

University of Pittsburgh Pitt Stages  
presents



# Emilia

April 8 - 16, 2022  
Charity Randall Theatre

Before this performance of *Emilia*, Pitt Stages and the Department of Theatre Arts joins the call for all artists, cultural workers, public officials, educators, administrators, community leaders, organizers, and engaged community members to open all public events and gatherings with acknowledgment of the traditional Native inhabitants of the land.

We want to recognize that this production was performed on the traditional, ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (also known as the Iroquois Confederacy), particularly the Seneca who were one of the 5 (and later 6) Iroquois-language speaking tribes in the Confederacy, the Lenape (also known as the Delaware), the Shawnee, the Mingo, and earlier, the Osage, the Monongahela, the Hopewell, and others.

We are mindful that our lives here are possible because the land and lives of people native to this place were stolen. Colonialism and white supremacy have continually tried to erase Indigenous people of this land in the past and present. At this time there are no federally recognized Indigenous tribes in Pennsylvania due to colonialism displacement. Our lives here are also possible because generation upon generation (past, present, and future) of indigenous people in this nation and all over the world are respectful stewards of the earth and its resources.

More information about this call, practice, and additional information can be found at <https://usdac.us/nativeland>.



Pitt's **Year of Data and Society** celebrates the mission of the University as a place where we gather together to research, analyze and try to better understand, and improve the world around us.

# Emilia

Written by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Directed by Bria Walker

## Production Team

Assistant Director  
**Finley Geist**

Stage Manager  
**Shamus Bonner**

Music Supervisor  
**Christina Vlachos**

Choreographer  
**Kiki Lucas**

Assistant Choreographer  
**Harry Hawkins IV**

Fight Choreographer  
**José Pérez IV**

Intimacy Director  
**KJ Gilmer**

Dialect Coach  
**Nancy McNulty McGeever**

Scenic Designer  
**M.K. Hughes**

Costume Designer  
**Rebecca Hobart**

Lighting Designer  
**Anmarie Duggan**

Sound Designer  
**Angela Baughman**

Dramaturg  
**Meg Knorr**

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Please silence all electronic paging devices, beepers, and cellular phones.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the building.

Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted inside the theatre.

***Emilia*** is approximately 2 hours long.

There will be a 15 intermission.

# Director's Note

I have been a fan of Shakespeare's works since my late teens. Through all my years of training and performance, I had never heard of Emilia Bassano Lanier until I was introduced to this play. I never knew that some speculated her to be the actual author of Shakespeare's works and to be the "Dark Lady" of the sonnets. How fun! As I read through the script and watched the original production of *Emilia*, my excitement about her grew and grew. I was witnessing a story being told by women and, in particular, by women of color. They were in period costumes, mixing classical ideals and aesthetics with contemporary culture and sensibilities. This intersection of gender, ethnicity, culture, and history further enhanced my desire to bring *Emilia* to Pitt's Theatre Department.

Stories are powerful. Stories give us the permission to create realities, to conjure the past, to escape present circumstances, and to honor those whose voices were silenced. Emilia Bassano Lanier's voice was silenced for hundreds of years. She was a woman of multi-ethnic heritage born in a time and place that was not favorable to people like her. She was brilliant. She was defiant. She was full of life. She inspired many around her. Unfortunately, her magnificent light was tampered down by societal rules, bigotry, and prejudice. Despite it all, she was determined to make her voice be heard. In effect, she became the first woman writing in English to publish a substantial volume of poetry.

Lastly, this production is a celebration of finally being able to be back in a theatre, creating and experiencing live performance! It has been an utter joy to work with all the actors, designers, technicians, and scholars who have been involved in the creation of this massive show. What started as a little flicker of an idea has now morphed into a roaring fire of a theatrical experience. I hope you are able to be inspired by Emilia's passion and the passion of these wonderfully dedicated young artists.

-Bria Walker

# About the Author

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm is a playwright and screenwriter. Her play *Emilia* (Shakespeare's Globe, 2018) transferred to the West End the following year. Her play *Belongings* premiered at the Hampstead Theatre and Trafalgar Studios (2011) and was shortlisted for the Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Award and her play *The Wasp* at Hampstead Theatre also transferred to Trafalgar Studios in 2015. In 2013 she was chosen as a member of the Soho Six (Soho Theatre). She has co-written several acclaimed immersive site-specific plays with Katie Lyons, produced by Look Left Look Right, including *You Once Said Yes, Above and Beyond* and *Once Upon a Christmas*. She was part of the writing team for four of the Lyric Hammersmith's pantomimes from 2009-2012 and wrote (solo) the Bolton Octagon's Christmas plays for 2013 and 2014. She has written two large community plays for the Old Vic New Voices: *Platform and Epidemic*.

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## Special Thanks

**Dr. Mary Donahoe, Annmarie Duggan,  
Michelle Granshaw, Tara Lanzarotta,  
Harvey & Denise Johnson, Tim Rhoze,  
Ashley Martin, Kylie Wilson and June Carlson**

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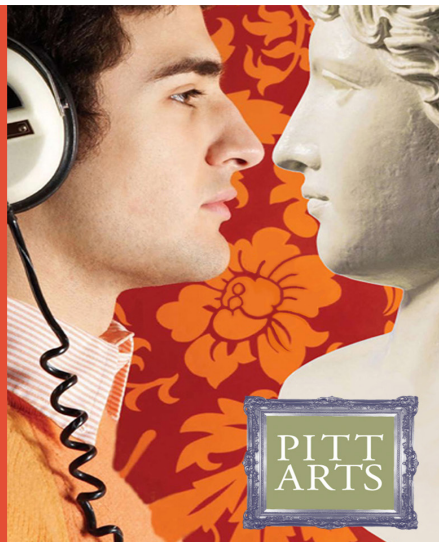
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# Dramaturg's Note

There is not much to say that Morgan Lloyd Malcolm has not written into the lines of this play, so I will open and close this note with the words of this magnificent playwright.

To Open:

*"This play was written to be performed by an all female cast of diverse women. It would not be the same play if this is ignored... This play was also written to challenge the notion that a play about a person needs to be a vehicle for one actress. This is very much an ensemble piece hence the three Emilias. It takes place in several time zones at one time. It isn't an accurate representation of Renaissance England, it isn't a historical representation. It is a memory, a dream, a feeling of her."*

This play is the story of the Elizabethan woman Emilia Bassano. History will tell you who she is in terms of the men she came across: Shakespeare's "Dark Lady," Henry Carey's mistress, Simon Foreman's client. This play will tell you who she was in her own right and who she is to us now. Emilia Bassano was not just a wife, a mother, a mistress, a lover. A woman's story is not comprised of the men around her. Emilia Bassano was a trailblazer and fierce defender of her sex. Her book, *Salve Deus Rex Judæorum*, published in 1611, was the first volume of poetry ever published by an Englishwoman and is considered by some scholars to be the first-ever feminist publication in England.

*Salve Deus Rex Judæorum* is an extremely smart body of work. The constraints of the time would not allow for women to own their own property, their own ideas, their own voices, their own selves. Emilia Bassano defied the odds with her book. Hidden inside a retelling of the passion of Christ is a feminist scream that demands to be heard. In *Salve*, Emilia champions female leaders of the past and of legend, calls out patriarchal oppression, and encourages women to get educated and question authority. She presents a woman's consent as a fundamental right and a personal power to be wielded. She was a passionate woman who refused to be held back by the

patriarchal society of her time. She refused to be judged by the color of her skin. Emilia's story is one that transcends time; one that speaks to all generations of women and especially to women of color. It is almost 400 years later, and women are still expected to be quiet and agreeable and nothing less than perfect. To bend to the whims of others. To do as we're told. To sit silently and to let ourselves be abused. We are living in a time where, on average, women make \$20,155 less than men per year, and Black women make \$4,448 less than that. 400 years ago, Emilia risked fatal consequences just to have her voice be heard. Today, you do not need to risk death to make your voice heard. Do not let yourself be silenced.

To Close:

*"The house that has been built around you is not made of stone. The stakes we have been tied to will not survive if our flames burn bright. And if they try to burn you, may your fire be stronger than theirs so you can burn the whole fucking house down."*

- Meg Knorr

To view the Emilia Dramaturgy Packet, please visit  
<https://bit.ly/EmiliaDramaturgPacket>

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## **DONATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

Please consider donating to our department. It is only with your help that we are able to showcase our students and faculty while sharing the future of theatre within our regional community.

We need your help more than ever to support these programs. There are many students on campus whose first experience with the theatre and the cultural community overall starts at Pitt.

**Click [here](#) to make an online donation to the department.**

# The Cast

Emilia 1 .....	Advika Ravishankar
Emilia 2 .....	Annika Bryan
Emilia 3 .....	Jaimya Forna
Margaret Johnson/Mary Sidney/Hester .....	Oliva Wick
Susan Bertie/Flora .....	Lauren Scheller-Wolf
Lady Cordelia/Mary.....	Elise DuBois
Lady Helena/Lord Howard.....	Ella Mizera
Lady Katherine/Desdemona.....	Julia Orff
Lord Henry Carey/Judith/Priest.....	Hailey Brownley
Lady Margaret/Midwife .....	Corinne Stroup
Lord Collins/Lady Anne .....	Shea Sweeney
Lord Alphonso.....	Cadence Reid
Emila (Othello)/Eve.....	Samantha Rose
Willian Shakespeare .....	Kelly Trumbull
Bob/River Woman .....	Kaylah Harley
Man at Court/Man 2/Dave.....	Lena Ruther
Court Musician .....	Lucia Troiano
Man at Court/Man 1 .....	Erin Knight

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# The Company

**Hailey Brownley** (Lord Henry Carey/Judith/Priest/Dance Captain) is a freshman double major in psychology and theater arts. *Emilia* is her first mainstage Pitt Stages production. Past performances included *Into the Woods* (Cinderella) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive). She is thankful for this incredible opportunity to learn and gain experience with such an incredible cast!

**Annika Bryan** (Emilia 2) is thrilled to be performing in her first Pitt Stages production! She is a freshman pursuing a theatre arts major. Earlier this semester she was seen assistant directing the Pitt Stages production, *A New Brain*.

**Elise DuBois** (Lady Cordelia/Mary) is a senior theatre arts and psychology double major, and is ecstatic to close out her undergraduate experience at Pitt in her first tier one production. Past roles include *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Steve), "Victory on Mrs. Dandywine's Island" (Mrs. Dandywine), "Waiting Room" (Nurse/Grace), and multiple student films.

**Jaimya Forna** (Emilia 3) is a sophomore dual international area studies and law, criminal justice, and society major with minors and Spanish and theatre. She is very excited to be a part of her first Pitt Stages production and is so thrilled to be working with such a wonderful cast. Previous productions include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal), *Once on this Island*, *Sister Act*, and others. Jamilya is very excited about this show and hopes you enjoy!

**Kaylah Harley** (Bob/River Woman) is excited to be a part of *Emilia!* She is a junior studying theatre arts with a minor in Africana studies. This will be her third time participating in a Pitt Stages Production. Her previous shows include "Hair Waiting" (Ma Bell) and *Spark* (Janice). Post-graduation she plans to attend physician assistant school and continue acting.

**Erin Knight** (Man at Court/Man 1) is thrilled to be apart of such a talented cast and crew. She is a senior with a major in psychology and a certificate in digital media. She is excited to be performing in her first mainstage production and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Ella Mizera** (Lady Helena/Lord Howard/Fight Captain) is excited to perform in her first mainstage, in-person Pitt Stages production! She is a sophomore theater major with a certificate in nonprofit management. Previous credits include Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks' *Hamlet* (Rosencrantz), Youth Shakespeare Society of Pittsburgh's *Macbeth* (Malcolm), and Play On Words' *No Exit* (Inez). When she's not performing, she can be found teaching with the Steel City Shakespeare Center, swordfighting, or cuddling her dog. Usually not all at the same time!

**Julia Orff** (Lady Katherine/Desdemona) is delighted to perform in her first mainstage role with Pitt Stages. She is a sophomore film production and communications student with a minor in theatre arts. Previous productions include *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie) as well as many one-act plays and short films. Julia is working on several documentary movies shooting in Pittsburgh and interns at Pitt Studios as a broadcasting assistant.

**Advika Ravishankar** (Emilia 1) is ecstatic to make her Pitt Stages debut in *Emilia!* She is a first-year computational biology major pursuing a minor in theatre arts. She has worked behind-the-scenes on shows such as *Footloose* and *Chicago* prior to college, and is happy to be acting on stage in *Emilia!*

**Cadence Reid** (Lord Alphonso) is a junior psychology and sociology double major and theatre arts minor, is excited to be back for her first in person show, post-pandemic. Previously, she performed in *The Wolves* (#00) and *The Verge* (Anna). She looks forward to a great run!

**Samantha Rose** (Emilia (Othello)/Eve) is a senior theater arts and communication rhetoric double major, with a certificate in digital media. She is beyond thrilled to be performing with such a wonderful cast and crew for her final show with Pitt Stages. Previous performances include *Mamma Mia* (Tanya), *The Drag Seed* (Chris), *Oblivion* (Julie), *Dr. Faustus Light the Lights* (MIHA), and *Woyzeck* (Margaret).

**Lena Ruther** (Man at Court/Man 2/Dave) is a sophomore studying theatre arts and English literature. This is her second Pitt Stages production. Previous work includes "Hair Waiting" (Becky). Lena is thankful for the all the support she experienced while working on *Emilia*. Enjoy the show!

**Lauren Scheller-Wolf** (Susan Bertie/Flora) is ecstatic to be performing in *Emilia!* Lauren is a senior majoring in theatre arts and English fiction writing with a minor in history. Previous Pitt Stages credits include *Spark* (Jude), *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Lily/Lilith), “Carrie and Francine” (stage manager), “Remembering Emmy” (stage manager), and *The Drag Seed* (assistant stage manager). Lauren has also worked with Prime Stage Theatre, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, and Gemini Children’s Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Corinne Stroup** (Lady Margaret/Midwife/Assistant Dance Captain) is thrilled to be making her Pitt Stages debut! She is a sophomore biological sciences major with minors in chemistry and theatre arts. Some of her previous credits include *Mamma Mia!* (Ali), *Treasure Island* (Jim Hawkins), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Kim McAfee), *The Curious Savage* (Miss Wilhelmina) and Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Cinderella* (Cinderella).

**Shea Sweeney** (Lord Collins/Lady Anne) Shea Sweeney is thrilled to be making her Pitt Stages performance debut! She is a first-year student pursuing a theatre arts major and music minor. Previous work included *A New Brain* (assistant master electrician). She looks forward to continuing to work with Pitt Stages.

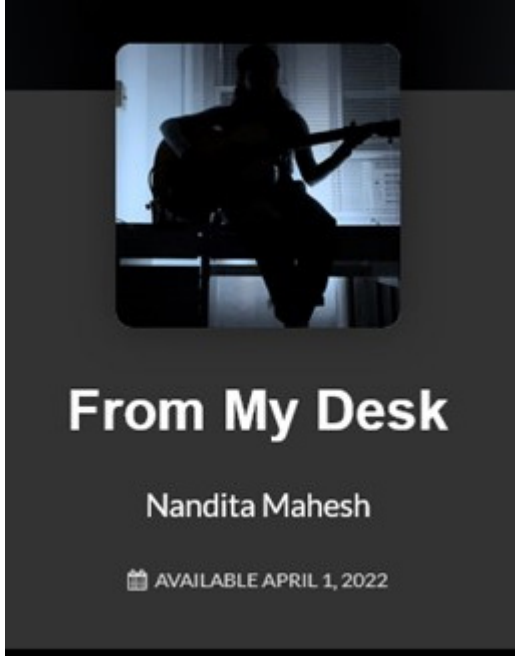
**Lucia Troiano** (Court Musician) is a freshman theatre arts major. She is excited to perform in her first Pitt Stages mainstage production. Past performances include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Antigone* (Antigone), *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Brill) and others.

**Kelly Trumbull** (William Shakespeare) is a Pittsburgh, PA-based theater artist. Currently, she serves on the faculties of University of Pittsburgh’s Theatre Arts Department and Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music. In addition to collaborating with Pitt Stages, local professional credits include work with Pittsburgh Public Theater, Real/Time Interventions, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, City Theatre Company, Quantum Theatre, Bricolage, No Name Players, 12 Peers Theater, and more. Proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.  
[www.kellytrumbull.com](http://www.kellytrumbull.com)

**Olivia Wick** (Margaret Johnson/Mary Sidney/Hester) is a freshman english and marketing major. She is excited to perform in her first Pitt Stages production and hopes to do more in the future.

# *From My Desk*

Download original music by  
Nandita Mahesh



*From My Desk*

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## **Content Warning**

Subject matter of a sensitive nature, including adult language, suicide, mature themes, stage violence, and references to death, is explored in this production.

If you find that any of these subjects generate an emotional response, we encourage and trust that you do what you believe is best for your mental health.

## RESOURCES

*Please see the information below for campus, local, and national support for suicide, mental health, and sexual assault as well as LGBTQ specific support to reach out if you are in need of help.*

### **University Counseling Center (Pitt)**

Mental Health Crisis (24/7): 412-648-7930

Sexual Assault Crisis (24/7): 412-648-7930

### **resolve Crisis Network (Pittsburgh Area)**

Call (24/7): 1-888-7-YOU-CAN (1-888-796-8226)

Visit (24/7):

333 North Braddock Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

### **Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PARR)**

Call (24/7): 1-866-363-7273

Text/Chat: <https://paar.net/>

### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

Call (24/7): 1-800-273-8255

TTY - Dial 800-799-4889; Voice/Caption

Phone - Dial 800-273-8255

### **Crisis Text Line**

Text (24/7): HOME to 741741

### **National Sexual Assault Hotline**

Call (24/7): 800-656-HOPE(4673)

Chat (24/7): <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>

### **The Trevor Project (LGBTQ Support)**

Call (24/7): 1-866-488-7386

Text (24/7): START to 678-678

Chat (24/7): <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

# Production Crew

## Pitt Stages Production Staff

Costume Shop Manager ..... Ricky Campbell  
Technical Director..... JC Bardzil  
Head Electrician/Shop Foreperson..... Kyle Cameron  
Prop Shop Manager..... MK Hughes  
Production Omsbudperson ..... Ashley Martin

Director ..... Bria Walker  
Assistant Director ..... Finley Geist  
Stage Manager ..... Shamus Bonner  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Anabel Blackford  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Megan Franco  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Ty'Mariya Moss  
Intimacy Director ..... KJ Gilmer  
Choreographer ..... Kiki Lucas  
Assistant Choreographer ..... Harry J Hawkins IV  
Dance Captain..... Hailey Brownley  
Assistant Dance Captain..... Corinne Stroup  
Fight Choreographer ..... José Pérez IV  
Fight Captain..... Ella Mizera  
Music Supervisor ..... Christina Vlachos  
Dialect Coach ..... Nancy McNulty McGeever  
Dramaturg..... Meg Knorr  
Scenic Designer..... MK Hughes  
Scenic Charge Artist..... Lori Bollinger  
Scenic Artists ..... Jess Fitzpatrick, Natasha Lowy,  
Jillian Werbisky and Claire Stemmer  
Painters .... Claire Bailey, Madeline Bush, Becca Hobart, Jonathan  
Prosser, Jessica Raines, Lauren Scheller-Wolf,  
Bradley Seltzer, Lauren Taylor, and Kylie Wilson  
Props Artist(s)..... Sophia McAleer-Forte,  
Elise DuBois, Vivi Li, Logan Ferdinand,  
Spade You, and Eric Heim  
Costume Designer..... Rebeca Hobart  
Assistant Costume Designer..... Afton Aulick  
Dressers ..... Maya Jones, Emily Rothermel,  
Gabrielle Wilson and Molly Kotzin

Costume Production Crew..... Kyle Huber, Elliot Mohrmann,  
 Maya Jones, Ty'Mariya Moss, Malcolm Buisch, Karla Sue Frank,  
 Ariana Russo, Meredith Zoffel , Hailey Brownley ,  
 and the Costume Production and Technology students

Lighting Designer.....Annmarie Duggan

Assistant Lighting Designer.....TJ Hays

Light Board Operator .....Isabel Sinnott

Spot Operator ..... Gabriella Walko, Lauren McNeil  
 and Caroline McEligot

Sound Designer.....Angela Baughman

Audio 1 .....Kyra Patenaude

Head Electrician ..... Rissa Towsley

Assistant Electrician ..... Krishna Amin

Assistant Electrician .....Katie Riley

Assistant Electrician ..... Grace Cullen

Electricians .....Mihir Nemani, Simone Mohite, Lea Gordnier,  
 Quincy Bayer, Lynn Slutsky,  
 and the Introduction to Stagecraft Class.

Shop Overhire.....Charlie Lockridge

Shop Staff.....Sophia Kosowsky  
 and Parker Stephens

Carpenters .....James Garret Brown, Kyle Buchheister,  
 Jewel Hicks, Warren Lester, Lauren Scheller-Wolf,  
 Bradley Seltzer and the Introduction to Stagecraft class

Run Crew .....Paige Wasserman

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Performance Advisor..... Becki Toth

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[@samisaunderstudio](https://www.instagram.com/samisaunderstudio)

# The Production Team

**Krishna Amin** (Assistant Master Electrician) is excited to work on the Pitt Stages production of *Emilia* as his last freshman year production. Krishna is a chemistry and math double major with a theatre arts minor. He is interested in theatre sound and lighting, and hopes to continue working on future Pitt Stages productions.

**Afton Aulick** (Assistant Costume Designer) is very excited to be designing for her first and final mainstage production! She is a senior double major in film & media studies and anthropology with a minor in theatre arts. Previous work includes "Remembering Emmy (assistant costume designer), *Crazy For You* (Irene), *You Can't Take It With You* (Grand Duchess Olga Katrina), and *On the Town* (Flossie).

**Angela Baughman** (Sound Designer) is a multidisciplinary sound artist fascinated by the spaces between music and noise. Her work spans 70+ theatrical productions, to include: Off-Broadway- associate sound designer, *Heartland* at 59E59; Regional- *American Son* and *School Girls; or, the African Mean Girls Play* at Pittsburgh Public Theatre; Guest artist- *Into the Woods* at University of Pittsburgh and Baldwin Wallace University. Other recent work includes *The Clearing*, a 2021 London Independent Film Festival winner. B.M., Berklee College of Music. [thatsoundgirl.com](http://thatsoundgirl.com)

**Anabel Blackford** (Assistant Stage Manager) is glad to be continuing their stage management career at Pitt Stages. This show has been a massive undertaking and success. Our cast and crew has moved through this show process with grace and excitement. They are pleased for you to see this culmination of power and excellence take the stage. Enjoy!

**Shamus Bonner** (Stage Manager) is a 3rd year theatre arts major, and is honored to be a part of *Emilia*! His previous work includes Prime Stage Theatre's production of *Karloff: The Man and the Monster* (assistant stage manager), the Pitt Stages productions of *Somewhere* (sound designer), *Spark* (stage manager), *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (assistant stage manager), and *Appropriate* (assistant stage manager), and the Musical Theatre Club productions of *Mamma Mia!* (production manager/sound designer) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (stage manager).



**Megan Franco** (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to assistant stage manage again with Pitt Stages! She is a junior theater and psychology double major, and is pursuing a history minor and REEES certificate. Previous work includes Pitt Stages productions of *The Drag Seed* (stage manager), *Head Over Heels*, and *Anon(ymous)* (assistant stage manager) as well as the MTC productions of *Mamma Mia!*, (stage manager) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (assistant stage manager).

**Annmarie Duggan** (Lighting Designer) is a Professor and Head of Design and Technology for the Department of Theatre Arts. She teaches in the area of Lighting Design & Stage Management. Ms. Duggan holds an MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Arizona. Before moving to Pittsburgh in 2006 Ms. Duggan was a New York City based freelance Lighting Designer and Production Manager. She has worked Off Broadway and extensively in Regional Theatre across the country. To learn more about her work visit <http://www.amddesignonline.com>. She also has partnered to develop a theatre app which can be found at [www.Urbanbyte.io](http://www.Urbanbyte.io).

**Finley Geist** (Assistant Director) is a sophomore theatre arts and communications major. They are so excited to be working on their third mainstage production with Pitt Stages!

**KJ Gilmer** (Intimacy Director) Ms. Gilmer is a Lecturer II in Costume Design. She designs costumes and teaches courses in costume design, introduction to theatrical design, performance and directing. She is currently receiving education and training in the field of theatrical intimacy, consent, and best practices.

Her work as a theatrical intimacy director is to support the consensual crafting and staging of stories with content of sexual nature, race, disability, religion or age with appropriate cultural context and competency. Her intimacy directing practices support brave, creative spaces in classrooms, rehearsals, and all production areas, especially for BIPOC artists.

Ms. Gilmer currently trains with Theatrical Intimacy Education and Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. Her recent intimacy directing credits include Orlando Shakespeare's *Intimate Apparel*, University of Pittsburgh's Stages productions of *Oblivion* directed by Sean Cook, *Drag Seed*, and "Carrie and Francie" directed by Becca Hobart.

In 2019, Gilmer's proposal for "Intimacy Directing: Safely Staging Scenes of Intimacy, Nudity, and Sexual Violence for the Academic Performer", received University of Pittsburgh's Momentum Award Funds for contributing to the awareness and prevention of Sexual Assault.

**Harry J Hawkins IV** (Assistant Choreographer) is a locally-based artist and software developer. Since graduating in 2016, they have worked with several local artists acting and devising theater, including "QUEER: new american folktales" with FolkLAB, André with Throughline Theatre, and Queer Jewish, a dance collaboration with Ella Mason and Co. When they are not working on theatre, they work in collaboration with local community voices to build and tell data-supported stories of inequity in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region.

**TJ Hays** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is excited to complete his last show at Pitt! He is a senior theatre arts major, hoping to become a concert lighting designer in the future. His past work includes *A New Brain* (lighting designer), *Spark* (lighting designer), *Oblivion* (lighting designer) and *next to normal* (lighting designer) as well as lighting for Pitt Tonight and Redeye. He looks forward to his future in lighting design!

**Rebecca Hobart** (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be designing her first mainstage. She is a senior theatre arts major and has previously directed Pitt Stages *The Drag Seed*. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**MK Hughes** (Scenic Designer) is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with a MFA in Scenic Design for the Theater. She is currently a visiting artist in scenic properties and design at the University of Pittsburgh. For the past seven years she has been working as a freelance set designer, props artisan, and scenic painter at various locations, including: Point Park University in Pittsburgh (Design), Prime Stage in Pittsburgh (Props & Design), The New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh (Design), the Alabama and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals (Painting), McLeod Summer Playhouse in Carbondale, IL (Props & Design), and Kansas State University (Design).

**Meg Knorr** (Dramaturg) is grateful for the chance to have explored dramaturgical work for the first time with this production. Meg is a senior studying media & professional communications and theatre arts.

She is also the marketing intern at City Theatre. She previously appeared in Pitt Stages productions of *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), *The Wolves* (#7), and *The Last Five Years* (crew member/dancer).

**Kiki Lucas** (Choreographer) is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at Point Park University teaching jazz technique, contemporary partnering and Entrepreneurship and the Arts. She is an alumna and has been a part of the Point Park International Summer Dance faculty since 2002. She was the resident choreographer and company member of Met Dance Co. in Houston Tx as well as Mosaic Dance Project in Miami, FL. Her choreography has been presented twice at Jacob's Pillow Inside Out Stage, The Kennedy Center, Towson University and Wright State University.

Her International teaching credits include: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Uruguay and Mexico. Other teaching credits include: Modas Dance, Broadway Dance Center, Debbie Reynold's Dance Studio, Hawaii Pacific University, San Diego State University, Choreographer's Ball Los Angeles CA, Miami Arts Charter School.

Kiki was honored to be the choreographer along side Broadway's Stephen Sposito in Point Park's rendition of *Pippin* in spring of 2019 and could not have been more thrilled to have worked with Carnegie Mellon's brilliant Justin Lucero in the fall production of *Curtains* this past October of 2021.

**Nancy McNulty McGeever** (Dialect Coach) is delighted to be coaching the Pitt Stages students. Her work has been heard in *Curtains!* and *Little Children Dream of God* at PPU. Professional productions include *Bright Star*, *Grey Gardens* and *Big Fish* as well as the upcoming *A Man of No Importance* and *Grand Hotel* at Front Porch Productions, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and *Rules of Seconds* at barebones productions, *Citizens Market* and *Hand to God* at City Theater, *Holmes and Watson* with Kinetic and *School Girls: Or The African Mean Girls Play* at Pittsburgh Public Theater. Nancy teaches Theater Arts at Shady Side Academy Jr. School. She earned her MFA at The New School and is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio.

**Ty'Mariya Moss** (Assistant Stage Manager) is elated to be working on *Emilia*. This production marks Ty'Mariya's first Pitt Stages production". As a social work major, Ty'Mariya enjoys exploring the overlap between clinical social work and theatre. She's enjoyed working with the talented director, the creative production team, the lively stage management team, and this hardworking cast. Ty'Mariya admires the stage manager as he has managed this large beast of a show. Despite watching scenes over-and-over again, Ty'Mariya is always choked up at the end of the show. Get your tissues ready! She would like to thank you for supporting Pitt Stages. Considering that the next season is right around the corner, she hopes to see you at another production. Enjoy the show!

**Rachel Nolen** (Covid Compliance Officer) is a junior theatre arts and political science major. She is very excited to be working on this production. Previously Pitt Stages productions include "Carrie and Francine", *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties, Somewhere*, and *A New Brain* (assistant stage manager). Rachel has also worked with the Pitt Dance Ensemble on their fall showcase (assistant stage manager) and spring showcase (stage manager). Rachel plans on perusing professional stage management post-graduation.

**Kyra Patenaude** (Audio 1) is excited to be working on *Emilia!* Kyra is a first year mathematics major with a double minor in Spanish and teacher education. Previous Pitt Stages productions include *Somewhere* (audio 2) and MTC's production of *Mamma Mia!* (audio 2). In high school she was involved in the productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *The Addams Family*.

**José Pérez IV** (Fight Choreographer) is a fight choreographer and theatre maker. Artistic director of Big Storm Performance Company. An advanced actor combatant with The Society of American Fight Directors, MFA in Performance Pedagogy from the University of Pittsburgh, BFA in Drama from NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. New York performances at venues including Times Square Arts Center, HERE Arts Center, Joe's Pub, The Ohio Theater, and Theater for the New City. Recent original works: directing and choreography for *Or Forever Hold Your Peace* with Big Storm PC, a staged reading of his play "Sub-Par" produced by Pitt Stages.

**JosePerezIV.com BigStormPC.com**

**Katie Riley** (Assistant Electrician) is very excited for *Emilia* to be her first show as a member of the crew! She is a freshman studying biology and theatre arts and hopes to one day do theatre professionally, or perhaps be a zookeeper.

**Rissa Towsley** (Head Electrician)

**Christina Vlachos** (Music Supervisor) is a junior psychology major with minors in music and theatre arts. She is excited to be working in her first music supervisor role. Christina debuted in her first production with Pitt Stages in *Somewhere* (Puppeteer) last fall and is excited for theatre to open back up again!

**Bria Walker** (Director) is a multidisciplinary artist and educator based out of Pittsburgh, PA. She is currently Assistant Professor of Performance and Head of the Performance and MFA Performance Pedagogy programs at Pitt. Selected directing credits: co-director of *Crowns* (Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre); *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, *The Every 28 Hours Plays Project* (SUNY New Paltz), *Miss You Like Hell* (Pitt Stages); *Avenue Q* (SUNY New Paltz & Pitt Stages); *Polaroid Stories* (Southern Oregon University); *Dog Shit* (B.U.S. 11); staged reading *Off With Her Maidenhead* (The Pitch series for Merry-Go-Round Playhouse). Education: MFA - Denver Center for the Performing Arts (National Theatre Conservatory); BFA - Wright State University.  
[www.briawalker.com](http://www.briawalker.com)

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*Theatre Arts  
Graduation Ceremony*

*Saturday, April 30, 2022  
10:00 AM  
Charity Randall Theatre*

Proud Member



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# University of Pittsburgh

## Department of Theatre Arts

### ABOUT

The Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and offers BA, MFA, and PhD degrees in Theatre Arts. The Department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

### FACULTY

Department Chair	Cynthia Croot
Director of Graduate Studies	Kathleen George
Director of Undergraduate Studies	Ricardo Vila-Roger
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy	Bria Walker
Head of Design Technology	Annamarie Duggan
Head of History/Literature/Criticism	Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance	Bria Walker
Additional Faculty	Gianni Downs, Karen J Gilmer, Patrick McKelvey, and Becki Toth
Teaching Artists-in-Residence	M.K. Hughes, Chosky Teaching Artist Kelly Trumbull, Richard E. Rauh Teaching Artist
Professor Emeriti	W. Stephen Coleman, Don Mangone and Bruce McConachie

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Interim Department Coordinator	Evan Zajdel
Operations Manager	Ashley Martin
Academic Administrator	Natlaie King
Graduate Student Service Administrator	Jennifer Smoak
Marketing Coordinator/Box Office Manager	Connie Anne Markiw

### PRODUCTION STAFF

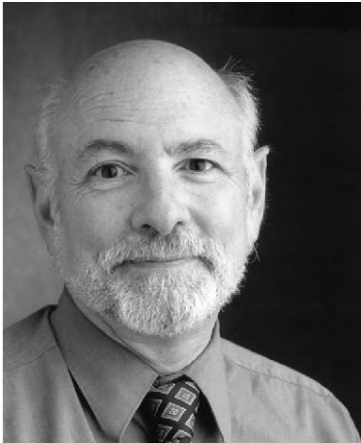
Costume Shop Manager	Ricky Campbell
Technical Director	JC Bardzil
Head Electrician/Shop Foreperson	Kyle Cameron
Prop Shop Manager	MK Hughes
Production Omsbudperson	Ashley Martin

# In Memoriam

This production of *Emilia* is  
dedicated to the memories of  
Dr. Attilio (Buck) Favorini and Dr. Po-Hsien Chu.

We thank them for the guidance and excellence  
they brought to the department.

May their lights continue to burn bright.



Dr. Attilio Favorini

Dr. Po-Hsien Chu

