, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Getting Curious With Jonathan Van Ness*. Regional Credits: Gulfshore Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Pittsburgh CLO, The Cape Playhouse, Theatre Aspen, The Ordway, Bucks County Playhouse, George Street, Sharon Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, Tuacahn, The Lex and many more. Up Next: *White Christmas* (Gulfshore Playhouse) and *A Christmas Carol* (The Lex) [www.BobbieZlotnik.com](http://www.BobbieZlotnik.com)

## **Joshua Larrinaga-Yocom, Props Supervisor**

Joshua Larrinaga-Yocom is excited to be working at MSM. Some of his memorable New York premieres include *The Humans* (Roundabout and Broadway), *The Sound Inside* (Studio 54), *Hangmen* (Atlantic Theater Co. and the Golden), *The Bedwetter*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven*, *Secret Life of Bees*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Guards at the Taj*, *Marie and Rosetta* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Letters for Max* (Signature Theatre), *Heroes of 18 the Fourth Turning*, *Corsicana*, *Tambo and Bones* (Playwrights Horizons), *Evanston* (The New Group), *Collective Rage* (MCC), *Do You Feel Anger?* (Vineyard Theatre), *Lazarus* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Mary Paige Marlow* (Second Stage), *For All the Women Who Thought They Were Mad* (SoHo Rep), *Epiphany* (Lincoln Center Theater), and *Sarah Rubl's Passion Play* (Epic). He is eternally grateful for the continued love and support of his husband Roberto.

## **Joseph Heike, Production Stage Manager**

Recent credits include Broadway: *Good Night, and Good Luck* starring George Clooney, *Lempicka*, and *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*. Off-Broadway: *Here We Are*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*. Manhattan School of Music: *She Loves Me*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

## **Shannon Marie Sullivan, Dialect Coach**

Shannon Marie Sullivan is a multi-hyphenate artist and educator splitting her time between New York City and New Orleans. As an acting and dialect coach, she has worked with productions throughout NYC and hundreds of actors across the country. Shannon is a seasoned theatre actor and has appeared on notable tv shows such as *Law & Order*, *FBI*, *The Good Wife* and more. This year, she produced her first feature film called *We Learn to See by Singing in the Dark*, a documentary about the making of the groundbreaking new opera *Sensorium Ex* by Composer Paola Prestini and Librettist/Poet Brenda Shaughnessy that explores disability, the arts, and what it means to have a voice. She is on faculty at Pace University, Acting for Film & Media. BFA: UC Santa Barbara, MFA: Yale School of Drama. [www.shannonmariesullivan.com](http://www.shannonmariesullivan.com)

## **Vincent Ortega, Associate Director**

Vincent Ortega is a director and choreographer whose work spans theater, live entertainment, and major events worldwide. Directing credits include *In The Heights* (Gateway, White Plains), *On Your Feet*, *Evita*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *The Addams Family*. His choreography has been seen in productions of *On Your Feet*, *Elf*, *Head Over Heels*, *Sister Act*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, among many others. Beyond the stage, Ortega's creative vision has brought him to high-profile projects with Nickelodeon, Disney's *Descendants Rise of Red*, the Super Bowl, MTV and collaborations with artists such as Camila Cabello, Janet Jackson, Ice Cube at London's O2, and Bad Bunny. Follow his creative journey @VinceOrtega

## **Kaitlyn Louise Smith, Associate Choreographer**

Kaitlyn Louise Smith (she/her) is ecstatic to be a part of this team and work with her mentor Liza Gennaro! Kaitlyn is a NYC professional dancer, teaching artist, and choreographer with a BFA in Musical Theatre from IU with over 10 years of experience in teaching for institutions such as Manhattan School of Music, Marymount Manhattan, New York City Center, Interlochen, the Mundy Teens, and the National Dance Institute. She is an original company member of the *Mean Girls* National Tour and a favorite role includes Tracy Turnblad,

played most recently in RCCL's inaugural production of *Hairspray*. This past year, Kaitlyn dance captained for the regional-debut of *Waitress* at the MUNY, performed in *The Little Mermaid* at Paper Mill (u/s Flounder), and made her TV and commercial choreography debut for a new pilot show on AppleTV. Love to my family, friends, Jovie, and Nick for always being there. The biggest thank you to Liza for bringing me along for this last HURRAH! @kaitlynsmitty

## **Shane Schag**, Associate Music Director

Pianist Shane Schag is a faculty member in musical theatre and related vocal studies at Manhattan School of Music. In this capacity he has served as the musical director for several shows, including *And the World Goes 'Round*, *Godspell*, *Ragtime*, and *A Little Night Music*, and original reviews such as *Moving Right Along: The Music of Jeff Blumenkrantz*, *Defying Gravity: The Magical World of Stephen Schwartz*, and *September Songs: The Musical Legacy of Kurt Weill*. He has worked as an associate conductor on *Nine* and *Cabaret* under the baton of David Loud. He has served on the faculty of OperaWorks, International Vocal Arts Institute, and the Chautauqua Opera Company. In 2017, he began a collaboration with Lisa Vroman and William Sharp on *Change the World, It Needs It: The Music of Kurt Weill and Marc Blitzstein*, which was presented at the Brevard Music Festival, DePauw University, and, most recently, University of North Carolina.

## **Aubrey Dearen**, Assistant Costume Designer

Aubrey (she/they) is excited to continue working with Manhattan School of Music. After moving to New York in 2022, she has been delighted to work with the Prospect Theatre Company, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, the Met Opera, and on *FBI: Most Wanted*, in addition to their work with Manhattan School of Music. Special thanks to my family and friends for their constant support and encouragement!

## **Audrey Wubbena**, Assistant Lighting Designer

Audrey Wubbena is a lighting assistant and designer based in New York City, and is thrilled to be joining this production. Selected assistant credits include *All Shook Up* (Goodspeed Musicals), *In the Heights* (The Muny), and *Diane Arbus: Constellations* (Park Avenue Armory). Upcoming design credit includes *The Mousetrap* at Riverside Theatre in Iowa City, and her recent Off-Broadway Production Electrician credit includes *Machinal* (Manhattan Theatre Club). She is a proud graduate of the Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts with a B.F.A. in Lighting Design. [audreywubbena.com](http://audreywubbena.com)

## **Kylie Cottrell**, Assistant Stage Manager

Kylie Cottrell is a recent graduate of SUNY Purchase College, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design & Technology. Recent credits include Broadway Bares: *Come Out, Come Out* (Hammerstein Ballroom), *All The Beauty in the World* (Daryl Roth 2 Theatre), *Macbeth* (Purchase Repertory Theater), and Caroline Shaw, Alicia Olatuja & So Percussion: *Rectangles and Circumstance* (The 92nd Street Y). She stage manages at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, where she has managed orchestras, quartets, bands, operas, dance, and festivals. She is grateful to be making her MSM debut among so many talented students and production staff. *Toi, toi, toi!*

## **Matthew Pichler**, Assistant Director

Palm Springs, California

Matthew is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops* (Performer), *Good Luck In Space* (Lt. White, u/s Heale), *Into The Woods* (Cinderella's Father, u/s Narrator, Cinderella's Prince/Wolf), Alpha Psi Omega: *12 Angry Men* (Foreman) Lab Series: *Mudville* (Ensemble, u/s Casey), *The Turning* (Swing) Disney Readings: *Newsies* (Ensemble), *Frozen* (Ensemble) @itsmatstagram

## **Julia Abad**, Assistant Music Director

São Paulo, Brazil

Julia is a junior at Manhattan School of Music. MSM productions: *Freshman Pops* (performer), *The Threepenny Opera* (Ensemble/Coaxer). Alpha Psi Omega: *Night of Color* (performer). Readings: *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Mudville* (Kate). @ju\_abad



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# MSM MUSICAL THEATRE

Manhattan School of Music, with its more than 100 years of excellence and its location in New York City, a veritable hub of musical theatre, is an ideal institution for a world-class musical theatre program. Today's contemporary musical theatre is exploding with fresh ideas, possibilities, and opportunities. While acting, voice, and dance remain the cornerstones of musical theatre training, contemporary performers must also be trained beyond the "triple threat" model. Now more than ever multifaceted musical theatre artists are in demand. Virtual musicals and online content, devised practice workshops and dance labs require performers to be creative contributors to project development. In addition to learning the essential skills—singing, dancing, and acting—MSM Musical Theatre students are encouraged to develop their artistic interests and are given the opportunity to investigate areas beyond performing, including directing, choreographing, writing, and composing.

The MSM Musical Theatre faculty is a stellar collection of artist-educators who combine exemplary teaching skills with the highest level of professional know-how. We embrace individuality and honor each student's journey. At MSM we are passionate about the arts and the next generation of musical theatre artists.

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Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 8 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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