

PEAK
PERFORMANCES

THE 18/19 SEASON
THE HEIGHTS OF IMAGINATION

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

The Mystery of Edwin Drood



December 5–9, 2018

L. Howard Fox Theatre

**Large
Print**



**MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
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
Jon Robert Cart, Director Randy Mugleston, Chair

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Book by **Rupert Holmes**
Music & Lyrics by **Rupert Holmes**

Director **Mark Hardy**
Music Director **Nicholas Place**
Conductor **Gregory J. Dlugos**
Choreographer **Bryan Knowlton**
Scenic Designer **Shoko Kambara**
Costume Designer **Courtney Smith**
Lighting Designer **Aiden Mitchell**
Sound Designer **Laurie Pavero**
Hair/Makeup Designer **Christen Donlon**
Production Stage Manager **Katherine Miller**

Cast (in order of appearance)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chairman/Sapsea | Thomas Beebe |
| Stage Manager | Ben Daniel |
| John Jasper | Danny LeMache |
| Edwin Drood/Dick Datchery | Juliana Chimenti |
| Rosa Bud | Hannah Nye |
| Helena Landless | Adriana Negron |
| Neville Landless | Jeremy Lipton |

Reverend Crisparkle **Danny Waldman**
Princess Puffer **Maddison Albregts**
Durdles **Anthony DaSilva**
Deputy **Nathan Lightfoot**
Flo **Crystal Wright**
Horace **Jonathan Duvelson**
Bazzard **Logan Risser**

Ensemble **Daniel Grest, Najah Hetsberger, Gabriel Kearns, Anna Langlois,
Caroline Quinn, Vanessa Tarabocchia, Jason Yanto**
Swing **Mo DeGreen**

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark.
www.tamswitmark.com

Special thanks to the Department of Theatre, Film, Dance and Arts Management for the School of Visual and Performing Arts at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University; Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University; Bloomsberg University; Bloomsberg Theatre Ensemble.

NAMT | NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE Montclair State University is a proud member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

Duration: 2 hours 20 minutes, 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

Prologue

“There You Are” Chairman, Company

Act 1

“A Man Could Go Quite Mad” Jasper

“Two Kinsmen” Drood & Jasper

“Moonfall” Rosa

“The Wages of Sin” Princess Puffer

“Jasper’s Vision” Jasper, Ensemble

“Ceylon” Helena, Neville, Drood, Ensemble

“A British Subject” Helena, Neville, Drood, Rosa, Crisparkle, Ensemble

“Both Sides of the Coin” Jasper, Chairman, Ensemble

“Perfect Strangers” Drood, Rosa

“No Good Can Come From Bad” Neville, Rosa, Helena, Drood, Crisparkle,
Jasper, Bazzard

“Never the Luck” Bazzard, Ensemble

“Off to the Races” Chairman, Durdles, Deputy, Company

~~Intermission~~

Act 2

Entr’acte Orchestra

“A Private Investigation” Princess Puffer, Dick Datchery, Company

“The Name of Love”/“Moonfall” (Reprise) Rosa, Jasper, Company

“Don’t Quit While You’re Ahead” Puffer, Company

“A British Subject” (Reprise)/“Don’t Quit While You’re Ahead” (Reprise) Chairman,
Suspects

“The Garden Path to Hell” Princess Puffer

“Puffer’s Revelation” Princess Puffer

“Out on a Limerick” Helena, or Bazzard, or Neville, or Crisparkle, or Rosa

It is a bastard child of mixed parentage: raucous, tuneful English music hall (one of the motliest hodge-podges in theater history); vaudeville, the music hall's younger, brash American cousin; "whodunit" detective plays; British pantomimes (or "pantos"—a wild and irreverent form filled with satire, spoof, music, and frequent cross-dressing); operetta, particularly that of Gilbert and Sullivan; overwrought Victorian melodrama; and that love child of performance forms, the American musical. *Drood* made a big splash when it opened on Broadway in 1985 following a dazzling run at the The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival's Delacorte Theater in Central Park, winning five Tony Awards, including best musical, best book, and best original score. It also won a slew of Drama Desk Awards.

Drood has the distinction of being the only modern musical with a score, book, lyrics, and orchestrations created by the same person. He is Rupert Holmes, the creative Renaissance man perhaps best known to the general public for writing and recording the pop hit "The Piña Colada Song." His remarkably diverse career as a writer and composer spans theater, television, pop music, and film. One of *Drood's* most delightful innovations is that it was the first musical written with multiple endings: three major plot points are decided through popular vote by the audience, including the identity of the murderer, and the cast makes another pivotal choice regarding the fate of Edwin Drood. This means that the cast, crew, and orchestra must learn a myriad of multiple endings. While some productions conveniently rig the results, here we solemnly vow that in our MSU production the voting is absolutely legitimate, and all decisions on these vital points are made in real time before your very eyes.

As with most of his novels, Charles Dickens was publishing *Drood* episodically as he wrote it, when he suddenly died in 1870. Over the past century and a half, neither his own son nor subsequent Dickens scholars have been able to complete the novel satisfactorily. Now is your chance. Pay careful attention and vigorously exercise your sacred right to vote with the confidence of your convictions. Never has there been a moment when your vote mattered more—both inside the humble Music Hall Royale of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as well as far outside its down-market London walls.

—Mark Hardy, Director

Production Biographies

Mark Hardy (Director) is delighted to be working on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* with this talented cast, creative team, and crew. An associate professor teaching acting and musical theatre performance in the Musical Theatre BFA program at MSU, he has directed *Twelfth Night*, *West Side Story*, *Triumph of Love*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Take Flight*, *The Wild Party*, and *City of Angels* here. Recent directing credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hairspray* for the Mac-Haydn Theatre; *The Graduate*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Music Man* at Forestburgh Playhouse; and *Carousel* for The Carnegie in Cincinnati, OH. He won a League of Cincinnati Theatres Award for his direction of the Alice Childress play *Trouble in Mind* and an Acclaim Award for directing *The Women*. Other notable directing credits include *On the Town*, *Loot*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Titanic*. A professional actor for many years, Hardy appeared on Broadway in *Les Misérables*, *Titanic*, and *Children and Art* (Sondheim 75th birthday tribute) and in the national tours of *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, and *Les Misérables*. Off-Broadway credits include *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center, *Juba* at the Vineyard, *Helluva Town* at Rainbow and Stars, and the acclaimed revival of *The Rothschilds* at Circle in the Square Downtown. Recent performance credits include Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, Emile in *South Pacific*, and Dan in the regional premiere of *Next to Normal*. Other regional credits include roles for Denver Center Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, GeVa, Long Wharf, and Houston Grand Opera. He played Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival in Romania. Hardy has worked across the US and Canada as a guest artist with numerous symphonies and performing arts series. His international teaching has taken him to England, Greece, China, Romania, and Croatia.

Nicholas Place (Music Director) has performed throughout the United States as a collaborative pianist and music director in both musical theater and opera. From 2013 to 2015 he held the position of pianist/music director for the Artists-in-Residence program at Pensacola Opera where he was also involved in main-stage productions as assistant conductor and chorus master. Currently,

Place is adjunct faculty and pianist/vocal coach at Rider University and Marymount Manhattan College. Music Director credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Last Five Years*; *Merrily We Roll Along*; *Heathers: The Musical*; *Anything Goes*; *The Who's Tommy*; *Rock of Ages*; *A Man of No Importance*; *Cinderella*; and *The Medium*. Assistant credits include *Little Women* (opera), *La Bohème* (chorus master), and *The Pirates of Penzance* (chorus master).

Gregory J. Dlugos (Conductor) has worked as a professional musician in New York City for most of his adult life. He is currently music supervisor of the Musical Theatre program at MSU, where his most recent credits include *Anything Goes* and *A White House Cantata*. This past summer Dlugos was one of nine conductors in the world premiere of John Luther Adams's *In the Name of the Earth* at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival. He, also this summer, was music director and conductor for *Pamela's First Musical* by Cy Coleman at the Two River Theater in Red Bank, NJ. Dlugos conducts MSU Encore for the Musical Theatre program in the Department of Theatre and Dance and teaches conducting in the John J. Cali School of Music.

Bryan Knowlton (Choreographer) has had an extensive performing career, from dancing on Broadway, in multiple national tours, film, and television to earning multiple Helen Hayes nominations including Outstanding Lead Actor, as well as collaborating with artists ranging from Meryl Streep, Sally Struthers, and Savion Glover to Mario Lopez on *Dancing with the Stars*. He is an award-winning choreographer with credits that include *Cabaret* (New Hampshire Theatre Award—Best Choreographer, OnStage Theatre Award nomination—Best Choreography), *Curtains* (BroadwayWorld Award nomination—Best Choreography), *Gypsy* (New Hampshire Theatre Award nomination—Best Choreographer), *Saturday Night Fever* (SALT Award nomination—Best Choreography), *Ghost*, *The Addams Family*, *High Society*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Urinetown*, *Hairspray*, *Rent*, *Godspell*, *Guys And Dolls*, *9 To 5*, *Chicago!*, *Oliver!*, *West Side Story*, and *Mamma Mia*.

Shoko Kambara (Scenic Designer) previously designed *Carrie: The Musical* at MSU. Recent work includes *Holiday Inn* (Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival [FLMTF]—SALT Award nomination), *Chicago* (Hangar Theatre—SALT Award nomination), *Next to Normal* (Syracuse Stage—SALT Award nomination), *Always Patsy Cline* (FLMTF), *Guys and Dolls* (FLMTF—SALT Award nomination), *The Prince of Players*

(Houston Grand Opera—world premiere, Florentine Opera), *The Barber of Seville* (Opera Philadelphia, Opera Theatre of St. Louis—St. Louis Theater Circle Award for Outstanding Set Design, Opera Omaha, Virginia Opera), *The Turn of the Screw* (Syracuse Stage), *The Bomb-itty of Errors* (Syracuse Stage), *Don Pasquale* (Juilliard School), *The Little Mermaid* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (national tour, Worklight Productions), *Animals Out of Paper* (Hudson Stage Company), and *Shining City* (Nevada Conservatory Theatre). Broadway associate design work includes *Macbeth*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *Man and Boy*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Ragtime*, and *33 Variations*. Other Broadway assistant work includes *Beautiful*, *Follies*, *Grease*, *Lestat*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Pajama Game*, *Little Women*, *I Am My Own Wife*, and *The Look of Love*.

Courtney Smith (Costume Designer) is a graduating senior at Montclair State University majoring in BFA Theatre Production/Design with a concentration in costume and hair and makeup design. *The Mystery of Ewin Drood* will be Smith's last costume design at MSU before graduating and starting the next chapter of her life. Other credits include hair and makeup design for *Anything Goes* last spring.

Aiden Mitchell (Lighting Designer) is excited to present his first lighting design at Montclair State University. He is a senior BFA Theatre Production/Design major from East Brunswick, NJ. For the past two summers, he has worked at Plays in the Park in Edison, NJ, as an assistant lighting designer and programmer. Other works of his include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (2018), *In the Red and Brown Water* (2018), and Ami Brabson's *Phenomenal Women* (2018).

Laurie Pavero (Sound Designer) is a senior at Montclair State University working towards a BFA in Theatre Production/Design with a concentration in audio. *Drood* is her debut sound design in the Department of Theater and Dance at MSU. In addition to audio, she has worked in various areas such as scenic carpentry and projections design. Favorite past credits include *In the Red and Brown Water* (assistant projections designer, MSU), *Small Town Story* (sound designer, world premiere, American Theater Group), and *Choc-A-Fellas* and *Character Commotion!* (audio engineer, stage manager, Hersheypark). Last summer, Pavero worked as a set designer at Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp and is ecstatic to return in 2019.

Christen Donlon (Hair/Makeup Designer) is a senior working towards her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in production/design focusing in hair and makeup design and props. Previous hair and makeup design credits include *Company* and assistant design for *Michigan Murders*.

Katherine Miller (Production Stage Manager) is a junior majoring in Theatre Production/Design with a concentration in stage management. Previous MSU credit includes *A White House Cantata*.

Cast Biographies

Maddison Albregts (Princess Puffer) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre student at MSU. She was last seen as Flavia in *Mad Forest* as well as Norma in *Carrie* and a featured ensemble member in *The Producers*.

Thomas Beebe (Chairman/Sapsea) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major. Beebe was last seen as William Barfée in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* in the L. Howard Fox Theatre and as Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and the Purser in *Anything Goes* at the Alexander Kasser Theater. He has worked at several regional houses across Connecticut. Beebe is also a teaching artist and director in the Education Department at Hartford Stage.

Juliana Chimenti (Edwin Drood/Dick Datchery) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major and is making her L. Howard Fox Theatre debut. Previous roles include Sue Snell in *Carrie*, Crissy in *Hair*, and Ilse in *Spring Awakening*. She recently performed as a singer/dancer swing for RWS Entertainment Group in Indiana this summer. She is also in the process of recording an original cast album for the musical *Goblins & Gates*, a musical workshopped at MSU last spring in which she played the role of Wendy.

Ben Daniel (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major and excited to be a part of his second MSU production. Daniel has been doing shows since the age of 12. He won the National Youth Art award for playing Carl Hanratty (*Catch Me If You Can*). Daniel looks forward to his future years at MSU.

Anthony DaSilva (Durdles) is currently a sophomore in the BFA Musical Theatre program. Last semester, he was a part of *Goblins & Gates* as Wulfsbane/David. He recently returned from a summer contract at the Woodstock Playhouse, where he was given the opportunity to be in *Damn Yankees* (Rocky, Dance Captain), *The Music Man* (Constable, Conductor), and *La Cage aux Folles* (Hanna, Tap Captain).

Mo DeGreen (Swing) is starting out her junior year theater career in a way she never expected she would get the pleasure to, by joining the cast as a swing! She most recently was seen in *A White House Cantata* as Julia Grant and William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* as the sauciest wench in Illyria, Maria.

Daniel Grest (Ensemble) is a junior Musical Theatre major originally from Florida. He has been in *West Side Story*, *Goblins & Gates*, and *A White House Cantata* at MSU.

Najah Hetsberger (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major. This is her second show at MSU. Previously, she played the role of Rachel in *A White House Cantata*.

Gabriel Kearns (Ensemble) is a senior from Houston, TX. He is a BFA Musical Theatre major at MSU who has appeared in previous shows such as *West Side Story*, *Anything Goes*, *Aida*, and *The Producers*.

Anna Langlois (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her debut in L. Howard Fox Theatre as part of the Ensemble in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Previous credits include Maria in *West Side Story*, Angel (Chastity) in *Anything Goes*, Tabby/Calliope in the new musical *Goblins Gates*, Nina in *In the Heights*, and Maggie in *A Chorus Line*.

Danny LeMache (John Jasper) is a south-Florida native who currently resides in Montclair, NJ. He is a third-year student in the BFA Musical Theatre program at MSU, and this is his fifth main-stage production. Previous credits include Juan Peròn in *Evita*, Joey Storms in *Fly by Night* (Southern Colorado Rep), Ritchie Valens in *The Night the Music Died*, Lt. Buzz Adams in *South Pacific* (Texas Family Musicals), and Tommy Ross in *Carrie* (Memorial Auditorium).

Nathan Lightfoot (Deputy) is a sophomore in the BFA Musical Theatre 2021 class. He is thrilled to be part of his second production at MSU, having previously been part of the ensemble in *Anything Goes*. He wants to thank you for supporting live theater.

Jeremy Lipton (Neville Landless) is a senior Musical Theatre major at MSU. Past credits include National Tour: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Educational Productions: *West Side Story*, *Anything Goes*, *The Producers*, *Urinetown*, *Rent*, *Grease*, and many more. Film credits include *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *Pirate Boy*. Readings/staged readings include *The Prize Guys* and *The Greatest Student Council Ever*. Voiceover credits include *The Magic Coat*, *ESL*.

Adriana Negron (Helena Landless) is a senior Musical Theatre major at MSU. Some of her favorite credits include *West Side Story* (Anita) at SummerStage in Leonia, featuring original choreography; *Anything Goes* (Dance Captain and Ensemble); and *The Producers* (Shirley Markowitz), also featuring original choreography. Negron has been training in dance for several years, studying all styles from pointe to jazz. She is also currently training with MSU's Dance Department, focusing on modern technique.

Hannah Nye (Rosa Bud) is a senior Musical Theatre major. She has participated in *Sing for Your Supper*, *Company*, *Anything Goes*, and the Montclair State University Singers. Nye has also spent summers working with The Barnstormers, Mayo Performing Arts Center, and Advice to the Players on *Spamalot*, *The Producers*, *West Side Story*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Caroline Quinn (Ensemble) is currently a sophomore at MSU as a BFA Musical Theatre major. Previous roles include Roxie understudy/Six/Ensemble (B'ToP), Fiona in *Shrek* (Walnut Street Theatre), Jo March in *Little Women* (Wilmington Drama League), and others. Solo vocal performances at Carnegie Hall, U.S. Naval Observatory, and more. She received dance training at the Rock School, BDC, and Carnegie Mellon University.

Logan Risser (Bazzard) is originally from Los Angeles, CA, and is a current sophomore at MSU. *Drood* is his second production at the university. Other credits include *Newsies* (Henry/Crutchie understudy), *La Cage aux Folles* (Odette), *Showboat* (Ensemble), *Evita* (Ensemble), and *Anything Goes* (Sailor/Sailor Quartet).

Crystal Wright (Flo) is currently working towards a BFA Musical Theatre at MSU and is excited to make her debut in the L. Howard Fox Theatre. She was seen last spring

in *Anything Goes* at the university and has originated her second role as Danielle in the pilot production of *Bring It On Jr.*

Jason Yanto (Ensemble) is currently a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major at MSU and is excited to make his L. Howard Fox Theatre debut. He was most recently seen as John in *Anything Goes* (Alexander Kasser Theater) and Randall in the pilot production of *Bring It On Jr.* (Hamilton Stage).

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