The Experimental Theater of Vassar College
Drama and Music departments presents

**SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE**

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine, Orchestration by Michael Starobin

directed by Christopher Grabowski and Drew Minter
music direction by Gregory Calidonna*
Amanda Montgomery*
Angelique Rodriguez*

*a senior project

MAY 7 AND MAY 8  2022
4:30 pm
Skinner Recital Hall

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**Carrie: The Musical**
Music by Michael Gore
Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
Book by Lawrence D. Cohen
From the Novel by Steven King
Director: Peter Gil-Sheridan
Music Director: Chelsea Zak*
Choreographer: Becca Chin*
Halle Jones*
The Martel Theater
October 6, 7, 8 2022
presented through special arrangements with Concord Int.

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**Mosquitoes**
By Lucy Kirkwood
Director: Louis Blachman*
Senior Project Ensemble:
Theo Duclo*, Clae Rountree*, Lena Pepe*, Ethan Clark*
The Powerhouse
November 3, 4, 5, 2022
presented through special arrangements with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

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**Hilda**
By Marie N’Diaye
Translated by Simeon Bremmer*
Director: Kiera Di Gaetano*
Charlotte Harter*
The Streep Studio
Dec 1, 2, 3 2022
presented through special arrangements with the author, Ms N’Diaye

*a senior project in Drama

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Fall 2022

Presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI)
Sponsored in part by the Joan Kostick Andrews ’52 Memorial Fund for Musical Theater

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Department of Drama
Vassar Experimental Theater
CAST

Dot/Marie
Old Lady/Elaine
George
Jules/Alex
Yvonne/Betty
Nurse/Waiter
Franz/Lee Randolph
Frieda/Blair Daniels
Celeste #1/Party Guest
Celeste #2/Photographer
Soldier/Bob Greenberg
Boatman/Charles Redmond
Louise/Naomi Eisen
Louis/Dennis
Mr./Barman
Mrs. Peaches/Harriet Pawling
Celeste #3/Billy Webster

Amanda Montgomery ‘22*
Angelique Rodriguez’22*
Thomas Freilich ‘24
Eli Wassertzug ‘22
Noa Rosenberg ‘22
Kathryn Hasson ‘23
Blaise Carter ‘22
Jacqueline Evangelista ‘25
Sarah Schuster ‘25
Presley Wheeler ‘23
Noah Crooks ‘22
Talia Mayo ‘25
Joe Baldwin ‘24
Matthew Fisher ‘24
Chelsea Zak ‘23
Madeleine Brigman ‘24

SPECIAL THANKS

Anthony Freitas, Guest Artist Scenic Designer
https://www.designbyfreitas.com/

Jon Fuller, Rehearsal Accompanist/ Adjunct Instructor in Music
https://www.jonfullermusic.com/bio

Brandon Stirling Baker, Guest Artist Lighting Consultant
https://www.stirlingbaker.com/

Steven Wooley ‘14

Michael Edwards

The Vassar College Innovation Lab

Drama Department at Vassar College
Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film (VCDF)
drama.vassar.edu

Music Department at Vassar College
Skinner Hall of Music
vassar.edu/music/concerts-events

MUSICIANS

Keyboards
Jon Fuller
Shai Wexler ‘23
Isabel Yu ‘25
Hunter Kui ‘25
Daphne Knoop ‘24
Olivia Gatto ‘24
Isabel Crawford ‘25
Christopher Story ‘22
Avery Duer ‘24
Abbye Friedman ‘25
Sophia Medinam ‘25

Violin

Violin

Viola 1

Cello

Upright Bass

Horn

Flute/Piccolo

Organist/Pianist/Keyboard

Clarinet

Percussion/Drums

*denotes a senior project
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<th><strong>PRODUCTION</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Music and lyrics</strong></td>
<td>Stephen Sondheim</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Book</strong></td>
<td>James Lapine</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Directors</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Grabowski, Drew Minter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music Director</strong></td>
<td>Gregory Calidonna ’22*, Angelique Rodriguez ’22*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dramaturgy</strong></td>
<td>Shona Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty Advisor</strong></td>
<td>Kelly Hatfield ’23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stage Manager</strong></td>
<td>Claire McHarg ’24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Stage Manager</strong></td>
<td>Anthony Freitas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Artist Scenic Designer</strong></td>
<td>Brandon Stirling Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Artist Lighting Consultant</strong></td>
<td>Patience Haskell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lighting &amp; Sound Designer</strong></td>
<td>Kenisha Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Costume Designer</strong></td>
<td>Matt Andres ’23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Costume Designers</strong></td>
<td>Julia Hanh Rioux ’23</td>
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<td><strong>Rehearsal Accompanist</strong></td>
<td>Jon Fuller and Avery Duer ’24</td>
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<td><strong>Light Board Operator</strong></td>
<td>Deanna Chun ’25</td>
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<td><strong>Wardrobe Supervisor</strong></td>
<td>Summer Gladstein</td>
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<td><strong>Costume Crew</strong></td>
<td>Vil To ’24, Sydney Duncan ’24, Faith Hernandez ’24, Grace Miller ’24</td>
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<td>My Trieu ’25, Simeon Bremmer ’23</td>
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<td><strong>Scene Shop</strong></td>
<td>Change over Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Intern</strong></td>
<td>Ella Talerico ’25, Chelsea Zak ’23, Thomas Freilich ’24, Jack Francis ’23, Kathryn Hasson ’23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crew</strong></td>
<td>Jacqueline Evangelista ’25</td>
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<th><strong>DRAMA DEPARTMENT WORK STUDY STUDENTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Costume Shop</strong></td>
<td>Paola Castaneda ’22</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Interns</strong></td>
<td>Isabella Granlund ’22, Julia Hanh Rioux ’23</td>
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<td><strong>Historic Collection Assistants</strong></td>
<td>Shanti Fowler-Puja ’22, Mahalia Hunter ’23</td>
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<td><strong>History &amp; Design Research Assistant</strong></td>
<td>Presley Wheeler ’23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Costume Crew</strong></td>
<td>Olivia Watson ’22, Camilla Meeker ’22, Evelyn Boyle ’23, Matt Andres ’23, Simeon Bremer ’23, Taylor Talcott ’23, Celeste Brinkhuis ’24, Madison Powell ’24, Foster Schrader ’25, Athena Randall ’25</td>
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<td>Sam Fujikawa ’22, Laurel Hanson ’23, Eden O’Connell ’23, Jason Meizels ’23, Joseph Cocozza ’24, Xan Setchko ’24, Ki’tsai Zangpo ’25, Kelly Hatfield ’23</td>
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<td><strong>Run Crew</strong></td>
<td>My Trieu ’25, Simeon Bremmer ’23</td>
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<td>My Trieu ’25, Lena Pepe ’23, Eli Wassertzug ’22, Sarah Schuster ’25, Noa Rosenberg ’22</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Evangelista ’25</td>
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Dr. Sondheim is a composer, lyricist, and Broadway icon. He is the recipient of eight Tony Awards (including a Tony for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre), a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, an Academy Award for Best Song, eight Grammy Awards, eight Drama Desk Awards, and many other honors. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2015.

James Lapine is a preeminent director, playwright, screenwriter, and librettist. He is the recipient of three Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical (Passion, Falsettos, Into the Woods), as well as nine Tony Award nominations, five Drama Desk Awards, a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and a Peabody Award, among other honors. He has also been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Mr. Abbott Award for lifetime achievement in theater.

Lapine’s book Putting It Together chronicles the two-year odyssey of creating the iconic Broadway musical Sunday in the Park with George. In 1982, In 1982, at the beginning of his career as a playwright and director, Lapine met Stephen Sondheim, nineteen years his senior and already a legendary Broadway composer and lyricist. Shortly thereafter, the two decided to write a musical inspired by Georges Seurat’s nineteenth-century painting A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte.

Through conversations between Lapine and Sondheim, as well as most of the production team, and with a treasure trove of personal photographs, sketches, script notes, and sheet music, the two Broadway icons lifted the curtain on their beloved musical. Putting It Together is a deeply personal remembrance of their collaboration and friendship and the highs and lows of that journey, one that resulted in the beloved Pulitzer Prize winning classic.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1 run time: 100 minutes

*Act 1 takes place on a series of Sundays from 1884 to 1886 and alternates between a park on an island in the Siene just outside Paris and George's studio.*

“Sunday in the Park with George” Dot
“No Life” Jules, Yvonne
“Color and Light” Dot, George
“Gossip” Celeste#1, Celeste #2, Boatman, Nurse, Old Lady, Jules, Yvonne
“The Day Off” George, Nurse, Franzk Frieda, Boatman, Soldier, Celeste#1, Celeste#2, Yvonne, Louise, Jules, Louis
“Everybody Loves Louis” Dot
“Finishing the Hat” George
“We Do Not Belong Together” Dot, George
“Beautiful” Old Lady, George
“Sunday” Company

INTERMISSION 15 minutes

ACT II run time: 50 minutes

*Act II takes place in 1984 at an American art museum and on the island.*

“It’s Hot Up Here” Company
“Chromolume #7” George, Marie
“Putting It Together” George, Company
“Children and Art” Marie
“Lesson #8” George
“Move On” George, Dot
“Sunday” Company

In memory of Stephen Sondheim
March 22, 1930 - November 26, 2021
DRAMATURGICAL NOTE continued

Act Two takes place in our contemporary world, where we meet Dot’s daughter Marie and her grandson George, another artist who is struggling to thrive in the modern world. In the never-ending cycle of connections, commissions and exhibitions that characterize the modern art world, as well as the technological and concrete world he is living in, George doubts whether or not he has anything else to say in his art.

Sunday in the Park with George was initially underestimated but has emerged to be a classic. I am so grateful to be involved in one of Sondheim’s greatest works, and I admire how we were able to reframe it in a way that is truly special in 2022. I will leave you with a quote from Stephen Sondheim, may he Rest In Peace, that particularly holds true today: “Art in itself is an attempt to bring order out of chaos.” Let us all take a moment to appreciate Sondheim and his capability to bring universal feelings of heartbreak, curiosity, love, and pain to light in his story-telling. I hope you enjoy our rendition of Sunday in the Park with George, we have poured our heart and soul into it, just as Sondheim would have wanted.

Thank you.

When I found out that senior Amanda Montgomery was considering Sunday in the Park with George as their thesis, I knew instantly that I wanted to be a part of it. I believed that it was an amazing opportunity to portray themes of passion, love, and art and to explore the story of an artist trying to make sense of the world around them. In my research I discovered that they sought theatrical inspiration from the painting and after trial and error with different art pieces, they realized just how perfect A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte was for musical theater. They were curious about the relationships between the people in the painting: for instance, “Why are people from many different walks of life all together, relaxing on a Sunday?” However, Sondheim and Lapine felt like they were missing something. Because of this, they began to search for the missing piece of the painting that they were the most curious about: the painter George Seurat. And from there, they found their main character.

With Act 1 set in 1884, we see George in a park on an island in the Seine, just outside of Paris and George’s studio. We get a peek into how George created the iconic painting we all know and love. However, we also get to realize the irony in just how fascinated he became in artistically portraying the relationships between people and their environment all while neglecting the romantic relationship he has with Dot in the process.

Bathers at Asnières (French: Une Baignade, Asnières) 1884 oil on canvas painting by Georges Pierre Seurat

A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, Oil on canvas by Georges Seurat (1884–1886)