



the seagull

by anton chekhov
a story in music

 *at* **GAC**
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

director's notes

dramaturg's notes

Americans commonly imagine all of Russian classics to be tragic and humorless. While it's true that Chekhov's long works' inhabitants are hardly happy, essential features of the plays to a Russian are the playwright's apt language choices, effortlessly switching between commonplace conversations and heightened emotions. In adapting our version of the script to reflect the setting we went back to the original language to try to convey some of the humanity and passion (and perhaps sometimes even humor) of our characters.

the cast

(in order of appearance)

Masha.....	Lily Tender
Medviedenko.....	Kashaf Jabbar
Irina Arkadina.....	Jaki Demarest
Constantine.....	Marianne Virnelson
Nina.....	Aisling Mockler
Boris Trigorin.....	Steven Howell Wilson
Peter Sorin.....	Mikki Barry
Eugene Dorn.....	Joshua Engel
Paulina.....	Leah DeLano
Shamraeff.....	Bill Bodie

the crew

Director.....	Melissa Schick
Asst. Dir./Dramaturg/SM/ Producer/Stage Hand.....	Liana Olear
Music Director.....	Eric Honour
Intimacy Choreographer.....	Stephanie Davis
Technical Director.....	Jeff Poretsky
Curtain Engineer.....	Alan Duda
Window Engineer.....	Chris Dullnig
Additional Set Construction.....	Sam Kopel, Jaki Demarest, Nic Adams, Steve Cox, Joshua Engel
Costumes and Props.....	Spencer Dye
Sound Mixing	Matt Etner
Photography.....	Rachel Zirkin Duda
Marketing and Publicity.....	Kate Medwar-Vanderlinden

the band

Chekhov's Gun is...

Eric Honour - Lead Electric Guitar

Diana Dzikiewicz - Drums, Keyboard, Electric
Guitar, Electric Violin

Leah DeLano - Bass

with Special Guest Matt Etner on Interstitial Music,
Vocals and Guitar



about us

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Mikki Barry (Peter Sorin) wants to LIVE! She's been with the Rudes for two decades because she still can't find the exit. Mikki is a disabled actor pleased to be playing a disabled character. When not being Rude, she tries to organize wheelchair roller derby matches and works part time as a central tunnel support for the Silver Line. For the record, she does not like Valium.

Bill Bodie (Shamraeff) is delighted to appear in his eighth production with the Rudes, having been in Macbeth (2024), Cymbeline (2021), Galathea (2021), Dr. Faustus (2021), The Tamer Tamed (2021), Love's Labour's Lost (2020), and Uncle Vanya (2019). He most recently appeared as Saul Kimmer in Michael Fowles Productions' True West at the Clark Concert Hall in Bethesda, MD. Other recent DMV productions include Richard II and Hamlet at the Frederick Shakespeare Festival; Junk and Assassins at Silver Spring Stage; Alas, Confederates at the 2023 Philadelphia Fringe Festival; A View From the Bridge for UpStage Artists; As You Like It, The British Players; The Tempest, Grassroots Shakespeare Company; Art of Murder, Workhouse Arts Center; The Beatle Club and Bobby Gould in Hell, Providence Players of Fairfax.

Stephanie Davis (Intimacy Choreographer; xie/hir/she/he/they) is a fat, queer, autistic storyteller living & working on Nacotchtank/Piscataway/Manahoac land colonially known as the DMV. Her work in spiritual & creative spaces alike focuses on support, communication & the interplay of binaries. Involved in the performing arts since 1999, Stephanie began his career as an actress & dancer, progressively expanding hir repertoire to include directing, choreography, dramaturgy, design & education- always working to center justice, education & liberation.

Leah DeLano (Paulina/Chekhov's Gun Band Member) is a bass player and vocalist in a Grateful Dead cover band. She volunteers at several performance-arts organizations including Washington Bach Consort, Folger Shakespeare Theater, Creative Cauldron, Rockville Little Musical Theater and Washington Revels. She has performed with Rude Mechanicals in Timon of Athens, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,

and Uncle Vanya. She is delighted to be able to enjoy not only being in a love-triangle, but also playing in the band in this exciting and poignant production of *The Seagull*.

Jaki Demarest (Arkadina)

Diana Dzikiewicz (Chekhov's Gun Band Member)

Joshua Engel (Dorn) loves playing Chekhovian doctors so much that he's not even going to make a pun about Pavel vs Anton

Matt Etner (Sound Mixing and Interstitial Music) wants to thank Melissa for surprising him with a guitar role at the 11th hour. He was happy enough being the roadie, so actually getting to play is icing on the cake. He also wants to thank the Rudes in general for another opportunity to be a part of the creative community, and Liana in particular for cajoling him into the Rudes in the first place.

Eric Honour (Music Director and Chekhov's Gun Band Leader)

Kashaf Jabbar (Medviedenko) is delighted to make her theatrical debut with the Rude Mechanicals in this production! A recent graduate in engineering working as a clinic practice manager, Kashaf has always been captivated by art in all its forms—drawing, traveling, reading, and watching films. Her love for storytelling led her to live theater, where the immediacy and shared experience of performance proved captivating. Eager to explore the musicals and theater world, Kashaf is excited to embark on this creative journey with the Rude Mechanicals

Aisling Mockler (Nina) is a recent graduate of Hamilton College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in both Theatre and Sociology. Since her return to the DMV this past May, Aisling has been working at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland as both a teaching artist and counselor for children's programming. Her most recent roles include her performance as Hannah Pitt in Hamilton College's production of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* this past spring, as well as her performance as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Hamilton College, and as King Cymbeline in the British American Drama Academy's 2023 production of *Cymbeline*. Aisling is thrilled to be taking part in the Rude Mechanicals' production

of *The Seagull*, and hopes this show permanently changes your relationship with any seabirds you may encounter going forward.

Liana Olear (Dramaturg, Asst Director, Stage Manager) thanks Melissa for another opportunity to go bilingual on the Rudes. She was last seen in *The School for Scandal* and last directed *Macbeth*.

Jeff Poretsky (Technical Director) - still TD, Still doing things not done before.

Melissa Schick (Director) has been acting and directing with the Rude Mechanicals since the early days. Favorite roles have included Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Valentine in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and Timon in *Timon of Athens*. She has also directed three full length productions with the Rudes (*The Winter's Tale*, *Arden Now [As You Like It]*, and *Uncle Vanya*).

Lily Tender (Masha) is so excited to be a part of *The Seagull*. Her recent credits include Mary in *Murder on the Orient Express* at Rockville Little Theatre, Maeve in *Blue Stockings* at Silver Spring Stage, and Kimber in *Stick Fly* at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She would like to thank her family, friends, partner Aidan, and dog Boots, who have been so supportive during her theatre journey.

Marianne Virnelson (Constantine) is delighted to make a return to GAC and reunite with the Rude Mechanicals for this musical take on *The Seagull*! She was last seen at GAC playing the titular role in *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*, and last seen with the Rudes in *The Beaux' Stratagem* (Marsha Bountiful). Most recent credits include *Crazy for You* (Eugene Fodor/Chauffeur/etc) and *Twelfth Night* (Feste) at LMP. When she is not doing community theatre around the DMV, she can be found working at the University of Maryland, or settling into her new home right here in Greenbelt with her fiancé, Zack, and their beloved gaggle of fur babies. She sincerely hopes you enjoy watching this production as much as she enjoyed working on every step of this process. Love and gratitude to the entire cast and production team. Let's rock!

Steven Howell Wilson (Trigorin) fell in love with acting when he was eleven and played *The Lord High Executioner* in a junior version of *Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado* at Glenelg Country School. His

forays into stage acting have been sporadic: a high school production of *Hello, Dolly!* in 1983, a best-forgotten turn in *Bring Back Birdie* for the Frustrated Actors' Association in 1988, Ben Johnson's *Volpone* as part of 2007's D.C. Fringe Festival, and *The Odd Couple* for Columbia Community Players in 2008. He has also directed, written and voice-acted for the award-winning Prometheus Radio Theatre, and will, if bribed or threatened, admit to having appeared in over fifty one-shot parodies for the Baltimore science fiction convention stage. Steve joins the Rude Mechanicals for the first time in *The Seagull*.

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Disability depiction statement from Mikki:

The *Seagull* includes depiction of physical disability that may seem confusing to some. Many people may be under the impression that these types of disabilities are progressive in a linear fashion, so the person would use a cane, then a wheelchair, then be in a wheelchair permanently. That is not necessarily the case. The character Peter Sorin has rheumatism, which is better known today as arthritis. It is very common for arthritis patients and for many others with disabilities to go from not needing mobility aids at all one day, to needing assistance on subsequent days. The depiction of disability in *The Seagull* is accurate as to how mobility challenges may manifest.

coming soon from the rudes...

Much Ado About Nothing, directed by Shirley Long, auditions
Monday and Tuesday January 27th and 28th

Much Ado About Nothing performances May 9th through 17th

King Lear directed by Claudia Bach, August 2025

thanks to our donors!

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