VILLANOVA THEATRE PRESENTS
February 15th - February 25th, 2024
CRAZY FOR YOU
Our Community Agreements

We welcome and celebrate audiences of all ages, abilities, body types, gender identities, economic backgrounds, ethnicities, immigration statuses, races, religious beliefs, sexualities and overall ways of being human. Without exception.

We Agree:

To treat everyone - including performers, audience members, crew, staff and volunteers - with respect, whether in the audience, on stage, behind the stage, at the concession stand or at the front door.

To laugh when we find something humorous, cry when we are moved to tears and affirm feeling vulnerable.

To create and maintain a space that is open, honest and real.

To celebrate one another and to provide encouragement.

To endeavor to provide appropriate content advisories for our audiences.

To reject and speak out against any discrimination, demeaning behavior or harassment against any of our community members. This includes, but is not limited to ageist, ableist, classist, homophobic, nativist, racist, religist, sexist or transphobic language.

For more information, please visit villanovatheatre.org/community-agreements.
About Villanova University

Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University’s six colleges – the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University School of Law. As students grow intellectually, Villanova prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

In Gratitude

The faculty, staff and students of Villanova Theatre extend sincere gratitude to those generous benefactors who have established endowed funds in support of our efforts:

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For information about how you can support the Theatre Department, please contact Heather Potts, Associate Vice President, Development, at 610-519-4583.
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This list is updated as of February 9th, 2024. Gifts of $25 and above are acknowledged in the program. If your name has been misprinted or omitted, or if you are interested in supporting Villanova Theatre, please contact: Kimberly Reilly, Director of Marketing & Public Relations at (610) 519 - 7454.
Welcome to this performance of
Crazy for You
in the Topper Theatre at the John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts

MULLEN CENTER
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

The Mullen Center would love to hear about your experience at this event! Please Scan the QR Code to complete a brief survey. Thank you!

Villanova Theatre ticket buyers are entitled to 10% off at the Refectory. Just bring your ticket!

Join the Department of Theatre Group for Alumni & Students on Nova Network!

Expand your collaborative and professional network by joining your fellow theatre artists, practitioners, scholars, administrators and appreciators! Help students & alumni by sharing connections and anecdotes from your own experience in the industry and beyond. Whether you are a grad program alum, a theatre minor, or participated in Villanova Student Theatre or Villanova Student Musical Theatre, we want to connect with you!
Villanova Theatre Presents

CRAZY FOR YOU
Music and Lyrics by George & Ira Gershwin
Book by Ken Ludwig
Co-conception by Ken Ludwig & Mike Ockrent

Scenic Designer COLIN MCILVAINE
Lighting Designer J. DOMINIC CHACON
Choreographer KEVIN DIETZLER
Production Dramaturg BRANDON HUNTER SMITH

Costume Designer JANUS STEFANOWICZ
Sound Designer DAMIEN FIGUERAS
Properties Designer ELIZABETH MEISENZAHL
Stage Manager EILEEN DEISEMANN

Music Director PETER A. HILLIARD

Directed by REV. PETER M. DONOHUE, OSA, PHD

February 15th - February 25th, 2024
In the Topper Theatre

Crazy for You is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC www.concordtheatricals.com

Inspired by Material by Guy Bolton and John McGowan
Originally produced on Broadway by Roger Horchow and Elizabeth Williams
Original Broadway Choreography by Susan Stroman
**CRAZY FOR YOU CAST**

Bobby Child.................................................................Ryan Skerchak  
Bela Zangler.................................................................Nathan Tremontozzi  
Lank Hawkins.............................................................Nic Ecker  
Polly Baker.......................................................................Meghan Dietzler  
Everett Baker.......................................................................Nate Irwin-Diehl  
Irene Roth...........................................................................Noelle Diane Johnson  
Eugene Fodor.....................................................................David Burgess  
Patricia Fodor.....................................................................Theresa Gardner  
Mrs. Lottie Child............................................................Erin Coffman  
Perkins/Billie......................................................................Kaitlin Gibson  
Chauffer/Jimmy....................................................................Josh Maurkiewicz  
Tess....................................................................................Sara Buscaglia  
Patsy..................................................................................Sydney Hughes  
Mitzi.................................................................................Grace Acquilano  
Elaine................................................................................Maura Ricci  
Louise................................................................................Madison Romano  
Susie..................................................................................Dory Scott  
Betsy................................................................................Katie Turbosa  
Margie...............................................................................Ava Petrosky  
Vera..................................................................................Christina Kelly  
Moose................................................................................Jack Amend  
Sam....................................................................................Cole Joyce  
Mingo.................................................................................Aleko Zeppos  
Harry...............................................................................John Orndorff  
Wyatt................................................................................Blaise Watson  
Custus...............................................................................Nick DeMatteo  
Junior................................................................................Jack McGinniss  
Joe.....................................................................................Connor Sternberg

**CRAZY FOR YOU PRODUCTION STAFF**

Assistant Choregrapher......................................................Mallory Rieger  
Assistant Stage Managers........................................Cas Corum, Emily Mosset  
Assistants to the Costume Designer..........................Dory Scott, Eve Windbiel  
ASM Consultant..............................................................John Flak  
Community Care Liaison............................................Rachel O’Hanlon-Rodriguez  
Education Dramaturg.......................................................Emma Drennen  
Education Dramaturgy Consultant..........................Cristy Chory  
Fight Choregrapher............................................................Ian Rose  
Intimacy Choreographer..................................................Leo Mock  
Lead Electrician.................................................................Michael Hamlet  
Scenic Charge.................................................................Claire Leitner  
Spotlight Operators.........................................................Syd Curran, Emma Drennen  
Wig Designer.....................................................................Bridget Brennan
Light Board Operator.................................................................Abigail Johnson
Sound Board Operators..............................................................................Julianna Bibbo,
Chris Puente-Duany, Emmemline Morgens
Fly Rail Captain.........................................................................................Joseph Tribble
Additional Running Crew...............................................................................Matt Tomlinson
Wardrobe Managers...........................................................................................................
Julia Amendola, Carolyn Connolly,
Bella Lussi, Maria MacDonald, Mimi Norman,
Lily Nguyen, Arianna Prior
Costume Shop First Hands..........................................................Morgan Porter, Asaki Kuruma
Costume Shop Technicians.........................................................Sara Buscaglia, Sammy Geshel,
Noelle Diane Johnson, Phoebe Keyser,
Abby Little, Emily Mosset, Dory Scott,
Ally Szabo, Eve Windbiel
Scenery & Properties Shop Crew ............................................................Justin Badoyen, Max Cabral,
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Sydney Hughes, Zainab Warda Jeffrey,
Abigail Johnson, Tess Matthewson, Elizabeth Meisenzahl, John Orndorff,
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Nathan Trementozzi, Celia Wusteney, Natalie Zickel
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Marketing & PR Assistants........................................................................Grace Acquilano, Sara Buscaglia
Production Manager Assistant........................................................................Emma Drennen

**PIT ORCHESTRA**

Conductor.................................................................Peter A. Hilliard
Reeds........................................................................Stirling Bowlick and John Frazier
Kaj Hansen, Will Mullen, and Tom Whitney
Trumpets........................................................................Andrew Hoesl and Bob Wagner
Trombones....................................................................Sean McCusker and Chris Mele
Horns........................................................................Ben Mulholland and Ellie O’Hare
Violins................................................................................Phil Watts and Juan Yanez
Cello.......................................................................................................................Ezgi Yargici
Drums...........................................................................................................Jerry Tanenbaum
Percussion.........................................................................................................Andy Thierauf
Bass.....................................................................................................................Dan McCain
Guitar.....................................................................................................................Tom Zaneski
Keyboard...........................................................................................................Chris Burcheri
CRAZY FOR YOU

SETTING:
Zangler’s Theatre, New York, NY, 1930s
Lank’s Saloon and The Gaiety Theatre, Deadrock, NV, 1930s

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

K-ra-zy for You.................................................................Bobby
I Can’t Be Bothered Now...............................................Bobby and Follies
Bidin’ My Time............................................................Cowboy Trio and Cowboys
Things Are Looking Up...............................................Bobby
Could You Use Me?......................................................Bobby and Polly
Shall We Dance?..........................................................Bobby and Polly
Girls Enter Nevada.......................................................Follies and Chorus
Someone to Watch Over Me.......................................Polly
Slap That Bass.......................................................Bobby, Jimmy, Patsy, Tess and Chorus
Embraceable You..........................................................Polly and Bobby
Tonight’s the Night.........................................................Chorus
I Got Rhythm...............................................................Polly and Chorus

ACT II

The Real American Folk Song.................................Cowboy Trio and Chorus
What Causes That?......................................................Bobby and Zangler
Naughty Baby.............................................................Irene, Lank, and Cowboy Quartet
Stiff Upper Lip..........................................................Eugene, Patricia, Bobby, Polly, and Chorus
They Can’t Take That Away From Me............................Bobby
But Not For Me..............................................................Polly
But Not For Me (Reprise)..............................................Polly
Nice Work If You Can Get It......................................Bobby, Patsy, Mitzi, Susie, and Louise
Bidin’ My Time (French Reprise).................................Cowboy Trio
Things Are Looking Up (Reprise)...............................Everett
Finale...............................................................................Chorus

Special Thanks
Marianne M. and Charles P. Connolly Jr. ’70
John Hilliard
Joe Daniels, Flannel & Hammer
Avista Custom Theatricals
At Villanova Theatre, we take time to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called “Lenapehoking.” We thank the Lenni-Lenape People who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.

The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nations offers the following language to those who seek to honor their people and their territory preceding an event in Lenapehoking:

The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many of the Lenape People were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the great Lenape Chief Tamanend’s aspirations that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon and stars shine.”

We pay respect to the first peoples of these regions past, present and future and to their continuing presence in their homeland and throughout their diasporas.

A Note From Production Dramaturg
Brandon Hunter Smith

Opening the Libretto

Villanova Theatre is proud to welcome you to our production of Crazy for You, the 1992 Tony Award-winner for Best Musical, written by Ken Ludwig with songs by George and Ira Gershwin.

The hilarious script, featuring physical comedy, love triangles and many of the Gershwins’ greatest hits, gives our students the opportunity to share this story of how the magic of making theatre brings us together. Who could ask for anything more?

When I first read the script, I thought this show was a riot. While never having written a musical before, Ken Ludwig is an extraordinary playwright, and his witty jokes, comedic timing and passion for theatre come through in the script. I couldn’t wait to get into the rehearsal space to watch it come alive. I had heard George Gershwin’s music through his piano and orchestral compositions, such as Rhapsody in Blue, but had never sat down and listened to any of George and his brother Ira’s collaborations until this process.

For auditions, actors were asked to bring in a Gershwin song, and everyone prepared and presented great selections; but just because the material was there, I didn’t have the full history behind why these songs were so influential, and why, a hundred years later, we still produce the Gershwins’ work. As production dramaturg, it was my job to educate and enlighten the cast about their legacy, journey and heart.

But how? It seemed clear to me that I needed to start from when George and Ira began to write together, and that this would help me find a way to make their impact on both the music industry and theatre canon relatable to this new generation.
Music in Motion

At an early Crazy for You rehearsal, I traced the Gershwin legacy through popular music, showing how their Jazz-Era songs have earned their place in pop music history and continue to impact contemporary artists and audiences. “Summertime” from the 1935 opera Porgy and Bess — written with author DuBose Heyward, and based on his earlier work — was a good starting point:

Summertime
And the livin’ is easy
Fish are jumpin’
And the cotton is high
Oh, your daddy’s rich
And your ma is good-lookin’
So hush, little baby
Don’t you cry

After Porgy and Bess debuted, record labels were eager to have their artists record its most popular songs. In 1936, the first successful recording of “Summertime” was released by Billie Holiday, whose cover version became one of the best-known renditions at the time. Between the 1940s and 1950s, jazz standards grew in popularity and continued to be heard in people’s homes, played on record players and broadcast by radio stations. Sam Cooke recorded “Summertime” in 1957, a version that reflects that era’s growing soul music movement; a decade later, Janis Joplin recorded her wailing, electrified cover with her band Big Brother and the Holding Company for their album Cheap Thrills.

In 1997, the band Sublime sampled Joplin’s “Summertime” and created their own rendition called “Doin’ Time.” Then, in 2019, Lana Del Rey, a favorite on pop music industry charts (and, of course, my own personal playlist), released her own rendition of Sublime’s “Doin’ Time” on her Grammy-nominated album Norman F***ing Rockwell!. Over the progression of time, I was able to pinpoint how just one song took its journey from a Gershwin opera to a present-day pop hit, and to show our cast how tangible their influence remains even today.
George and Ira Gershwin were born in New York City – Ira in 1896 and George in 1898. Ira was the quiet, reserved brother whose time was mostly occupied with reading poetry and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. His younger brother George, meanwhile, often came home late from skipping school. When their parents bought a piano, intending it for Ira, George began to play instead, amazing everyone with his virtuosity.

George soon practiced constantly, inspired by the sounds of Claude Debussy, Frédéric Chopin and Scott Joplin. He dropped out of high school and became a song plugger – someone who performed the latest music in stores and public venues to sell sheet music – making only $15 a week. Through this work he became an accompanist for new musicals by Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin.

Meanwhile, Ira wrote freelance theatre reviews while working for his uncle. Ira’s interest was piqued when he began to review shows for which George was an accompanist, and the two brothers soon joined forces to write their own songs and shows. George and Ira made music from 1918 until 1936, creating shows for the Broadway stage and generating some of the most influential jazz standards of the time.

In 1930, the Gershwins wrote *Girl Crazy* with playwrights Guy Bolton and John McGowan. The show follows the story of playboy Danny Churchill when he is sent out to Arizona to turn his life around from alcohol and women. But instead, Danny turns the town’s failing dude ranch around by bringing in showgirls and hiring entertainer Kate Forthergrill, a role originated by Ethel Merman.

In the midst of turning the town into a hit revue, Danny falls in love with the local postmistress, Molly Gray, a role originated by Ginger Rogers. This musical became a star vehicle and launchpad for both Merman and Rogers, and also provided the basis for the 1943 musical film adaptation, starring Judy Garland as Molly Gray and Mickey Rooney as Danny Churchill.
In 1991, Ken Ludwig was commissioned by producer Roger Horchow to write a musical with all of the Gershwin’s best songs. Ludwig, having never written a musical before, was unsure why he should be considered. But he thought to himself, “Who would pass on this opportunity?” and got to writing immediately after. He read the libretto for *Girl Crazy* and gave the script a fresh take, writing a fully integrated story loosely inspired by the original 1930s show.

Ludwig built the plot around Horchow’s rights to the entire Gershwin catalogue, and with choreographer Susan Stroman assembled a score from songs used in *Girl Crazy* as well as in various other Gershwin shows: *Ladies First* (1918), *Primrose* (1924), *Oh, Kay!* (1926), *Shall We Dance?* (1937), and *A Damsel in Distress* (1937).

**Closing Thoughts**

And here we are once again, hearing and loving these songs just as much as George and Ira loved writing them. In *Crazy for You*, the legacy of the Gershwins comes alive on stage in full force, in full heart and in full joy!
GRACE ACQUILANO (Mitzi) (she/her) is a first-year MA in Theatre student and the full-time Marketing/PR graduate assistant. She graduated summa cum laude from College of the Holy Cross with a BA in Theatre and English. During her time there, she served as the Chair of Production for Alternate College Theatre and tap danced in the Holy Cross Dance Ensemble. Last year, she participated in the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World Resort. She has spent the past three summers working at the St. George Theatre in Staten Island, NY as a teaching assistant for their Summer Outreach Program focused in youth performing arts. Favorite credits include She Loves Me (Ilona Ritter), Cabaret (Fräulein Kost), Our Town (Mrs. Soames), Anything Goes (Bonnie), and Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella (Cinderella).

JACK AMEND (Moose) (he/him) makes his Villanova Theatre debut with Crazy For You. Previous credits include Crazy for You (Bobby), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Joseph), Shrek (Lord Farquaad), Hairspray (Fender) and Chicago. Jack serves on the Board of Directors for Narberth Community Theatre and was recently the Assistant Director for their production of Oliver! He earned his BS in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from Elon University and his MS in Computational Data Science from Temple University. At Elon University, he was the Founding President of the Elon Society of Computing and the Captain of Elon’s competitive programming team.

SARA BUSCAGLIA (Tess) (she/her) is a second-year graduate theatre student and tuition scholar working in the Costume and Marketing/PR departments at Villanova Theatre. During her time at Villanova, she completed her acting thesis as Minnie/Rose in Posterity. She’s also played Nurse/Mrs./Elaine in Sunday in the Park with George and Hall in Men on Boats. Sara is a 2022 graduate of Saint Joseph’s University where she earned her BA in Musical Theatre and English with a minor in Communications Studies. During her time there she performed and choreographed for the SJU Theatre Company most notably as Susan in Company and as choreographer of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Sara is also a dance teacher and choreographer.

DAVID M. BURGESS (Eugene Fodor) (he/him) is a singer, actor, technician, designer and former drag queen who received his MA in Theater from Villanova in 2021. Recent credits include Madame in The Kammerspiel’s production of The Maids, Christopher Belling in Curtains at Villanova Theatre, C. S. Lewis in Freud’s Last Session and Arthur Conan Doyle in Red Letter Locker with Beacon Theatre Productions. For 12 years, David performed in a Philadelphia-based comedic drag troupe, The Dumpsta Players, as his alter ego Amanda Playwythe, where he made many wacky costumes and styled dozens of hair pieces. David now makes clothes under his own brand, Amanda Playwythe, which can be found on Etsy. He also studies accents and dialects and hopes to become a dialect coach in the future.

ERIN ALLISON COFFMAN (Mrs. Lottie Child) (she/her) is an actor, director, and theatre educator located in the Philadelphia region. Erin graduated from Washington College with a B.A. in Theatre in 2017, and in her time there was a recipient of the Stewart Theatre Award and a two-time recipient of the Mary Martin Grant. She graduated from Villanova in 2022 with her Master’s in Theatre. She has recently worked with fellow Villanova Theatre alumna Sharese Salters on a reading of her play Wise Blood. Erin can be seen next in the Peer Players Theatre Company production of The Angry Grammarian at Theatre Exile in March.

NICK DEMATTEO (Custus) is a second-year Media Production major with a minor in Theatre at West Chester University making his Villanova Theatre debut. Most recently, he played Bill Calhoun in Kiss Me Kate at West Chester. He was also in the ensemble of West Chester University’s production of Spring Awakening. His favorite high school credits include Raoul in The Phantom of the Opera and Nick Bottom in Something Rotten.

NATE IRWIN-DIEHL (Everett Baker) (he/him) is a part-time, third-year MA in Theatre student who previously appeared on the Villanova Theatre stage as Jules/Redmond in Sunday in the Park with George and as Oscar in Curtains. Favorite credits include Oklahoma! (Curly), Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour), and The Pirates of Penzance (Major General). Director: Annie, Jr.; Guys and Dolls, Jr.; Into the Woods, Jr.; Rodgers & Hammerstein’s The King and I; Youth Edition; Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella; and as choreographer of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Nate graduated summa cum laude from College of the Holy Cross in 2022 and now works as the Associate Director for Peer Ministry in Villanova’s Office of Mission & Ministry. She previously performed in Curtains (Niki Harris), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Helena), Songs for a New World, and SlapHappy: A Covid-Era Commedia.
Meghan received an MA in Theology and Ministry from Villanova in 2023. She is now pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Practical Theatre at VU. She has performed at The Kennedy Center, Catholic University, Walt Disney World, and various venues throughout Philadelphia, most notably at her beloved Upper Darby Summer Stage. Favorite credits outside of Villanova include *42nd Street* (Peggy Sawyer), *Hairspray* (Penny), *Shrek* (Fiona), *A Chorus Line* (Maggie Winslow), *Big Fish* (Jenny Hill), *West Side Story* (Anybodys), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yente).

**NICHOLAS V. ECKER (Lank Hawkins)** (he/him) is a 2022 Villanova University MA in Theatre graduate. Past Villanova Theatre productions include dramaturg for *Curtains* in Spring 2022, stage managing *Beckett Bites* in Fall 2021, and Chet Layser/Dottore in *Slaphappy: A Covid-Era Commedia* in Spring 2021. Nic provided piano accompaniment for VSMT’s productions of *Carousel* (Spring 2022) and *Kiss Me, Kate* (Fall 2022). He received his BA in Interdisciplinary Arts with minors in Music, Theatre, and Communication/Journalism from Shippensburg University in 2016. He became theatrical director and head of the theatre department at Biglerville High School until 2020, earning the highest merit of Best Show at the 2019 Totem Pole Playhouse Awards for their production of *Sunday in the Park with George*. Nic is a teaching artist at Wolf Performing Arts Center, where he directs, music directs, accompanies, and teaches private voice, acting, and piano lessons.

**THERESA GARDNER (Patricia Fodor)** (she/her) is a second-year graduate student at Villanova’s School of Theology and Religious Studies, receiving her MA in Theology. She made her Villanova debut last year in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Yvonne). Before coming to Villanova, she attended The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. as a double major in Music and Theology. While in D.C., she performed as the lead vocalist in a jazz band that performed at several embassies and D.C. jazz clubs, played violin in the CUA orchestra, musicals and operas, and performed as an actor/singer in several musical theater productions.

**KAITLIN GIBSON (Perkins/ Billie)** is a sophomore double major in English and Irish Studies at Villanova. Previous performances include VSMT’s *Kiss Me, Kate*. She performed in the following shows at her high school, Mount St. Dominic Academy: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Hermia); *Hair-spray* (Ensemble); *You Can’t Take It With You* (Rheba); *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle); *The 39 Steps: A Radio Play* (Annabella Smith); *Seussical* (Horton); *Letters to Sala* (Raizel); *Newsies* (Katharine). At Villanova, she is a member of the Villanova Pastoral Musicians, Chi Omega Sorority, Irish Cultural Society, Peer Ministry, and Sophomore Service Learning Committee.

**SYDNEY MARIE HUGHES (Patsy)** (she/her) is a first-year graduate student and scene shop graduate assistant. She comes from Orlando, FL where she was an entertainment cast member at Walt Disney World, voice and theatre teacher, director, and set designer. Her favorite performance credits include *Oklahoma!* (Laurey), *Les Miserables* (Cosette), Chekhov’s *Ivanov* (Sasha), and Puccini’s *La Rondine* (Grisette). Favorite Directing/Music Directing Credits: *Macbeth*, *Aunt Leaf*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Puffs*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Damn Yankees* (Dr. Phillips Applause Awards Winner: Outstanding Music Director). She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Musical Theatre from Oklahoma City University.

**NOELLE DIANE JOHNSON (Irene Roth)** (she/they) is an actor, director, educator, and theatre artist based in Philadelphia, PA. Noelle has appeared on Villanova’s stage in *Men on Boats*, *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea*, and *Posterity*. Noelle is the founder and owner of Artists Heal®, a company that helps institutions, organizations and universities implement Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility strategies through artistic practice and process. Noelle holds a BA in Theatre from Temple University and is a Graduate Assistant in the Costume shop while pursuing a Master’s in Theatre and a certificate in Diversity & Inclusion Strategy from Villanova University. IG: @noelledianejohnson/ artistsheal.org

**COLE JOYCE (Sam)** is a first-year undergraduate Business major from St. Louis, MO. He played Lucas in VSMT’s Fall Production of *The Addams Family* and has been involved in professional and local theater in the St. Louis area at The Muny, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and COCA. He is also a member of the Villanova Spires.
CHRISTINA KELLY (Vera) (she/her) is a staff employee in Villanova University's Human Resources Department and a student in the Human Resource Development MS Graduate Program, graduating in May 2024. At Springfield High School, she tapped in 42nd Street and performed on reeds in the pit orchestra for Annie Get Your Gun and Hello, Dolly! Though she has not been involved in a stage production since then, she has performed with the University of Delaware Marching Band on clarinet and mellophone and won two World Championships with the Reading Buccaneers Drum & Bugle Corps (2018 and 2019) on the mellophone. At the University of Delaware, she served as President of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity.

JOSH MAZURKIEWICZ (Jimmy/Chauffeur) is a second-year undergraduate Statistics major and Theatre minor at Villanova University. Previously, Josh has appeared in Beauty and the Beast (Lumiere), Crazytown (Eddie/Tim), Guys and Dolls (Big Jule) and Fiddler on the Roof (Rabbi) with the Somerset Area School District; The Sound of Music (Max Detweiler), Talent Survivor: A Jukebox Musical (Stuart), Battle of the Bands: A Jukebox Musical (Scott), Disney’s Descendants: The Musical (King Adam), Mary Poppins Jr. (George Banks) and Fiddler on the Roof Jr. (Avram) with The Potter’s Players; and Anything Goes (Luke) with Stage Right! He was the recipient of the Best Theatrical Performance Award and Scholarship for his role as Lumiere in Beauty and the Beast. Josh currently serves as Villanova Television’s Events Director and the Campus Activities Team’s Quizzo Director.

JACK MCGINNISS (Junior) is a second-year Media and Culture major with a Concentration in Production and a minor in Theatre Arts at West Chester University. At West Chester, he has previously performed in Spring Awakening (Ernst), Twelfth Night (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), and Kiss Me Kate (Gremio). Jack is also a part of an acappella group on campus called High Street Harmonix.

JOHN RUSSEL ORNDORFF (Harry) is a first-year graduate student and assistant in the scene shop at Villanova Theatre. He is a member of Alpha Psi Omega. Some of his roles in undergrad at southern Arkansas University included Guys and Dolls (Uncle Arvide), Twelfth Night (Sebastian), Wiley and the Hairy Man (Wiley) and She Kills Monsters (Steve). He served as a directing intern for Weathervane Playhouse in 2022, where he also acted in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (Suitor) and Flashdance the Musical (Ensemble).

AVA PETROSKY (Margie) (she/her) is a sophomore undergraduate from Long Island, NY. She is pursuing a Communication major, with concentrations in both Journalism and Media Production, and a Spanish minor. Ava has performed in various musicals throughout high school; her favorite roles include “Day By Day” in Godspell and Penny Sycamore in You Can’t Take It with You. At Villanova, Ava continues her 17 years of tap-dancing experience with NOVAnoise, where she has choreographed and currently serves as Co-Public Relations Chair on the executive board. She also sings with the Villanova Pastoral Musicians, tutors at the Writing Center, and is a member of Stained Glass Films, a student-run production company through the Social Justice Documentary Course offered at Villanova.

MAURA RICCI (Elaine) is a staff member in Villanova’s Department of University Advancement. She is a proud Villanova alumna and earned her BA in Communication with a specialization in Performance Studies from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Maura also holds an MA in Performance Studies from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Favorite credits include Hairspray (Penny Pingleton), The Drowsy Chaperone (Kitty), Lucky Stiff (Landlady/Rita LaPorta u/s) and Rent (Mark’s Mom/Ensemble).

MADISON ROMANO (Louise) (she/her) is a second-year undergrad of Villanova’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She is a Psychology major with minors in Biology and Cognitive Science. Some of her past credits include: A Chorus Line (Maggie Winslow), It Shoulda Been You (Annie), The Addams Family (Hippie Ancestor), Kiss Me Kate (Hortensio), CLUE: On Stage (Miss Scarlett),
The Sound of Music (Baroness Elsa), Almost Maine (Marci), and Mary Poppins (Annie/ensemble). She has won a “Superior” at the NJ Thespian Festival for dramatic monologue as well as 2nd place at STANJ for musical theatre duet.

DORY SCOTT (Susie) (she/her) is a second-year graduate student and assistant in the Villanova Theatre costume shop. She received her BA in English and Theatre from Bethel University. Her favorite roles include Crimes of the Heart (Babe), Pajama Game (Mae), The Curious Savage (Miss Willie), Sweeney Todd (Bird), and Sunday in the Park with George (Celeste 1). She served as dramaturg for the Villanova Theatre production of Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea and costume designed for the Student Studio Show production of Murder at Crowbottom Manor.

RYAN SKERCHAK (Bobby Child) is a Villanova Theatre second-year Graduate Tuition Scholar. Ryan was most recently seen on the Villanova Stage as George in Sunday in the Park with George. Select professional credits include: Curly McLain in Oklahoma! (Derby Dinner Playhouse), Don Lockwood in Singin’ In The Rain (Pines Dinner Theatre), The Beast in Beauty and the Beast (Country Gate Players) and Cornelius Hack in Hello Dolly! (Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre). Alum: Muhlenberg College (2016), Accademia Dell’Arte (2014). This upcoming May, Ryan is directing a condensed version of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Carousel for his Masters thesis.

CONNOR STERNBERG (Joe) (he/him) is a third-year student at West Chester University. His West Chester University credits include Kiss Me Kate (Ensemble), Rocky Horror (Magenta) and he was a part of the 24th Annual AIDS Benefit Concert. Connor got his AA at Northampton Community College where he was in twelve productions including Assassins (Giuseppe Zangara), Something Rotten (Robin) and Spring Awakening (Ernst), and Company (Paul) at Cedar Crest College.

KATIE TUBEROSA (Betsy) (she/her) is a junior undergraduate student majoring in Communication with minors in Theatre and Writing/Rhetoric from Havertown, PA. Her favorite roles include The Music Man (Mrs. Paroo), Back to the 80’s (Mel Easton), Legally Blonde (Elle’s Mom), and Carousel (Snow’s Daughter). She is a member of both Villanova Student Musical Theatre (VSMT) and Villanova Student Theatre (VST), Villanova’s two undergraduate theatre organizations. She has previously served as a director and choreographer within VSMT and the Director of Communications and Director of Publicity within VST.

NATHAN TREMENTOZZI (Bela Zangler) is a first-year graduate assistant in the scene shop and was last seen as Thaddeus/Jasper in Posterty and Ralmond in Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea. His most notable roles have been Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls, Charlie Brown in You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown and Buckingham in Richard III. He earned his BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in business from Anderson University, South Carolina School of the Arts. While at Anderson he was president of their Student Studio Series, as well as the campus improv trainer. Nathan was a Semi-finalist in 2021 and 2022 in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition through the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

BLAISE WATSON (Wyatt) is a first-year undergraduate student and is currently pursuing a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Blaise has previously participated in musical theatre during his time in high school with the Archbishop Carroll Theatre Society. His favorite roles include Lewis in Pippin, Tinman in The Wizard of Oz, and Willards Hewitt in Footloose. Additionally, Blaise is a member of Villanova’s multicultural hip-hop dance team Ablaze.

ALEKO ZEPPOS (Mingo) is currently a sophomore marketing major at Villanova. Prior to Villanova, Aleko has been apart of over a dozen musical performances. Some of his favorite credits include Legally Blonde (Warner), Oliver Twist (Oliver), and Beauty and the Beast (Gaston). Outside of theatre, Aleko is a member of the Villanova Spires a capella group, a senator for Villanova’s Student Government, and the Treasurer of the Villanova Singers.
GEORGE & IRA GERSHWIN (Music and Lyrics) - Are a songwriting team whose voice was synonymous with the sounds and style of the Jazz Age. Their first 1924 Broadway hit, *Lady, Be Good!*, George worked with lyricist Buddy DeSylva on a series of revues, *George White's Scandals*, while Ira enjoyed success with composer Vincent Youmans on *Two Little Girls in Blue*. But from 1924 until George's death in 1937, the brothers wrote almost exclusively with each other, composing over two dozen scores for Broadway and Hollywood. Though they had many individual song hits, their greatest achievement may have been the elevation of musical comedy to an American art form. With their trilogy of political satires — *Strike Up The Band*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Of Thee I Sing*, and its sequel, *Let 'Em Eat Cake* — they helped raise popular musical theatre to a new level of sophistication. Their now-classic folk opera, *Porgy and Bess* (co-written with DuBose Heyward), is constantly revived in opera houses and theatres throughout the world. Concurrently with the Gershwin's musical theatre and film work, George attained great success in the concert arena as a piano virtuoso, conductor, and composer of such celebrated works as *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American In Paris*, and the *Concerto In F*. The Gershwin catalog has been taken up by a younger generation who have delighted in vintage and contemporary recordings, revivals, and the “new” Gershwin musicals, *My One And Only* (1983) and the 1992 Tony Award winner for best musical, *Crazy for You*.

KEN LUDWIG (Book Writer) Has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called “one of the classic comedies of the 20th century” by *The Washington Post*. Crazy for You was on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical. His play *Murder on the Orient Express* will shortly begin a tour of China and his musical *Crazy for You* is currently touring Japan. He has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award, and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. He was nominated for an Emmy Award for writing the Kennedy Center Honors. His other plays include *Moon Over Buffalo; Leading Ladies; Baskerville; Sherwood; Twentieth Century; Dear Jack, Dear Louise; A Fox on the Fairway; A Comedy of Tenors; The Game's Afoot Shakespeare* in Hollywood; and *Moriarty* They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins, and Kristin Bell. His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, has been a bestseller. It won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year. His essays on theatre are published in the *Yale Review*, and he gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. For more information visit www.KenLudwig.com.

REV. PETER M. DONOHUE, OSA (Director) The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, served as chair of the Villanova University Theatre Department, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in dramaturgy, musical theatre and theatrical experience from 1992 to 2006. Father Peter has received five Barrymore nominations for Outstanding Direction of a Musical for *Parade*, *Children of Eden*, *Into the Woods*, *Evita* and *Chicago*, which received nine nominations and three 2002 Barrymore Awards, including Outstanding Direction of a Musical. Other directing credits at Villanova include *Curtains, Big River, City of Angels, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *West Side Story*, Candide and *Once On This Island*. His most recent appearances on the Villanova Theatre stage include *Twelfth Night, Don Juan, The Trojan Women, and The Passion of Christ*. Today, Father Peter directs a very different kind of production: Villanova University. He assumed the role of president of the university in June 2006. Under his leadership, the University has experienced tremendous growth, become more nationally recognized for its academic excellence, broken University admission records and renewed its commitment to the Augustinian Catholic educational mission.

J DOMINIC CHACON (Lighting Designer) (he/him) is a Philadelphia-based designer and production manager. He is the Vice President of his neighborhood association and volunteers at non-profits in the Philadelphia area. This will be his second show at Villanova; *Posterity* was his first earlier this season. He is an adjunct professor at Drexel University and the Lighting Coordinator for the
Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College. In Philly he has designed for Walnut Street Theatre, Azuka, People’s Light, The Wilma and many more. Outside of Philly his work has been seen at Florida Studio Theatre, Bowery Street Theatre and Long Wharf Theatre. He is dedicated to making theatre a collaboration as well as a learning experience. Some of his favorite collaborations have been *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Blood Wedding* (PAC), *Dido+* (Curtis Opera). To find out more, check out his website domchacon.com

**EILEEN DEISEMANN** (Stage Manager) (she/her) is a professional actor and stage manager based in the Philadelphia area. She earned her BA in Musical Theatre and Design Technology from DeSales University. Stage Management, Regional: *Man of La Mancha* (Delaware Theatre Company, Barrymore Award for Best Overall Musical); *A Chorus Line*, *Shakespeare for Kids* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *The Mountaintop*, *The Butterfingers Angel* (Uptown Knaurer Performing Arts Center). Stage Management, University: *The Trojan Women*, *As You Like It*, *Tartuffe*, *The Glass Menagerie*. Actor, Regional: *Miss Scarlet (Clue the Musical)*, *Maggie (Holly Jolly Christmas)* (Pines Dinner Theatre). Actor, Theme Park: German Dancer at Grand Carnivale (Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom); Scare Actor at Dark Nights (Hersheypark) Actor, University: *Pride and Prejudice* (Miss Bingley), *The Sound of Music* (Nun/Party Dancer) and *As You Like It* (Lord 1/Musician).

**KEVIN DIETZLER** (Choreographer) is grateful for the opportunity to be back with Villanova Theatre, having last choreographed *Curtains* in 2022 and choreographed and performed in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (George) in 2012. Kevin spends his days working with UNIT at Villanova. He has choreographed several mainstage productions with Upper Darby Summer Stage, including *West Side Story*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, and *42 Street*. He works year-round as director of the Upper Darby Summer Stage Shooting Stars, an auditioned group of high school performers from around Delaware County. In addition, he has directed and choreographed for several area high schools, having worked on over 20 plays and musicals since 2009.

**DAMIEN FIGUERAS** (Sound Designer) (he/him) is a five-time Barrymore-nominated sound and video designer. Recent credits include: *Party Face* (Off-Broadway, NY City Center), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Delaware Theatre Company), *The Winter Wonderettes* (Gulfshore Playhouse), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Arden Theatre), *Kiss* (Wilma Theatre), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (1812 Productions), *Beehive* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Moth* (Azuka Theatre), *Rose* (The Bearded Ladies). In addition to his design work, Damien is the Production Manager for Wolf Performing Arts Center.

**PETER A. HILLIARD** (Music Director) (he/him) holds degrees in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory and in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU. His musicals, *Don Imbroglio*, and *Going Down Swingin’*, appeared in the New York Musical Theatre Festival, and his opera *The Filthy Habit* was a finalist in the National Opera Association Chamber Opera Competition. It was the first opera ever presented in the Chicago Fringe Festival and has had 10 productions. A bluegrass opera, *The Last American Hammer* has been produced at Urban Arias, Pittsburgh Opera, the University of Illinois, and Opera Grand Rapids. His opera *Blue Viola* has been produced at Urban Arias, Lyric Opera of The North and Opera Memphis. Peter has accompanied many singers, including Karen Slack, Krissy Fraelich, Jeff Coon, Christiane Noll, and Marla Schaffel. Peter is an active orchestral and choral composer, and has music directed on both coasts and Off-Broadway. He has conducted *The Pirates of Penzance* and Iolanthe at the International Gilbert and Sullivan festival in the U.K. and will conduct *The Grand Duke* there this August. He is the winner of the 2020 Hoefer Prize from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He is the music director of the Savoy Company and the Abington Choral Club. He is currently writing a new musical in collaboration with Matt Boresi and Julie and Nathan Gunn, and a new opera for Lyric Opera of the North.

**COLIN MCILVAINE** (Scenic Designer) (he/him) is a Philadelphia-based, Barrymore-nominated scenic designer named as one of *American Theatre Magazine*’s 20 People to Watch. Recent credits include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *School Girls* (Arden Theatre...
Company); One Man, Two Guvnors (Delaware Theatre Company). Colin’s recent associate design credits include: A Christmas Carol (Guthrie Theater); Le Roi Arthus (Bard SummerScape); Pipeline (Lincoln Center). In addition to his freelance career, Colin is adjunct faculty for Villanova University. B.A. University of Maryland; MFA Scenic Design Temple University. www.colinmcilvaine.com

ELIZABETH MEISENZAHL (Properties Designer) (she/her) is a Philly-area free-lance artist and educator. Since her graduation from Villanova’s Master’s in Theatre program in 2018, Elizabeth has worked as a Stage Manager, Production Manager, Actor, Director, Props and Sound Designer, Teaching Artist, and Fight Choreographer. She has worked with several local theatre companies and schools, including Villanova Theatre, Philadelphia Artists Collective (PAC), Wolf Performing Arts Center, EgoPo Classic Theatre, Mainayunk Theatre Company (MTC), Juniper Productions, Hedgerow Theatre, Revolution Shakespeare, The Lantern Theater, Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy, and Agnes Irwin School.

IAN ROSE (Fight Choreographer) (he/him) has arranged fights for commercials, film and stage, and been working in the New York and Philadelphia areas for over twenty-five years. He is a Fight Master with Fight Directors Canada and The Society of American Fight Directors. Ian has worked on Broadway (Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Liev Schriber and Janet McTeer at the Booth), the Bridewell Theatre in London, MTM Studios in Rome, Riverside Shakespeare and Interborough Repertory Theatre in New York City, the Whole Theatre in New Jersey, the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company (Adrift in Macao, Chris Durang premiere) and the Wilma, including James Ijames’ Fat Ham (Pulitzer Prize winning production and New York Times top ten shows of 2021). Ian did fights and created the roles of La Böessiere and Picard in Curio Theatre Company’s recent Symphony for St. Georges. Ian’s fights were featured in the documentary Philadelphia: The Great Experiment – Disorder. Ian was a Technical Advisor on the film A Winter’s Tale.

BRANDON HUNTER SMITH (Production Dramaturg) (he/him) is a third-year part-time graduate student obtaining his MA in Theatre at Villanova University. He received his undergraduate BA in both History and Theatre with a minor in French at West Chester University. Brandon’s previous work as a dramaturg began at West Chester during the production of House Arrest by Anna Deavere Smith in 2021. He was recognized along with his team of dramaturgs for Outstanding Dramaturgical Work at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region II. Brandon’s roles at Villanova Theatre include the ensemble in Curtains, where he worked with Father Peter Donohue, OSA and has returned to work with him now behind the production table. Other roles include Hernando in House of Desires directed by James Ijames, and Mr./Blair in Sunday in the Park with George directed by Dr. Valerie Joyce.

JANUS STEFANOWICZ (Costume Designer) is Villanova Theatre’s resident costume designer and costume shop manager. She has designed for Act II Playhouse, the Arden Theater Company, Delaware Theatre Company, People’s Light, Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Wilma Theatre, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, the 2013 Philadelphia International Theatre Festival, The Lantern Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon and Hedgerow Theatre Company. Janus has received 17 Barrymore Award nominations for Outstanding Costume Design, including Villanova Theatre’s The Tempest, Parade, Chicago, Children of Eden, Into the Woods, Candide, and Evita; Cheltenham Center for the Arts’ The Illusion; Philadelphia Theatre Company’s Intimate Apparel (2006 Barrymore Award winner); The Wilma Theater’s The Invention of Love, Magic Fire, Big Love (2003 Barrymore Award winner), Galileo and Age of Arousal; Theatre Horizon’s The Revolutionists. Most recently she designed for Villanova Theatre’s Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea.
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Peter A. Hilliard is composer of 9 operas and 4 musicals which have been performed by Pittsburgh Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Memphis Opera, Urban Arias, Lyric Opera of the North, The Manhattan School of Music, the Tanglewood Institute, among others. His operas include Inbox Zero, A Christmas Carol & Bob & Ted & Alice, The Happy Hour, and The Filthy Habit which have received awards from organizations like The National Opera Association and The National Association of Teachers of Singing. Hilliard is co-founder of the Decameron Opera Coalition, a group of nine opera companies dedicated to commissioning and producing new opera.
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Peter A. Hilliard, MFA ............................................................... Resident Music Director; Assistant Teaching Professor
Michael Hollinger, MA ........................................................................ Artistic Director; Professor
James Ijames, MFA ........................................................................ Resident Director; Associate Professor
Valerie Joyce, PhD ........................................................................ Department Chair; Associate Professor
Chelsea Phillips, MFA, PhD .................................................. Associate Artistic Director; Associate Professor
Bess Rowen, PhD ........................................................................... Acting Chair ‘23–’24; Resident Director; Professor
Edward Sobel, MFA ..................................................................... Acting Chair ‘23–’24; Resident Director; Professor
James J. Christy, PhD; Harriet Power, MFA; Joanna Rotté, PhD ............ Professors Emeriti

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Kevin Esmond, MA ................................................................. Program Coordinator
Elisa Loprete Hibbs, MA ........................................................... Company Manager
Rosemarie McKelvey, BS ........................................................ Cutter/Draper
Michael Moran, BS .................................................................. Assistant Technical Director
Kimberly Reilly, MA ............................................................ Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Jacob Rothermel, MFA ............................................................... Technical Director
Anthony Sheff, MBA ............................................................. Business Manager
Janus Stefanowicz, MFA ........................................................... Costume Shop Manager

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Zainab Warda Jeffrey, John Orndorff,
Nathan Tremontozzi, Abigail Johnson
Costume Assistants ........................................................................ Noelle Diane Johnson, Emily Mosset,
Dory Scott, Eve Windbiel
Tuition Scholars ........................................................................ Sara Buscaglia, Cas Corum, Emma Drennen,
Abigail Johnson, Tess Mathewson,
Abby Little, Ryan Skerchak
Belle Masque Scholar........................................................................ Brandon Hunter Smith
Connolly Scholar ........................................................................ Noelle Diane Johnson
Franzetti Scholar ........................................................................ Abby Little
Gravina Scholars ....................................................................... Sara Buscaglia, Justin Badoyen
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