

# **PUFFBILL**

**SPITZER AUDITORIUM AT SANDERS CLASSROOM**

## **PUFFS**

**Or, Seven Increasingly  
Eventful Years at a Certain  
School of Magic and Magic**



**Written by Matt Cox**

**Directed by Molly Jeanne**

**Produced by Vassar College Philaletheis Society**

# PUFFS

By Matt Cox

Music by Brian Metolius

Originally produced Off Broadway by Tilted Windmills Theatricals

(John Arthur Pinckard/David Carpenter)

PUFFS was Developed in Part During a Residency with the University of Florida School of Theatre +  
Dance, Jerry Dickey, School Director

Originally Produced Off-Off Broadway by Stephen Stout and Colin Waitt

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Narrator.....	Riley Scott '27
Ernie Mac/Others.....	Carolyn Worrall '27
Hannah/Others.....	Abbye Friedman '25
Sally Perks/Others.....	Avery Berg '27
J. Finch-Fletchley/Others.....	Kate Powell '27
Wayne Hopkins.....	Kishi Oyagi '27
Leanne/Others.....	Olivia Arenburg '26
Susie Bones/Others.....	Vania Workman von Ussar '27
Oliver Rivers.....	Ananya Agrawal '26
Megan Jones.....	Ash Todd '26
Cedric/Others.....	Xander Shumaker '26

## Production Team

Director.....	Molly Freer '25
Assistant Director .....	Talia Lasky '27
Stage Manager.....	Jackson Bernreuter '25
Lighting Design .....	Kaitlyn Rezek '26
Board Operator.....	Charlie Cohen '27
Sound Design.....	Matt Cox
Original Score.....	Brian Metolius
Set/Props Design.....	Jonathan Eccher-Mullally '27
	Estella Shklyar '27

**Puffs will run 90-ish minutes with no intermission.**

## BIOS

**Ananya Agrawal (she/her) (Oliver Rivers)** is a sophomore double majoring in Drama and Media Studies. She is a Shiva Theatre staff member and interim coordinator for the Harlequin Travelers. Recent acting credits at Vassar include *Sherlock (Matchstick Manor: A Murder Mystery)*, *Smeraldina (A Servant of Two Masters)*, and *Neha (Wedding Scraps)*. She also has experience with lighting design (*Gloria*) and production management (*Matchstick Manor: A Murder Mystery*). This is her second time doing Puffs, and she couldn't be more ecstatic to be in 3rd place!

**Olivia Arenburg (she/her) (Leanne/Others)** is a sophomore International Studies major and French minor. This is her fifth show at Vassar, having previously acted in *Urinetown*, *The Christians*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. When she is not acting, Olivia can be found working at the Women's Center or planning events for Strong House. She is so excited to be a part of the show (especially because she is a Puff in real life!!) and wants to thank the entire cast and crew for making this experience so amazing!

**Avery Berg (she/her) (Sally Perks/Others)** is a freshman who is planning to major in drama. She has loved being able to participate in this production and hopes to perform in many more Vassar plays in the future. She is also on the Vassar mock trial team. Recent acting credits include *Love and Information* (Ensemble), *Puffs* (Harry), *Secret in the Wings* (Heidi), and *Everything's Different* (Mrs. Gosling). *Puffs* is Avery's acting debut at Vassar. She has loved working with the cast and laughing a lot with all of them. She is so excited to see what the future holds for her in context to acting at Vassar. She is also very grateful for the brave support of her parents to allow her to pursue drama in college. She would like to thank them profusely.

**Jackson Bernreuter (he/him) (Stage Manager)** is a double major in drama and physics (with a third major in cross country). He is glad to be part of the *Puffs* team despite quite the busy semester, having acted in *Seven Minutes* by Jean Fassler for the Steerman New Play Festival in November. Past productions include *Scooter Thomas Makes It to the Top of the World* and *Pippin*. When not doing drama activities, Jackson can be found running, thinking about the nature of the universe, eating in the Deece, and running.

**Molly Freer (she/her) (Director)** is a junior film major with a music composition correlate. She is a tour guide with the admissions office and a member of Beauty and the Beats. Recent acting credits include *Parade* (Essie), *Once* (Ensemble), *Matilda* (Ensemble). At Vassar: *The Last Five Years* (Pit Band), *Alice By Heart* (Pit Band), *The Lightning Thief* (Pit Band), *Urinetown* (Director), *The Christians* (Choir), *Pippin* (Pit Band), *The Addams Family* (Grandma). She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her, the entire cast and crew of Puffs, and Talia and Jackson for being wonderful collaborators and dear friends.

HHHHHHHHH! WHO'S THAT? It's **Abbye Friedman (she/her) (Hannah/Others)**, a proud Puff, and she is so excited to be part of this production! She is a junior psychology major and music performance correlate. Favorite credits include Little Sally in *Urinetown* (twice), Berthe in *Pippin*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, Tweedledum in *Alice*, and Antigone in *Antigone*. In her free time, she loves to knit and crochet. She would like to thank her family and friends, and of course her cats, for their ongoing love and support.

**Talia Lasky (she/her) (Assistant Director)** is excited to be working on her very first show at Vassar! Some of her favorite shows she has been a part of include *Legally Blonde*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek the Musical*, and so much more. Talia's favorite color is burgundy, loves to knit and crochet, and loves dark chocolate more than anything else! She is so thankful for this opportunity and wants to shout out everyone in the audience from the midwest!

**Kishi Oyagi (they/them) (Wayne Hopkins)** is a freshman and prospective biology major. They are a co-founder of the Poughkeepsie Community Fridge, a Dutchess County Pride Center volunteer, and a huge board game nerd. Recent acting credits include *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Ensemble) at Vassar, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello), *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), and *Clue* (Prof. Plum) at Oakwood Friends School. They would like to thank everyone who's here to support the show, especially their family (who came a long way!), as well as their friend Max Hopkins who inspired them to take on this role, and Melissa Matthews, who taught them everything they know about theater.

**Kate Powell (she/her) (J. Finch-Fletchley/Others)** is a freshman and very excited to be a part of her first performance at Vassar! She wants to thank all the support from her wonderful family and friends. Also, she is curious if the person sitting in the middle section, 2nd row, 3rd chair on the left is wearing a green shirt or not. Are they?

**Riley Gordon Scott (he/him) (Narrator)** is a freshman at Vassar from Savannah, Georgia. Community theater was his second home in middle and high school! Acting credits include *The SpongeBob Musical* (Old Man Jenkins), *Dracula* (Dracula), and *Les Misérables* (Thénardier). Additionally, his senior project culminated in the writing, direction, and performance of a one-act play, *Mrs. Ablebody Smells Smoke*. Confession: I got into Vassar with an essay about Harry Potter fan fiction - so it only seemed appropriate that I audition for *Puffs*! Enjoy the show!!

**Xander Shumaker (he/him) (Cedric/Others)** is a sophomore at Vassar College. (Where else?) He has performed in *It's Something for Sure* and *Urinetown* at Vassar, and he sings in the Vassar College Choir and Chamber Singers and plays horn in the orchestra. Xander lives in Traverse City, Michigan, also known as the wilderness apparently. In his free time (what's that?), Xander enjoys waking up at 4 AM to climb mountains, drinking Wild Sweet Orange tea, and hopping up "staircases." Xander would like to thank the cast and crew of *Puffs* for being such a great group of Puff-y people, and Eli W. for maintaining quality control at the Deece. All right, bio concluded. So what's the deal with pigeons? According to Andrew D. Blechman they're "the world's most revered and reviled bird," but I look at them and I just see a boring old pigeon. One time I saw a pigeon in an underground train station, and I was like, "how did that pigeon get in here?" But that's basically all there is to them. Why not write a book about something interesting, like jackalopes? Or 1.5" dry standpipes? Or Indianapolis? Or...what? What do you mean I'm still writing my bio? Oh, my. I am just having a day, aren't I? YAH! *Puffs*!

**Ash Todd (they/she) (Megan)** is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this production of *Puffs*. While they were a true theater kid in high school, she is only just starting to jump into the productions here at Vassar. Previously at Vassar, they have participated in two productions of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and are a member of H.E.L. sketch comedy. They would like to thank their friends for supporting them through every performance and their parents for always finding time to listen to their rants. Finally, of course, they want to thank their fellow Puffs for always bringing a truly magical energy to each and every rehearsal.

**Vania Workman von Ussar (she/her) (Susie Bones/Others)** is from Brooklyn, New York. Having grown up around theater, she is excited to be acting in her first show at Vassar! After a long hiatus, she returns to acting for the first time pre-COVID. Vania is also in Beauty and the Beats, Vassar's only Disney-only acapella group, participates in Challah for Hunger, and crochets in her free time. Her favorite shows are *Mean Girls* and *Fiddler on the Roof* (she couldn't pick just one!). She would like to thank her parents, brother, her dog Nola, and everyone who has helped her get this far!

**Carolyn Worrall (she/her) (Ernie Mac/Others)** is a freshman who is thoroughly enjoying her debuting show. She was heavily involved in seven separate musicals (including, in no particular order, *The Music Man*, *Little Women*, and *The Addams Family*) during high school and is excited to continue acting at Vassar! She hopes you enjoy the show!

## Director's Note

This summer, I had a bit of a health scare. While everything turned out alright, some unwanted thoughts started to creep into my head about what it would mean for me if it didn't. I am notoriously horrible at thinking and talking about concepts of death, mortality, and legacy, and a lot of those thoughts came rushing back this summer. It reminded me of how I felt during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when I had nothing to do except sit in my home, feel guilty for the privilege that gave me a place to wait out the virus, and worry about what would happen if it somehow upended my life.

During that time, I found *Puffs*. Thank goodness the original creative team cared enough about making theatre accessible that they took the time to film the original off-Broadway cast and create a fully-produced proshot of the show to stream on Broadway HD. For a solid four or five months during COVID, I lived and breathed *Puffs*. I even wrote a song inspired by the show, which many of the cast and creative team found online. I was obsessed - and when I needed a space to turn this summer, *Puffs* was there again.

Now I know you're probably sitting in your seat, here in the Spitzer Auditorium at Sanders Classroom, thinking to yourself, "What is all this about death and health scares and stuff? *Puffs* is a comedic parody play, right?" Yes, you're right, and I hope you have a really fun time watching and enjoying this show. But there's a moment, towards the end of the show (no spoilers!), that I think will make you think back on this note. And hopefully you understand, the same way I understood three years ago and also this summer. Yes, *Puffs* is a parody play, but I wouldn't be dedicating an entire semester to directing it if it was just that. It's a story about legacy, mortality, and the love we find in our lives that carries on after we're gone - the most powerful magic of all.

# **Special Thanks**

**Philaletheis Society**

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**Broadway HD**

**QLab**

**Logic Pro X**

**Prime Print Shop**

**Beauty and the Beats**

**Alice By Heart and The Last Five Years**

**Cathy Hiatt, our Mr. Voldy Understudy (if you know, you know)**

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

**Mystery at Matchstick Manor**

**Vassar Admissions Office**

**Olivia Rose Michaels**

**Happily Ever Laughter**

**Team StarKid**

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