

♡ PHILADELPHIA ♡  
PROFESSIONAL PREMIERE

# Head over Heels

Feb. 8 - Mar. 12, 2023

Songs by  
**THE GO-GO'S**

Based on 'The Arcadia' by  
**SIR PHILIP SIDNEY**

Conceived & Original Book by  
**JEFF WHITTY**

Adapted by  
**JAMES MAGRUDER**

Directed by  
**REBECCA WRIGHT**

Associate Honorary Producers  
**SID & RUTH ROSENBLATT**

 **THEATRE  
HORIZON**



Welcome to Theatre Horizon! I'm so happy to have you join us for the delightful adventure that is *Head Over Heels!*

Art often feels satisfying when things move in synchronicity—when every word, shape, color, vision, story, and character feel like they go together. But some of the greatest art, I would argue, comes from dissonance—where we put things together that may not feel like they would naturally occur. *Head Over Heels* is a collision between The Go-Gos, a band formed in 1978 that is largely considered the most successful all-female rock band of all time, and *The Arcadia*

by Sir Philip Sidney, a relatively obscure pastoral romance written in the 16th century. There is a juxtaposition between a starched Elizabethan collar and a leather miniskirt, and yet, what can we learn from the collision of these eras?

What I've learned is that creating a world where characters speak in verse, but sing their emotions in the peppy, pop notes of the 1980s results in two things. The first: it's *really* fun. The second: in a show that is about breaking boundaries and dismantling binaries, the collision of time periods allows us to see the world anew. Putting things next to each other that may not occur normally, allows us to question what "normal" really is.

I hope that you delight in this collision as much as I do. I've had the true joy of knowing both James Magruder and Becky Wright for over a decade, and it's been an honor to have both of their work on Theatre Horizon's stage. Thank you for traveling with us to Arcadia as we present the Philadelphia premiere of this new musical.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **NELL BANG-JENSEN** (she/her)



This is a party and you are invited.

We decorated it with splatter paint and streamers. We took down mom's curtains and sewed some costumes out of them. We mashed up a 16th-century poem with some 1980s hits, and decided to tell a story.

Here are some of the things we are celebrating: the ability to gather, to sing and dance together, to kiss who we want to kiss, to meet change with bravery and good humor, to cheer for our friends and forgive our adversaries.

The sweet and scrappy world of *Head Over Heels* starts out in a relatable place: a kingdom with a familiar social order is challenged to change its ways. Will the king learn to cede and share power? Will the princesses end up with the partners of their choice? Will the queen assert her values? Will the advisor make amends with his long lost sweetheart? Will the shepherd and maidservant learn how to declare their love? Will the Oracle's prophecy come true?! The iconic trope of an adventure in the forest helps everyone upend their habitual ways of thinking and land joyfully on the side of transformation.

When faced with a necessary but uncertain future, people often can't tell whether to fear it or hurry it along. The truth is, the new world is already here, and *Head Over Heels* lands solidly on welcoming it and working together to help it flourish. We all know the pain of metamorphosis, how hard it can be to become something new. Bursting with queer joy and community spirit, *Head Over Heels* presents us with the opportunity to celebrate transformation, rather than fight, mourn, or deny it. What if, like the people of Arcadia, we can come together to embrace and enjoy change?

What if we throw a party about it?

Set to the immortal sparkly pop of The Go-Gos, *Head Over Heels* is that party.

So, come to the party!

We're so glad you're here.

DIRECTOR **REBECCA WRIGHT** (she/her)

## What does Queer & Trans Utopia look like?

In *Head Over Heels*, the world of Arcadia is forever changed at the end of the play. In our world, we also need change.

We are far from a Queer & Trans Utopia, but imagining a more just future is an important step toward co-creating the world we want to live in. We imagine a future where all queer and trans people are inherently accepted and affirmed by their families of origin; have full body autonomy and access to life-giving medical care; and live lives free from degradation and attack.

This (and much more) is a baseline for queer and trans safety in our world, and we all have roles to play in co-creating that future. We invite you to join us in utilizing the resources below to find community, get involved and operate in solidarity with queer and trans people. We believe that when we work together, Queer and Trans Utopia is possible.

In solidarity,

The *Head Over Heels* Team

For an extensive list of LGBTQ+ Resources in Montgomery County, visit [www.montcopa.org/3483/Spiritual-and-Social-Support](http://www.montcopa.org/3483/Spiritual-and-Social-Support) or use this QR code:



For an extensive list of LGBTQIA Resources in Philadelphia, visit <https://healthymindsphilly.org/lgbtqia-resources/> or use this QR code:



## A Note on Pronouns

There are a multitude of gender identities represented by the characters in *Head Over Heels*, the incredible actors that play them, as well as our creative team, production crew, and Theatre Horizon staff. You may have noticed that this program includes names with pronouns listed next to them. We recognize that this idea might be more familiar to some than to others, and so want to take a moment to break down what this practice is all about.

### What are pronouns?

Pronouns are the words we use to refer to an individual in third-person. We use these all the time in everyday speech. For example: "**Gina Schock** is my favorite member of the Go-Go's! **She's** so great at the drums."

While gender non-binary people, or individuals whose gender identity exists outside of the binary categories of "man" and "woman", have always existed (see more information in our lobby!), our contemporary English language practices are only just starting to catch up, by making room for more gender-neutral singular pronouns, such as ze/zir ("ze" pronounced like the letter "z", and "zir" rhyming with "here") and they/them.

### How do I use gender neutral pronouns?

If someone lost a wallet, and you didn't know who it belonged to, you might say: "Oh no, someone left **their** wallet, I hope we can get it back to **them!**"

Similarly, when referring to an individual who uses they/them pronouns, you might say something like: "I loved the character of **Pythio** in the play. **They** have such a cool story!"

We ask that, even if you are new to using gender-neutral pronouns, you take note of those listed in this program and use them when referencing the individuals they are tied to. Some people include multiple pronouns, which means that you can choose or switch between those listed.

When Sir Philip Sidney wrote *The Arcadia* in the 16th century, the word "you" was considered plural, with "thou" or "thee" being the way to reference another individual person. Just as our language has evolved to make "you" singular, the pronoun "they" can now be used as a plural pronoun or a singular pronoun, depending on context. Language evolution is as natural and healthy as the changing of seasons, or even the falling of empires. It may take practice, but just as the citizens of Arcadia rethink the rules of their own culture to make way for a more accepting one, we can choose to use our own language in ways that honor the beautiful range of human experience and identities present within our community. We're so glad to have you here with us!

DRAMATURG **SHERIDAN MERRICK** (she/her)

*This note was inspired by a similar program note written in collaboration with Roundabout Theatre by Rebecca Hunt and the gender-expansive Broadway Revival cast members of 1776.*

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# Head Over Heels

February 8 - March 12, 2023

Based upon *The Arcadia* by  
**SIR PHILIP SIDNEY**

Conceived by & Original Book by  
**JEFF WHITTY**

Adapted by  
**JAMES MAGRUDER**

DIRECTOR

**REBECCA WRIGHT** (she/her)

SCENIC DESIGNER

**JENNIFER HIYAMA** (she/her)

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**KRISTA SMITH** + (she/her)

COSTUME DESIGNER

**REBECCA KANACH** + (she/her)

SOUND DESIGNER

**MICHAEL KILEY** + (he/him)

PRODUCTION

STAGE MANAGER

**SARAH E. T. JACKSON** \*

(she/her)

ASSISTANT

STAGE MANAGER

**PATRICK LEE JOHNSON** \*

(he/him)

DRAMATURG

**SHERIDAN MERRICK**

(she/her)

MUSIC DIRECTOR

**ELLE MORRIS** (she/her)

CHOREOGRAPHER

**SANCHEL BROWN**

(she/her)

FIGHT & INTIMACY

DIRECTOR

**ELI LYNN** (they/them)

+ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE, the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Projection Designers in Live Performance.

\* Appearing through an Agreement between Theatre Horizon and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Original Broadway Production produced by Christine Russell Louise Gund Donovan Leitch Rick Ferrari Gwyneth Paltrow Scott Sigman Hunter Arnold Tom Kirdahy Jordan Roth | The World Premiere of 'Head Over Heels' took place at Oregon Shakespeare Festival Bill Rauch/ Artistic Director; Cynthia Rider/Executive Director | Developed with the support of New York Stage and Film & Vassar's Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2016

**THEATRE  
PHILADELPHIA**

We are a proud participant in Theatre Philadelphia's Barrymore Awards program. The Barrymore Awards recognize professional theatre in the Greater Philadelphia region, honor local artists and theatre companies, and increase public awareness of the richness and diversity of our region's thriving theatre community. Learn more at [www.theatrephiladelphia.org](http://www.theatrephiladelphia.org).

## CAST

**Sydney Banks** \* (she/her) ..... Philoclea  
**Aaron Bell** \* (he/him) ..... Musidorus & Dance Captain  
**Thomas Choinacky** (they/them & he/him) ..... Dametas  
**Anna Faye Lieberman** (she/they) ..... Mopsa  
**Trey Lyford** \* (he/him) ..... Basilius  
**Pax Ressler** \* (they/she) ..... Pythio  
**Izzy Sazak** (they/them) ..... Gynecia  
**Lexi Thammavong** (they/she) ..... Pamela  
**Paul Harrold** (he/him) ..... Swing  
**Alexa Wilder** (she/her) ..... Swing

## MUSICIANS

**Daniel Espie** (he/him) ..... Accompanist/Conductor  
**Dee Miller** (she/her) ..... Drummer  
**Dot Rose** (she/they) ..... Guitar 1  
**Harry Wilson** (he/him) ..... Guitar 2  
**Jamicka Johnson-Hector** (she/her) ..... Bass

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Sophie Smyczek** (she/her) ..... Head Electrician  
**Flannel and Hammer** ..... Scene Shop  
**Ava Kohn-Ciriello** (she/they) ..... Production Assistant  
**Tess Mathewson** (she/her) ..... COVID Compliance Officer  
**Alanah Gabrielle Weber** (she/her) ..... Wardrobe Head  
**Deanna Joy Marino** (she/her) ..... Costume Assistant  
**Sarah E.T. Jackson** \* (she/her) ..... Fight Captain  
**Meaghan McKiernan** (she/her) ..... Substitute PSM  
**Tristan Bushey** (he/him) ..... Sound Mixer

\* Appearing through an Agreement between Theatre Horizon and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**Sydney Banks \* (Philoclea)** (she/her) Actor, singer, dancer, model. This Baltimore, Maryland native is thrilled to be performing on the Theatre Horizon stage again this season! Her show credits include: *Twelfth Night O Lo Que Quieras* (Delaware Shakespeare), *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever* (Theatre Horizon), and *The Vertical Hour* (Lantern Theater Company). She is thankful for the continuous support of her family, Theatre Horizon cast and creatives, and most importantly God.

**Aaron Bell \* (Musidorus)** (he/him) is thrilled to make his Theatre Horizon debut! Prior to, perhaps, the longest intermission of his life, he could be heard in the audio production of *Is God Is* (The Wilma Theater), and seen in the pre-production workshop of *Esther Choi and the Fish that Drowned* (Simpatico Theatre) and *My General Tubman* (Arden Theatre Company). He thanks KN-95. It's good to be back.

**Thomas Choinacky (Dametas)** (they/them & he/him) is an interdisciplinary artist with attention to dance. They are excited by textures, tastes, and feeling it deep in their muscles. His/Their current practice asks questions about legacy, architecture, and queerness, which has led to experimental performances in stairwells, go-go dances, and building kinky mummies from duct tape. They are a company member of Applied Mechanics, an artist collective based in Philadelphia. Part of the New Philly Aesthetic. They have performed across the USA and Estonia. Recent: The Operating System, Fierce! Queer Festival, Folsom Street Fair, William Way LGBT Center, Annie Wilson, and Pink Noise Projects. Upcoming: Applied Mechanics' *Other Orbits*. @thomastommy thomasistitanic.com

**Paul Harrold (Swing)** (he/him) is a Philly-based actor, musician and composer. He has worked with Lantern Theatre, Azuka Theatre, Delaware Shakespeare, Tiny Dynamite, New Light Theatre, and more. Offstage he can be found playing with his folk rock band Paul Harrold and the Nuclear Bandits, which are streaming everywhere. Much love and gratitude.

**Anna Faye Lieberman (Mopsa)** (she/they) is so excited to make their Theatre Horizon debut! Regional: Mary in *10 Dates With Mad Mary* (Inis Nua); Rapunzel/Milky White/Cinderella's Mother in *Into the Woods* (Arden Theatre Company); *Carroll County Fix* (Azuka Theatre); *Peaceable Kingdom* (Orbiter 3); *Cowboy Bob*, *Marie In Tomorrowland* (Polyphone Festival of New Musicals); *The Wild Party* (University of the Arts). Education: BFA Musical Theatre Class of 2020 (University of the Arts). Love to Dan Espie on the keys, Dale, and Lucy. For Grandma. @annaliez annafayelieberman.com

**Trey Lyford \* (Basilus)** (he/him) Trey Lyford is a Philadelphia based actor, director, teacher, and play fabricator. He was last seen at Theatre Horizon as Black Stache in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Lyford is the Artistic Director of gimmick which premiered his work *The Accountant* in 2018. Lyford was the founding Co-Artistic Director of rainpan 43 where he created and performed in all of their works to date. *all wear bowlers* (2005 Drama Desk Nomination, Innovative Theatre Award), *Amnesia Curiosa*, the OBIE award-winning kinetic junk sculpture play machines, *machines, machines, machines, machines, machines*, and the much toured absurd magic show *Elephant Room*. In 2020 they premiered the Zoom performance work *Elephant Room: Dust From the Stars*. Lyford has performed his original works in four continents including venues across the U.S. such as LA's Center Theatre Group, Philadelphia FringeArts, 1812 Productions, HERE Arts Center, St. Ann's Warehouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, Studio Theater, Arena Stage among others. Support for his work includes grants from Creative Capital, NEFA, NYSCA,

and The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Lyford is also an Associate Artist with the Civilians and a faculty member at UArts and the Pig Iron MFA in Devised Performance. MFA: UCSD More info at [www.trelylyford.com](http://www.trelylyford.com).

**Pax Ressler \* (Pythio)** (they/she) is a non-binary performer, deviser, music director, and composer working at the intersections of theatre and music as well as arts and advocacy. They have performed and collaborated with 1812 Productions, Arden Theatre Company, Bearded Ladies Cabaret, People's Light, Theatre Exile, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Wilma Theater and more. Pax is a passionate advocate and organizer of the local non-binary and trans theatre community with Genderfunk Philly (@genderfunkphilly), an Instagram rolodex of local trans and non-binary theatre practitioners. She recently formed Rise Choir (@risechoircollective), a non-audition group of singers invigorating community spaces with joy and solidarity. Pax's work as a composer has been heard in The Bearded Ladies' Barrymore Award-winning *Contradict This! A Birthday Funeral for Heroes* and in productions at La Mama Experimental Theatre and Works and Process at the Guggenheim in NYC. They would like to thank their friends and family for their generosity and love. [www.paxressler.com](http://www.paxressler.com)

**Izzy Sazak (Gynecia)** (they/them) is a turkish-colombian-american transdisciplinary artist, theater-maker, educator and emergent facilitator. they live, work and play on Lenape Land (philadelphia). they are an associate artist of Delaware Shakespeare, and a company member of Applied Mechanics, philadelphia's vanguard experimental theater company. izzy is a queer, genderful, eco-feminist-abolitionist, whose art is an investigation of joy, magic and belonging as radical forms of resistance. izzy is one of many co-conspirators in the project known as the new philly aesthetic. they are delighted to be making their Theatre Horizon debut.

**Lexi Thammavong (Pamela)** (they/she) is an actor, singer, and writer based in Philly, their hometown. She obtained her BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Creative Writing from The University of the Arts, where they were a Student Valedictory Speaker. Recent credits include playing "Mimi" in *Rent* at the Media Theatre and performing and writing for 1812 Production's musical political comedy, *This is the Week that Is* in 2021 and 2022. Whether exploring characters like "Ariel" in *The Tempest* with Delaware Shakespeare Company, or "Rosaura" in EgoPo's *Life is a Dream*, Lex strives to find new ways to explore, revitalize, and decolonize the classics. As a member of PlayPenn's playwriting group, The Foundry, and resident playwright with Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists, they also love collaborating on brand new works, whether devising at workshops, performing in Philly Fringe, or holding staged readings of original work.

**Alexa Wilder (Swing)** (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Theatre Horizon debut! Most recently, she has been seen in *Rent* (Media Theatre), *Rent* (New Light Theatre), and *Big Fish* (Candlelight Theatre). Alexa is also a private voice teacher! Check her out at [www.alexajadewilder.com](http://www.alexajadewilder.com), and follow her on Instagram: @alexa\_wilder and @alexateachmehowtosing. Big love and big thanks to her husband, Nathan, for always being the best support system imaginable.

**Sanchel Brown (Choreographer)** (she/her) is a mother/performer/choreographer originally from Baltimore, MD. She is a 2022 U.S. Hip Hop Cultural Ambassador with Next Level Hip Hop Diplomacy Project.

Her performance highlights include *World of Dance Philadelphia*, The Kimmel Center's 2018 Jazz residency, *Let 'Im Move You: This is a Formation*, Urban Bush Women Apprenticeship, Davido's Coming to America Tour, and Theatre Horizon's *Black Nativity* (Barrymore Win!). Her choreography highlights include Theatre Horizon's Regional Premiere of *The Color Purple* (nominated for Outstanding Movement/Choreography) and Yale Drama's and Theatre in the X's production of *Dreamgirls*. She is a 2022 winner of the Broadway World Award for Best Choreography of a Musical. Sanchel is the visionary of Nubienne Productions, a production company catered to aligning the performing and healing arts. Honing in on her self produced works including her one woman dance play *Home To Homeland* and musical titled *Wheelz of Life* © *The Rollerskating Musical*. Sanchel currently teaches an array of movement and fitness classes including her original "AfroClub " dance class fusing Baltimore House and West African Dance Forms inspired by her frequent travels to Senegal, West Africa.

**Tristan Bushey (Sound Mixer)** (he/him) is a Philadelphia based audio and theatre tech. He is excited to be joining in this production of *Head Over Heels*.

**Daniel Espie (Piano/Conductor)** (he/him) is a Philadelphia-based pianist and is excited to be performing at Theatre Horizon for the first time! Recent productions include *Mary Poppins* (Quintessence Theatre), *Rocky, the Musical*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Young Frankenstein* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Into the Woods* (Arden Theatre Company), and *The Wild Party* (University of the Arts). Much love to Anna, Dale, and LP.

**Jamicka Johnson-Hector (Bassist)** (she/her) developed her passion for music in high school, having spent four astounding years training under highly skilled and professional musicians at the Baltimore School for the Arts in Baltimore, Maryland. During her time in high school, she was given the opportunity to perform with several professional musicians. At that time, Jamicka knew she wanted to further her music studies and obtain her Bachelor of Art in Music Performance. Her experience in music has helped to empower her with facing the challenges of early adulthood. She decided to follow a career in music therapy because she knows the impact that music can produce in people. While attending Temple University for her Master's, Jamicka has had the opportunity to network with professional musicians from various backgrounds and career paths, which has led her to perform at well-known venues throughout Philadelphia and build a network with professional touring musicians with world-renowned artists. She has also explored music production and serves as a band director for her all women band called 'Black Canvas.' She was able to apply her skills and knowledge of music theory to help artists with song arrangements, production arrangements, and instrumentation.

**Jennifer Hiyama (Scenic Designer)** (she/her) is a Philadelphia-based scenic designer and teaching artist. She enjoys bringing visual storytelling to both stage and classroom while uplifting underrepresented groups. Her work is collaborative, explorative, and joyous.

**Sarah E. T. Jackson \* (Production Stage Manager)** (she/her) is thrilled to return to Theatre Horizon! Recent credits include *Athena* (Theatre Horizon), *The Lion King* (North American Tour); *Fiddler on the Roof* (UMS & Philadelphia Orchestra); *Dracula* (Classic Stage Company); *Annie Get Your Gun* (Bay Street Theatre); *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Bucks County Playhouse); *Into the Woods* (Juilliard Drama Division);

*Kiss, Mary Jane* (Yale Repertory Theatre); and *A Chorus Line* (Transcendence Theatre Company), among others. Education: MFA in Stage Management, Yale School of Drama. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

**Patrick Lee Johnson \* (Assistant Stage Manager)** (he/him) is excited to be joining Theatre Horizon for *Head Over Heels!* Stage Management credits include Theatre Workshop of Nantucket (PSM and ASM), Rubber City Theatre (Resident SM), the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre (SM), Walnut Street Theatre (SM Apprentice), and Porthouse Theatre (SM/ASM). Patrick holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Stage Management from Kent State University. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support. He is also a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Much love to Brian! [www.patrickleejohnson.com](http://www.patrickleejohnson.com)

**Rebecca Kanach + (Costume Designer)** (she/her) is a Barrymore Award-winning costume designer. In New York, her work has been seen at The Guggenheim, the Lincoln Center, Ars Nova's ANT Fest, La MaMa, The New Ohio, and Joe's Pub. Regionally, her work has been seen at companies including The Arden Theatre Company, Ballet X, Opera Philadelphia, and People's Light. Academic work includes designs with Drexel University, Swarthmore College, and Temple University. Rebecca is the co-founder and resident costume designer of The Bearded Ladies Cabaret, and a company member of Lightning Rod Special. She is a MFA graduate from NYU Tisch, USA 829. Much Love to Mike.

**Michael Kiley + (Sound Designer)** (he/him) is a sound designer, composer, performer and educator working in dance, theatre, and public installation. His original works range from immersive vocal works to geo-locational soundwalks to community outreach collaborations, all centered in the investigation of the healing and transformative nature of sound and voice. His collaborations include theatrical work with The Wilma Theater, The Play Company, The Acting Company, The Arden Theatre Company, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Delaware Theatre Company, and Azuka Theatre, dance work with Faye Driscoll, Luciana Achugar, SubCircle, Chelsea and Magda, and Nichole Canuso Dance Company, and installation work with The Brandywine River Museum, SwimPony, and Mural Arts. His work has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, The Independence Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, FringeArts, and The American Composers Forum. He is a four-time nominee and two-time recipient of the Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre, and his work has been called "essential sound design" by *The Huffington Post*, and "dramatic and beguiling" by *The New York Times*. Michael's proudest achievement is the development of his own voice practice, entitled Personal Resonance, which he is currently translating into a book format.

**Ava Kohn-Cirillo (Production Assistant)** (she/they) is a twenty-two-year-old actor/bartender from West Chester, PA. They are thrilled to be a part of their first production at Theatre Horizon. They have a Theatre Arts Associates degree from Montgomery County Community College. They have performed and designed in previous productions including *Fortinbras* (MCCC), *The Government Inspector* (MCCC), and *Men on Boats* (MCCC). She is very thankful to the whole cast and crew of *Head Over Heels* for their hard work and creativity through the whole process.

**Eli Lynn (Fight and Intimacy Director)** (they/them) is a certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, a Barrymore Nominated fight director, and an actor in the greater Philadelphia

area. Recent Intimacy credits: *Wine in the Wilderness* (PAC), *The Light, Motherf\*cker With The Hat* (Theatre Exile), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Arden Theatre), *Love Notes* (Bearded Ladies), *Shakespeare in Love, Such Things As Vampires* (People's Light), *Dance Nation* (Wilma), *Among The Dead, Completeness* (Theatre Exile), *Dance Nation, Spring Awakening* (Temple U). Recent Fight credits: *Twelfth Night* (American Shakespeare Center), *Little Women* (Quintessence), *Shakespeare in Love* (People's Light), *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Barrymore Nomination, PAC), *The Sea Voyage* (PAC). They also teach stage combat at the Philadelphia Stage Combat Workshop, and are an Artistic Associate and resident Fight & Intimacy Director at Philadelphia Artists' Collective. Up next they will be appearing in and coordinating violence for *The Play That Goes Wrong* with 1812 Productions. Love always to Vanessa. Soli Deo Gloria. www.Eli-Lynn.com

**Deanna Joy Marino (Costume Assistant)** (she/her) is a Delaware-based costumer that is humbled to be part of her first Theatre Horizon production. Her most recent credits include costume designing *The Spongebob SquarePants Musical* (Milburn Stone Theatre), *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Cabaret* (Milton Theatre), and working on the team at People's Light for *Alice In Wonderland: A Musical Panto*. She is deeply thankful to Rebecca for giving her this opportunity.

**Tess Mathewson (Covid Compliance Officer/Run Crew)** (she/her) is a Philadelphia based theater artist who specializes in Production and Stage Management. She is delighted and humbled to be part of this joyful, community centered production with Theatre Horizon. Tess has previously worked with companies such as Delaware Shakespeare, PlayPenn, and EgoPo Classic Theater. Thank you to everyone who brought this glittery, queer celebration to life!

**Meaghan McKiernan \* (Substitute PSM)** (she/her) is delighted to make her Theatre Horizon debut! She is a graduate of DeSales University, receiving a BA in Theatre Design and Technology in 2020. Since graduating, Meaghan has worked with theatres such as The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery Theatre, The Bearded Ladies Cabaret, and Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. She would like to thank the Theatre Horizon family for welcoming her, and DeSales for building such stellar alumni connections.

**Sheridan Merrick (Dramaturg)** (she/her) is a theatre & film artist and educator based in Philadelphia. She acts as Education Coordinator & Resident Teaching Artist at Theatre Horizon and is thrilled to be crossing over into the artistic sphere! Sheridan has been seen as a performer at The Painted Bride Art Center, REV Theatre Company, and in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and the Prague Fringe Festival. *Red & Black*, the musical she co-conceived with Nick Hatcher, was produced in the 2020 Polyphone Festival of New Musicals, and was a recipient of the Corzo Center Impact Grant. Sheridan graduated with her BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of the Arts, where she received the THEA Award.

**Dionna "Sunny Dee" Miller (Drummer)** (she/her) is a professional drummer who's known throughout the Tri-State area for her "In the pocket" precise sound. Sunny Dee started playing the drums at the mere age of 16 at Rhema Deliverance Center in Philadelphia. Sunny had a strong musical upbringing and grew up listening to gospel music as a child. Sunny would sit in rehearsals with her father who sung in a group named "Unity". They had a drummer named Eric Tribbett. After watching Eric play, she had the

urge to get on kit. Sunny's career has led her to play with some of Philly's top musicians such as Steve Mckie and Killiam Shakespeare, Carvin Haggins and Bria Marie, Alisa Joe and Gyrl Problems. Gyrl Problems (an all female band) was her first major gig, they opened up for the R&B group sensation "SWV" during their reunion tour. She is currently the Musical Director for the Mister Mann Jam Session, which is held at City Winery Philadelphia bi-monthly. Sunny has been blessed with an awesome start for her career. Her main drive is to provide the best lifestyle for her son Dèyon, who is her inspiration. Sunny's main goal is to have her brand go global, and to pave the way for future upcoming female musicians and artists in a predominantly male-based industry. This is the sole reason why she created "The Female Takeover". The Female Takeover is a movement that started in 2014. It is a showcase where all female entertainers and musicians can freely share their talent and be equally supported.

**Elle.Morris (Music Director)** (she/her) is a Philly based artist, vocal producer and member of the collective ILL DOOTS. Fresh off her collaboration with Theatre Horizon and the Norristown community as the Composer/Music Director of *TOWN*, Elle. is thrilled to be back! Her other music direction credits include *Crimson Lit* (2022 Polyphone Festival of New Musicals), *Passing Strange* (Long Wharf Theatre), *Dreamgirls* (Clubhouse), and *The Wiz* (Theatre in the X). Elle. sends BIG LOVE to the cast, production team, family, and friends.

**Dot Rose (Guitar 1)** (she/they) won a *Philadelphia Magazine* Best Of Philly award in 2020 for her serenade service. In 2021, she lived in a pickup truck and traveled the country. 2022 was for rest. Now she's ready to blow minds again, yours included. She's beyond psyched to be joining Theatre Horizon for the first time.

**Krista Smith (Lighting Designer) +** (she/her) is a Philly based Lighting Designer and Visual Artist. Recent design work includes: *One-Man Nutcracker* (Theatre Exile), *KrymovLabNYC* (La Mama), *The Mousetrap* (Hartford Stage), *TOWN* (Theatre Horizon), *Letters You Will Not Get* (American Opera Project), *Threshold of Brightness, It is a Comfort to Know* (Beth Morrison Productions), *Ni Mi Madre* (Rattlestick Theater), *Zoetrope* (Exquisite Corpse Company), *Coop* (Paradise Factory), *At Black Lake* (The Tank), *Twelfth Night* (Two River Theater Little Shakes), *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* (Triad Stage), *Stinney: An American Execution* (Prototype Festival), *Twin Size Beds* (The Public Theater). Resident Artist with Exquisite Corpse Company. Artistic Team member of Rattlestick Theater. Founding member of BDLP. Proud member of USA 829. MFA Yale School of Drama. www.KristaSmithLD.com

**Sophie Smyczek (Head Electrician)** (she/her) is a Philly-based freelance electrician, excited to be working at Theatre Horizon for the first time. Enjoy the show! sophiesmyczek.com

**Alanah Gabrielle Weber (Costume Head)** (she/her) is a Theatre Arts Major at Montgomery County Community College. She is thrilled to be joining Theatre Horizon for the first time. Through her on-stage experiences at Montco, she has played the role of Marianne in *Constellations* (Written by Nick Payne, Directed by Tim Gallagher) and *Ophelia* in Fortinbras (Written by Lee Blessing, Directed by Tim Gallagher). Behind stage, Alanah was also Head Costume Designer for both of these productions. Although she built her creative foundation at Montco, she is very excited to be expanding her Horizon(s). Alanah would like to thank her Mom for always being her biggest fan and supporter. Thank you.

**Harry Wilson (Guitar 2)** (he/him) is a Philadelphia-based musician and producer that has performed and toured with several artists. He is thrilled to be making his debut at Theatre Horizon.

**Rebecca Wright (Director)** (she/her) is a director-creator, and a founding company member of Applied Mechanics, with whom she has created twelve original immersive works, including the 26-person historical fantasia *Vainglorious*, the punk play with music *We Are Bandits*, and the multi-media epic *This Is On Record*. Other directing credits include *Indecent*, *An Iliad*, and the premiere of R. Eric Thomas's *Backing Track* at Arden Theatre Company; *Perfect Day* at Headlong; and *Metamorphosis*, *Saint Joan*, and *The Wild Duck* at Quintessence Theater Group. She has created work with Annie Wilson (*At Home With the Humorless Bastard*), Cynthia Hopkins (*Articles of Faith*), MK Tuomanen (*Peaceable Kingdom*), Michael Kiley (*Close Music for Bodies*), Emily Bate (*Wig Wag*), and The Riot Group (*Sophie Gets the Horns*). Rebecca has worked with students at the University of the Arts, University of Minnesota, Arcadia University, Columbia University, and the University of Michigan. She has contributed writing to publications by TCG, Ecotone, Routledge, and Haymarket. She is a two-time recipient of the Independence Fellowship in the Arts and her productions of *Slip/Shot* and *Peaceable Kingdom* both won the Brown Martin Philadelphia Award. Up Next: *Always the Hour* with Annie Wilson, *Red Riding Hood* at the Arden, and *Other Orbits* with Applied Mechanics.

**The Go-Go's (Music & Lyrics)** are band members Charlotte Caffey, Belinda Carlisle, Gina Schock, Kathy Valentine and Jane Wiedlin and they will forever have the beat! These female pioneers formed The Go-Go's in 1978 and were an integral part of the LA punk scene. The Go-Go's made history as the first, and to date only, all-female band that both wrote their own songs and played their own instruments to ever top the Billboard charts. Their 1981 debut album, *Beauty and the Beat*, was #1 on the charts for six consecutive weeks and it remains one of the most successful debut albums of all time. Other albums include *Vacation* (1982), *Talk Show* (1984) and *God Bless The Go-Go's* (2001). With a 1982 Grammy nomination for Best New Artist, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a 2021 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and a place in history that no other band can claim, it is assured that the Go-Go's will keep going with a classic catalog of songs that transcends time, trends and genres.

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

**Jeff Whitty (Conceived by, Original Book by)** Musicals: *Avenue Q* (15th Anniversary, Broadway and Off-, West End, International, Tonys Best Book and Musical), *Bring It On* (Tony Nom. Best Musical), Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* (Bay Area Critics Circle Award, Book), his original *Head Over Heels* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, music supervisor Carmel Dean). Plays: *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *The Plank Project*, *Balls*, *The Hiding Place*, *Suicide Weather*, *The Reducers*, *Beware Your Representatives*, *Broadway Buh-Bye*. Upcoming film: co-screenplay for *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*, starring Melissa McCarthy. Mr. Whitty performs on occasion (MFA NYU Grad Acting).

## **HEAD OVER HEELS** was rehearsed and performed at Theatre Horizon in Norristown, which stands on the territory known as “Lenapehoking,” the ancestral home of the Lenape people.

For the past 10,000 years, the Lenape have been the original caretakers and stewards of Lenapehoking—one of numerous tribes that comprised tens of millions of people residing on this continent prior to the invasion of European colonizers.

We recognize that Isaac Norris, Sr.—Norristown’s namesake—purchased land from the family of William Penn even though nobody “owns” Lenapehoking. We acknowledge that Isaac Norris, Sr. was a slaveholder who benefited from a system that captured, sold, and enslaved over 10 million Africans who were trafficked to various locations in North America, South America, and the Caribbean.

We acknowledge the 6 million African Americans that moved from the American South to the Northeast during The Great Migration and their role in making places like Norristown a central hub for industry and retail. Finally, with a large Latinx population in Norristown—particularly people from Puerto Rico and Mexico—we acknowledge the past, present, and future legacies of the Taíno and Aztec peoples.

This land acknowledgement was written by Director of External Relations Gilberto Vega with advisement from Adam Waterbear DePaul and Barbara Bluejay Michalski of the Lenape Cultural Center.

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**Best of luck with your season!**

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 Christina Root in honor of Nell Bang-Jensen  
 Nancy Sacko in honor of Ethan Brunton  
 Jenny Shackleton in honor of Omar Abdali  
 Karen Siwik in memory of Daniel Siwik  
 Betty Smithsonian & Lisa Jacobs in honor of  
 badass women everywhere  
 Debbie Weger in honor of Laura Pratt



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