



NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

UTA Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY
DAVE MALLOY

Scenic Design/Scenic Charge Artist
GABRIELLE MALBROUGH

Costume Design
MARGARET MONOSTORY CROWLEY

Lighting Design
LEAH MAZUR

Associate Costume Design
VICTORIA GONZALEZ

Music Director
VICKY NOOE

Sound Design
BILL EICKENLOFF

Associate Director/Choreographer
SARAH FAGAN

Assistant Director
LIBBY HAWKINS

Director
ANNE HEALY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTA respectfully acknowledges the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes upon whose historical homelands this University is located. Their ancestors resided here for generations before being forcibly displaced by U.S. settlers and soldiers in the mid-1800s. We recognize the historical presence of the Caddo Nation and other Tribal Nations in the region; the ongoing presence and achievements of many people who moved to the area due to the Indian Relocation program of the 1950s and 1960s; and the vital presence and accomplishments of our Native students, faculty, and staff.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812 is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

An electrifying electropop opera inspired by a scandalous slice of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*? Why not!?

Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 opened at Ars Nova in October of 2012 and moved Off-Broadway a year later. This inventive show, directed by Rachel Chavkin, was staged as an immersive production, with action happening around and among the audience, complete with roving musicians. The set designed by Mimi Lien and lights by Bradley King transformed the Ars Nova space into a Russian supper club. It challenged the audience's preconceived ideas of musical theatre performance spaces.

I first encountered the work of Dave Malloy, a composer/lyricist/orchestrator/book writer/sometime performer, when the show transferred to Broadway starring Josh Groban as the title character. Malloy, along with his brilliant collaborators and cast, broke down the binary of the more traditional Broadway proscenium experience with *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* in a most impactful production. The songs of *Great Comet* are adventurous and dangerous, at turns hilarious and heartbreaking, and never bound by old-fashioned rules or historical period logic. Each song rattles within us as a collective; so much so that we didn't just rehearse the musical but felt it viscerally as we experienced this electropop opera together.

Great Comet's immersive setting has inspired me to continue to seek out work and methods of storytelling that remove the barriers between performance and audience for a more essential and challenging theatrical experience. As a result, our rehearsal and performance space has been both exciting and challenging. The musical has challenged us to balance the past and present in unexpected ways and we have discovered that we have much to learn from what our predecessors experienced.

So many of us, who consider making musical theater on stage the "what we do", have had to begin to reimagine our purpose and processes to build strength for our community so that together we can continue to make this art in the face of growing adversity. We are thrilled that you are here supporting these young artists and our UTA theatrical community as we explore and reimagine this exciting storytelling adventure.

Ras, dva, tri!

Anne Healy
February, 2025

CAST

Natasha	Jalyn Roberson
Pierre	Lane Benham
Anatole.....	Thomas Powderly
Sonya.....	Jolie Lambert
Marya D.	Madison Jackson
Hélène.....	Olivia Newbold
Dolokhov.....	Ben Ashcraft
Mary.....	Brittany Rupe
Bolkonsky/Andrey.....	Caiden Garcia
Balaga.....	Peyton Wilkinson

ENSEMBLE..... Gina Amador, Braydon Bagdasarian (Opera Singer), Landon Blanton (MC/Assistant), Carson Clay, Fae Cowan, Catherine Denning, Gisela Garcia, Jayla Greer, Paloma Magaña, Alina Melcer, Karra Paulson, Steven Rios, Sylvia Schulte (Assistant), Victoria Thomas (Opera Singer)

UNDERSTUDIES..... Natasha: Jayla Greer, Pierre: Steven Rios, Anatole: Paloma Magaña, Sonya: Sylvia Schulte, Marya D.: Karra Paulson, Hélène: Victoria Thomas, Dolokhov: Landon Blanton, Mary: Gina Amador, Bolkonsky/Andrey: Steven Rios, Balaga: Steven Rios

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Anne Healy
Assoc. Director/Choreographer	Sarah Fagan
Asst. Director	Libby Hawkins
Stage Manager.....	Laz Jarrell
Stage Manager.....	Stephanie Divoky
Stage Management Faculty Advisor, Intimacy Coordinator	Hailey Green
Music Director	Vicky Nooe
Scenic Designer/Scenic Charge Artist	Gabrielle Malbrough
Properties Designer.....	Justin Miller
Lighting Designer	Leah Mazur
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Jace Githens
Sound Designer	Bill Eickenloff
Costume Designer.....	Margaret Monostory Crowley
Assoc. Costume Designer	Victoria Gonzalez
Junior Draper	Julia Rosenblum
Production Manager.....	DJ Badon
Technical Director	Olivia Gfrorer
Light Board Op	Sean Bratton
Spot Op.....	Yulitza Ruvalcaba
Spot Op.....	Ayden Clay
Spot Op.....	Nicholas Collier
Spot Op.....	Jaden Piper
Mic Tech	Gabrielle Perez
Mic Tech	Raine Smith
Mic Tech	Jenna Purcell
Wardrobe Crew (H)	Hannah Chavez
Wardrobe Crew.....	Alisa Martinez, Aiden Crockett
Backstage Crew (H)	Bee Falcone
Backstage Crew	Aisha Choquette
Scenic Studio Supervisor	Benjamin Phillips

MUSICIANS

Piano/Conductor.....	Vicky Nooe
Oboe/English Horn	Christian Gonzalez
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet.....	Rafael Powell
Viola.....	Brian Eaton
Violin.....	Lauren Hallowell
Cello	Molly Wang, Nic Buck
Guitar.....	Jesse Ramirez
Keyboard.....	Vonda K. Bowling
Bass.....	Daniel Davidson
Drums.....	Michael Ptacin

SETTING

Moscow, Russia 1812

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

"Prologue".....	Company
"Pierre".....	Aria and Chorus: Pierre, Company
"Moscow"	Trio: Marya D., Pierre, Company
"The Private and Intimate Life of the House".....	Duet: Bolkonsky, Mary
"Natasha & Bolkonsky"	Trio: Natasha, Mary, Bolkonsky
"No One Else".....	Aria: Natasha
"The Opera".....	Company
"Natasha & Anatole"	Duet: Natasha, Anatole
"The Duel".....	Quartet and Chorus: Anatole, Pierre, Dolokhov, Hélène, Company
"Dust and Ashes".....	Aria: Pierre, with Chorus
"Sunday Morning".....	Trio: Natasha, Sonya, Marya D.
"Charming".....	Aria: Hélène, with Natasha
"The Ball".....	Duet: Natasha, Anatole

ACT TWO

"Letters".....	Company
"Sonya & Natasha".....	Duet: Sonya, Natasha
"Sonya Alone".....	Aria: Sonya
"Preparations".....	Duet: Dolokhov, Anatole, with Pierre
"Balaga".....	Trio and Chorus: Balaga, Anatole, Dolokhov, Company
"The Abduction".....	Company
"In My House".....	Trio: Marya D., Natasha, Sonya
"A Call to Pierre".....	Duet: Marya D., Pierre, with Company
"Find Anatole".....	Aria: Pierre, with Anatole, Hélène, Natasha, Company
"Pierre & Anatole".....	Duet: Pierre, Anatole
"Natasha Very Ill".....	Aria: Sonya
"Pierre & Andrey".....	Duet: Pierre, Andrey
"Pierre & Natasha".....	Duet: Pierre, Natasha
"The Great Comet of 1812".....	Aria and Chorus: Pierre, Company

CAST BIOS

REGINA AMADOR - Ensemble/US Mary

Regina Amador is a junior pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at UTA. She was last seen at Firehouse Theatre's *Aladdin: DLA* as part of the ensemble and as UTA's *Head Over Heels* as a swing! She is excited to make her Studio debut with *Great Comet* and hopes you enjoy the show.

BEN ASHCRAFT - Dolokhov

Ben Ashcraft is a senior at UTA getting a degree in Musical Theatre. He last appeared in UTA's production of *On The Town* as the lead character Gabey. He would like to thank his peers and collaborators and dedicates all performances to his late father, Wes Ashcraft.

BRAYDON BAGDASARIAN - Ensemble/Opera Singer

This is Braydon's 2nd production at UTA and he is so excited to go on this amazing journey with you. He has been very blessed to have such an amazing cast to perform with and would love to thank his girlfriend for being with him every step of the way!

LANE BENHAM - Pierre

Lane is in his senior year at UT Arlington. He has been seen in *Sweeney Todd*, *Bright Star*, and *Head Over Heels*. He is excited to bring Pierre to life and tell the story of *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*.

LANDON BLANTON - Ensemble/US Dolokhov

Landon Blanton is a senior Musical Theatre major. He was last seen in UTA's *On the Town* as Chip and *Bright Star* as Daryl. He thanks his family and friends for supporting him and his professors for guiding him through this process.

CARSON CLAY - Ensemble

Carson is so excited to make their UTA stage debut!! They were recently in *Mary Poppins* at WaterTower Theatre, *Anastasia the Musical* at Plaza Theatre Company, and *My Fair Lady* at Granbury Theatre Company. He thanks his family and friends for all the love and support!

FAE COWAN - Ensemble

Fae is thrilled to make their debut in *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*! This production has been an incredible learning experience, and they're grateful to work with such a talented cast and crew. This show is a favorite, and they can't wait to share its magic!

CATHERINE DENNING - Ensemble

Catherine Denning is a sophomore Musical Theatre student. She was last seen in *Bonnets* last spring at UTA. She is thankful to the cast for an incredible experience.

CAIDEN GARCIA - Bolkonsky/Andrey

Caiden Garcia is thrilled to be part of such an experimental production. Recently seen in *Carrie* (Theater Three) and *Singin' in the Rain* (Garland Summer Musicals), Caiden is excited to return to the stage once more! Special shoutout to all my friends and family! Your support means the world. @caidengarcia_

GISELA GARCIA - Ensemble

Gisela Garcia is a freshman in the Musical Theatre program and is extremely excited to be making her UTA debut! She's previously been seen in *The Lightning Thief Musical* (Annabeth), *Dogfight* (Marcy), *Eurydice* (Eurydice), and *In the Heights* (Daniela)! She'd like to thank her mother and grandmother for guiding her through this experience.

JAYLA GREER - Ensemble/US Natasha

Jayla is excited to be in her first musical at UTA! She was previously in *Big Love* at HipPocket Theatre and *Bonnets* at UTA Theatre. She'd also like to thank her family for all of their support!

MADISON JACKSON - Marya D.

Madison Jackson is a sophomore Musical Theatre major and is so excited to be in her first musical at UTA! She was previously seen in *Dance in Flux* at UTA and as Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* with Impact Arts. She would like to thank her family, friends, and PBMJ for their support!

CAST BIOS

JOLIE LAMBERT - Sonya

Jolie Lambert is a senior receiving her BFA in Musical Theatre and Dance minor this spring and is anticipating moving to New York later this year. She was most recently seen in *On the Town* in the ensemble and U/S Claire. She is so excited to be playing Sonya!

PALOMA MAGAÑA - Ensemble/US Anatole

Paloma Magaña (they/them) is a BFA Musical Theatre sophomore, last seen at UTA as Nortico in *Mamá Goose* and Laurent in Jen Silverman's *Bonnets*. Other recent credits include Agatha in *The Martyr* (SheDFW), Maurice in *Lord of the Flies: Literature in Motion* (FIT), and Carole King in *Beautiful* (Plaza Theatre Company).

ALINA MELCER - Ensemble

Alina is a Musical Theatre sophomore at UTA and is so excited to be in her first musical here! Recently, she's been seen in *Bonnets* and *John Proctor is The Villain* here at UTA. Alina would like to thank the whole cast and creative team for their hard work!

OLIVIA NEWBOLD - Hélène

Olivia Newbold is a BFA Musical Theatre senior at UTA. You may have last seen her as Pamela in *Head Over Heels!* Favorite roles include Pamela, Donna in *Mamma Mia!* and *Macbeth*. She is absolutely charmed to bring Hélène to life, marking a beautiful conclusion to her UTA Musical Theatre journey.

KARRA PAULSON - Ensemble/US Marya D.

Karra Paulson is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major, and this is her first UTA production! She has loved working with the faculty and cast on this piece and it has been an experience she will never forget.

THOMAS POWDERLY - Anatole

Thomas Powderly is a transfer student into the UTA Musical Theatre program, and is thrilled to be playing a dream role in one of his favorite shows! After graduating he plans on becoming a theatre teacher. He'd like to thank his parents, all of his friends, and his wonderful girlfriend Kenna!

STEVEN RIOS - Ensemble/US Pierre, Bolkonsky, Andrey, Balaga

Steven has appeared in many different stages around DFW. Some of his credits include *Cabaret* at Theatre Arlington and the Regional Premiere of *Chaplin The Musical* at Watertower Theatre. Here at UTA, he performed in *Bright Star* as Jimmy Ray Dobbs. He is very thankful for his family and friends' support.

JALYN ROBERSON - Natasha

Jalyn Roberson is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major. She has previously been in productions such as *Carrie* (Theatre Three), *Pirates of Penzance* (Theatre Three), *Bright Star* (UTA), and *Sweeney Todd* (UTA). She'd like to thank God, her family, friends, and the cast and crew for their love and support.

BRITTANY RUPE - Mary

Brittany Rupe is a junior Musical Theatre major at the UTA. She would like to thank her amazing parents and brother for their support, as well as her incredible cast and crew for making this show so special. Welcome to Moscow! She hopes you enjoy the performance!

SYLVIA SCHULTE - Ensemble/US Sonya

Sylvia is a Musical Theatre junior with a Dance minor and Music minor. She is a member and the Pr+ Treasurer for *RISE A Cappella*. Her most recent work at UTA was as a Swing for *On The Town*. ig:@sylviaschultee
Enjoy The Show!

VICTORIA THOMAS - Ensemble/Opera Singer/US Hélène

Victoria Thomas is so excited to participate in her first musical at UTA! She recently transferred as a junior into the Musical Theatre program. Her favorite roles include Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Lauretta in the opera *Gianni Schicchi*.

PEYTON WILKINSON - Balaga

Peyton Wilkinson is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor at UTA. She was previously seen in *Dance Deconstructed* last semester! They would like to thank their family and friends for their love and support! Enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

ANNE HEALY - Director

Anne Healy is an Associate Professor at UTA where she teaches Directing and Musical Theatre and is currently the Associate Chair for Academics. Anne earned her bachelors and master's degrees in Musical Theatre and a Ph.D. in Aesthetic Studies focusing on Theatre and Musical Theatre. An Equity actor, she has appeared Off-Broadway and at major regional theatres. An associate member of SDC, directing includes the Tony Award winning Dallas Theatre Center as Assistant Director *Raisin in the Sun* and as a Directing Observer for *My Paris* with Kathleen Marshall at Goodspeed Musicals in CT. Director at UTA: *The Theory of Relativity* (Regional Premiere), *Troupers: A Musical Vaudeville* (World Premiere), *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Ragtime*, *See What I Wanna See*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Bright Star*. Anne's co-written chapter on the musical theatre director was published in *The Routledge Companion to Musical Theatre* in 2022 and has another book chapter appearing in the "Rodgers and Hammerstein in Context" series for Cambridge University Press. Anne returns to The University of Turku Finland this summer to present a paper on women's health topics in musical theatre in June, will be teaching with American Musical Theatre Live Paris, and is conceiving/directing a Kurt Weill revue for performance in Paris in July/August.

SARAH FAGAN - Associate Director/Choreographer

Sarah Fagan is a dance educator and choreographer. She has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at UTA since 2023, teaching courses in tap, jazz, theatre dance, and ballet. Previously, she was an Adjunct Instructor at Molloy University/CAP21 and a New York-based performer. National Tour credits include Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (Rhoda, u/s Judy) and *42nd Street* (Diane Lorimer, u/s Annie), both with Randy Skinner. Favorite regional theatre credits include Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* (Goodspeed/MUNY), *Will Rogers Follies* (Goodspeed), *Crazy For You* (Riverside), *Anything Goes* (NSMT), *The Producers* (Palace Theatre), and *Singin' In The Rain* (Music Theatre Wichita). She has a Bachelor of Performing Arts in Dance Performance from Oklahoma City University.

LIBBY HAWKINS - Assistant Director

Libby is an actor and director across the DFW and southeastern US. She received her MFA in Theatre with a concentration in Acting from the University of South Carolina and her Professional Actor Training Certificate from the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA. When not directing or onstage as an actor, Libby is a passionate teaching artist with UTA and Theatre Arlington.

VICKY NOOE - Music Director

Vicky Nooe is a music director, collaborative pianist, and arranger/orchestrator in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Lecturer at UTA. She has worked with Dallas Theatre Center, Casa Mañana, Theatre Arlington, Theatre Three, and other local theatres. She teaches courses in musical theatre musicianship and musical theatre history. Vicky is passionate about equipping theatre artists with the practical music skills needed to succeed as musical theatre artists. She has previously taught in music departments at Dallas Baptist University and Southern Methodist University. She has worked as a vocal coach at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute and been a staff pianist at Boston Conservatory, Texas Christian University, Hebrew College, and the Upper Valley Music Center. She is a member of the American Federation of Musicians, Pi Kappa Lambda, Music Theatre Educators' Alliance, and the College Music Society.

MARGARET MONOSTORY CROWLEY - Costume Designer

After earning a BFA in Technical Theater and Design from UTA, Margaret went on to complete her graduate studies at UT, earning an MFA in Costume Design under the mentorship of Broadway Costume Designer Susan Tsu. After heading up the costume studio at U of H and acting as a freelance designer in the Houston area, she's been with UTA since 2018 where she teaches Costume Technology, Theatrical Makeup, Costume Practicum, Introduction to Design and Patterning and has also designed costumes for some UTA productions: *Ladies in Waiting* directed by Detra Payne, *The Pirates of Penzance* directed by Derrick Brown in association with the Music department, *Princess Mia* directed by Andrew Gaupp, *Tragedians Anonymous* directed by Joe Chapa, *9 to 5* directed by J. Austin Eyer, *Sweeney Todd* directed by Dr. Anne Healy, and *Head Over Heels* directed by J. Austin Eyer.

VICTORIA GONZALEZ - Associate Costume Designer

Victoria Gonzalez is elated to finish her senior year in the UTA Design and technology program by being Associate Costume Designer for *Natasha and Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. Victoria was recently the Costume Designer for *Mamá Goose* at UTA, and summer stock for Opera of the Ozarks. Her construction and assistant work have been shown in UTA's productions of *The Crucible*, *Head Over Heels*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Bonnets*, and many other productions. She is looking forward to graduating in May 2025 and hopes to begin graduate study shortly afterwards.

GABRIELLE MALBROUGH - Scenic Designer/Scenic Charge Artist

Gabrielle is a dedicated Scenic Artist and Designer based in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Her work includes notable positions at Theatre Three and Theatre Arlington, as well as the Betty Greenberg Center for Performing Arts in Southeast Texas. Currently pursuing a BFA in Design and Technology at UTA, Gabrielle has significantly contributed to numerous UTA productions, including *Head Over Heels*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *Cabaret*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Bright Star*. Her work on *Bright Star* earned her the Excellence in Assistant Scenic Design Award from The Kennedy Center Region 6. Gabrielle most recently served as the Associate Scenic Designer for *On the Town* and as the Scenic Designer for *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* for UTA's 2024-2025 season.

LEAH MAZUR - Lighting Designer

Leah Mazur, MFA University of Kansas, is a scenographer and visual artist based in the DFW metroplex. Select regional credits include productions at Spinning Tree Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Kansas Repertory Theatre (Kansas City), Lake Dillon Theatre Company (Colorado), Cape May Stage (New Jersey), Anacostia Playhouse, Scena Theatre (Washington D.C.), Amphibian Stage, Theatre Three, Circle Theatre, Stage West, Altar'd Playhouse, SheDFW (DFW) Art Haus (New York), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Edinburgh, Scotland). She is currently head of the Design & Technology BFA program in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at UTA. www.lmazurdesign.com IG: @lmazur

BILL EICKENLOFF - Sound Designer

Bill is an adjunct professor in the UTA Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as the TCU Department of Theatre. He has also worked for Yale Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, Casa Mañana, Jubilee Theatre, DBU, Mainstage Irving Las Colinas, Theatre Arlington and many others. He is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University.

DJ BADON - Production Manager

DJ joined the department in June of 2008. He has served as Technical Director since 2015 and became the Production Manager in 2018. He received Associate degrees in Construction and Design Drafting as well as a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Southeastern Louisiana University. He then attended Western Illinois University where he received an MFA in Scenic Design. As a scenic designer, his previous credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *See What I Wanna See*, and *Night of the Living Dead* at UTA.

OLIVIA GFROERER - Technical Director

Olivia is a BFA Design and Technology senior with a focus in Theater Management and Technical Direction and a minor in Disability Studies. This is her last show at UTA! Her work has been seen at Shakespeare Dallas, Kids Who Care, Lyric Stage, and TEXAS the Outdoor Musical. Olivia's research focus is exploring how to make theater more universally designed for audiences and theater practitioners. Olivia would like to thank her mentors, family, friends, and special thanks to Gabby for this experience. Olivia would also like to thank her mother, Grandpa and Richard, she hopes they enjoy their heavenly seats.

STEPHANIE DIVOKY - Stage Manager

Stephanie Divoky is currently a BFA Design and Technology sophomore, focusing on Stage Management and Painting and Props. They have worked as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Mamá Goose* at UTA and as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Miss Nelson is Missing!* at CenterStage Theatre Works. They want to thank their partner, family, and supporters.

LAZ JARRELL - Stage Manager

Laz is a junior at UTA and is very excited for their third production as a Stage Manager! They have worked on other productions such as *Head Over Heels*, *Bright Ideas*, and *Room Service*. Laz is very excited to see this production flourish, and can't wait to work on more in the future! They'd like to thank their family for giving them the support they needed to keep going and push through!

PLEASE...

- Be sure to turn off all cellular phones or similar electronics prior to the show beginning.
- Avoid the temptation to send text messages during the performance!
- For your and the performers' safety, we ask that you remain in your seats and keep all personal items out of the aisles.
- No photography or recording of the performance is permitted.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the theatre.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

BENEFACTORS

We would like to thank the following donors for their extremely generous donations to the UT Arlington Department of Theatre Arts:

Shalyn Clark & Al Clark

Ms. Jill Deramus

Jeff Johnson

Timothy R. Morris

Will & Theresa Ross

Anonymous Scholarship Donor

Archibald Foundation Scholarship

Dr. Charles S. Proctor Endowment

JoAnne Harris Endowed Scholarship for the Theatre Arts

Professors Emeritus Richard Slaughter & Nita Scheble Cox Endowed Scholarship for Theatre Arts

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Theatre Three for the use of their mirror ball!