

MACALESTER THDA 2023 PRESENTS

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FÊTES DE  
LA NUIT  
BY CHARLES MEE

DIRECTED BY BOB ROSEN



*FÊTES DE LA NUIT IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT  
WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to the Macalester College Music Department and  
to the production assistant staff.

And, of course, thanks to everyone who came here tonight.

The show you are about to see contains flashing lights, police sirens,  
smoke, and news footage of police confrontation

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

An imaginary night on a Paris street.

A chance encounter.

What unfolds next is not a singular story but a collision of lovers, poets and philosophers.

Everyday people who need to be seen and heard, searching for a sense of connection and belonging. But they don't know how to go about it. Or they don't remember how. Or they are not even very good at it. But they have a need to show themselves, to say "look at me, I exist." Where and how do they find love? It's awkward, messy, difficult and joyful. What are the rules? To be re-invented.

I was thinking about how we have been quarantined for so long and how we are making a slow re-emergence back into the world. How have our relationships changed? How do we rediscover one another? It's been a long haul so let's leave winter behind and have some fun. Playwright Charles L. Mee generously offers up his work to be reimagined and we have used the original script as a kind of template to be shaped and molded and made our own. More information on the playwright and his work can be found at the (re)making project, ([charlesmee.org](http://charlesmee.org)).

Our aim is to serve up a meal that is fun, playful and celebratory.  
A celebration of life, love and the city of Paris,  
plus a little poking fun at all things French.

Welcome to Fêtes de la Nuit!

# ACTING COMPANY

## **Performers**

Andrew Banker

Anna Schloerb

Corinne Byus

Emery Todd

Fatimah Moe

Ian Witry

Iwani Siwawa

Kyra Layman

Lola Vescovo

Marisa Luft

Thant Kyaw

# Directing and Design Team

## Directing Team

Director	Bob Rosen
Assistant Director	Jess Nguyen

## Design Team

Scenic Designer	Tom Barrett
Scenic Design Assistant	Yunzhu (Jessica) Chen

Lighting Designer	Kai Yamanishi
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Costume Designer	Alicia Wold
Costume Design Assistant	Ruben Verità

Sound Designer	Jaime Lupercio
Sound Design Assistant	Lizzie Nelson

Vocal Coach	Barbra Berlovitz
Intimacy Director	James Baillie Grace

# Production Team and Crew

## Production Team

Technical Director	Tom Barrett
Technical Assistant	Brian Fox
Costume Shop Director	MaryBeth Gagner
Production Manager	Wu Chen Khoo
Assistant Production Manager	Karen Rosales
Stage Manager	Audrey Smyczek
Assistant Stage Manager	Chiara Guglielmo
Master Electrician	Lucas Martin

## Production Crew

Light Board Operator	Asa Rallings
Sound Board Operator	Nicola Wong
Wardrobe	Rhys Winchester MC Nienow Emelia Brinkley Serena Stein
Deck Crew	Lorena Graham James Calhoun

# CAST BIOS

**Andrew Banker '25** (*He/Him*) is a sophomore from Oronoco, Minnesota studying education at Macalester. He is excited to be in his third college production, after being in the ensemble of *Seph and Hair the Musical*. Outside of the theatre department he enjoys woodcarving and occupying the bicep curl machine at the Deno Fitness Center for up to an hour at a time. He would like to thank his friends and parents, and apologize for vanishing from their lives between 6 and 9 PM Monday-Thursday during the last few months.

**Anna Margaret Schloerb '23** (*She/They*) is a Senior American Studies and Theater & Dance Major with a minor in Music from Chicago. Anna has acted in *Angels in America*, *Hair* and *Como La Tierra* at Macalester. Though Anna is slightly terrified about graduation just around the corner she is so thankful that her last show at Macalester could be one as special as this. She would like to thank the whole team for their kindness and dedication throughout the whole process thus far, and thanks to Bob for creating a space for creativity and play. Anna's parents met in Paris so this play feels really close to home, she wants to thank them for their endless support and love. A last special thanks to the THDA professors and staff for their support during her time at Mac.

**Corinne Byus '26** is a first year student with an intended Environmental Studies major. Although originally from Howard County, Maryland, Corinne attended high school in Putney, Vermont, where participating in and watching theater became a passion. A special thanks to kt shorb for gently nudging them to audition, Bob Rosen for giving them the space and opportunity to perform, the other members of the cast for helping them through their first show at Macalester, the crew for putting in an immense amount of time and dedication and the audience for watching and supporting the production of *Fêtes de la Nuit!*

**Emery Todd '25** (*he/they*) is actually a small colony of rats in the shape of a person. They made a pact with the theater spirits eons ago in order to attain this human form and now they cannot escape. He's a sophomore, a theater major, and, most importantly, a nuisance. While they're performing in this show, you're just as likely to catch them stage managing, playwriting, or building set pieces in the scene shop. Maybe one day he'll write a serious bio about his theatrical accomplishments, but who's to say? All he knows is that he's so very grateful to perform amongst a cast of friends, in a world brought to life by such talented designers, carpenters, and crew, under trusted direction and management. To every single person who has had a hand in putting on this production, you have his dearest thanks.

# CAST BIOS

**Fatimah Moe '25** (*They/Them*), originally from Madison, Wisconsin, is a Sophomore and a declared studio art major. They are super excited to make their debut in Macalester's Theater Program! Fa would like to give a special thanks to the crew, the designers, and the directorial staff because it takes a lot to put a production on and without them there wouldn't be a show. Fa asks that you take a moment to appreciate the small things that make the picture whole, take a deep breath, release the tension in your shoulders (and your heart) and enjoy the show.

**Ian Witry '23** (*Any Pronouns*) is a singer, pianist, and dancer from Minneapolis, MN. They are a senior at Macalester finishing with a Spanish major, Latin American Studies major, and Portuguese minor. In fall 2022, they served as vocal coach in Macalester's production of *Hair*. Ian has participated in a number of other musicals: they acted in Luther College's production of *Chicago*, Minneapolis Community Education's production of *The Addams Family*, and Southwest High School's production of *Rent*; they played keyboard in their high school productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *High School Musical* and they served as vocal director for TASU Theatre Co.'s *If/Then* – but they have yet to appear in a play until now...or is this a musical too? Either way, they're immensely happy to make their acting debut at Macalester in *Fêtes de la Nuit*. They'd like to give special thanks to Bob, Audrey, and Chiara for being willing to adapt to their scheduling conflicts :)

**Iwani Siwawa '24** (*She/Her*) is a junior, double majoring in theatre, dance, and political science with a concentration in legal studies. An international student hailing from Botswana and South Africa, a self-deemed creative, her earliest introduction to the world of theatre was working as an extra in third grade on HBO's *The Number One Ladies Detective Agency*. Today, alongside her aspirations for acting, she is the host, producer, and creative manager of her own video podcast series *I Just Wanna Talk*, a student audio-visual technician, a known twin cities drag show videographer, photographer, host, and creative manager, and is currently working on music and a short film series.

**Kyra Layman '25** (*She/Her*) is a sophomore from Washington, D.C., and is delighted to return for her fifth show at Mac. Previous acting credits include *Seph* and *Hair*; tech credits include *Angels in America* and *Thunderbodies*. In her free time, Kyra can be found conversing with the crows on campus, frolicking about, or celebrating holidays (sometimes all three at once). Kyra is a Political Science and History major and a Theatre, Latin American Studies, and Spanish minor. She does not speak French. She would like to thank her family, friends, and everyone who worked on the show for putting the "fête" in the nuit, and her cat, for being himself.



# CAST BIOS

**Lola Vescovo '24** (*She/Her*) is a junior Math major with Theatre and English minors from Los Angeles, CA. This is her second show at Mac after also being part of Seph. She is super excited to be part of Fêtes de la Nuit and would like to thank all the people you're supposed to thank in these bios but doesn't actually know how to do it.

**Marisa Luft '25** (*They/Them*) is a sophomore Geology major from Brooklyn, NY. They want to dedicate this performance to their mentor and idol Corinne Goodman. Previous Macalester productions include Thunderbodies and Hair. Recent credits include: Pontius Pilate in Jesus Christ Superstar (AMAS Musical Theater), Charlemagne in Pippin (AMAS), and Narrator in Into the Woods (AMAS). Marisa's talents include doing an excellent Elmo impression and being from New York.

**Thant Arkar (Arkar) Kyaw '24** (*He/Him*) is a Junior majoring in Economics with a theater minor (and potentially, Performance Design and Technologies minor). He worked on his first department production as a stage crew for Thunderbodies. Arkar is excited to have his acting debut at Fêtes de la Nuit and working with Bob and his fellow cast. He wants to thank everyone in the department, especially Cláudia, Tom and Bob, for making this happen and their support along the way. Shoutout to the amazing cast and the stage-managing team for their hard work and to Tom for the amazing set.

# ARTISTIC BIOS

**Bob Rosen** (*Director, He/Him*) is a director, performer and educator. He was a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Theatre de la Jeune Lune theatre company in Paris and Minneapolis. Bob is credited with acting, writing, directing and/or lighting over 100 productions, with Jeune Lune and other companies. Bob has conceived and directed many original works including: *Circus*, *The Golem*, *The Description of the World*, *Circus of Tales*, *Juracán*, *Escúchame* and several works for the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In 2008 he established Studio 206 in the Ivy Building for the Arts in Minneapolis, with inter-disciplinary artist Shawn McConneloug, dedicated to the creation of new work and the ongoing training of performing artists. He is also co-founder of The Gymnasium, a consortium of creative risk-takers who are using the arts as a nexus for connections with science, industry, business and innovation. Bob was a 2010-11 Playwrights' Center McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow and also serves on the faculty of the University of Minnesota.

**Jess Nguyen '24** (*Assistant Director, They/She*) has written a total of four (4) bios— this being the fourth, and is still never sure what to say! They're currently a Junior majoring in International Studies, Media and Cultural Studies, and Theatre at Mac. They aspire to be a multidisciplinary creative or, failing that, an urban cryptid seen only on blurry black and white photographs (like Mothman!) They hope you will enjoy *Fêtes de la Nuit* as a mediation on the dreamy, snobby, romantic, beautiful, horrible city of Paris.

**Thomas Barrett** (*Scenic Designer, Technical Director, He/Him*) has been Technical Director, guest designer and instructor at Macalester since 1990. He has worked throughout the Twin Cities as a scenic and lighting designer and technical director.

**Yunzhu (Jessica) Chen '24** (*Scenic Design Assistant, She/Her*) is a Junior majoring in Theater and Dance at Macalester College. She has worked on various department productions including *Thunderbodies* and *Hair*, She has also worked with Theater Mu and Jungle Theater in productions such as *Cambodian Rock Band*. Yunzhu is excited to work with Tom as the assistant scenic designer on this production. She wants to thank everyone in the department, especially for making this happen and helping along the way.

**Kai Yamanishi '25** (*Lighting Designer, He/Him*) Kai has been doing theater since he was six years old, when he acted in a production of *Babes in Toyland* with a local children's theater. Since coming to Macalester, he has worked on shows in various assisting positions, most recently as assistant projectionist on *Hair*. Fetes has been his first time at Macalester working as a full designer, and he is incredibly excited for you to see what everyone's hard work has created!

# ARTISTIC BIOS

**Alicia Wold** (*Costume Designer, She/Her*) has been active in the Twin Cities theater community for over 30 years. She served as the Costume Designer / Shop Manager at The College of St. Catherine and at Concordia University St. Paul where she also taught Costume Design and Makeup for the Stage. Other costume experience includes the MN Renaissance Festival, Camp Snoopy at Mall of America, Sesame Street Live, and CostumeRentals. She is delighted to be back at Macalester where she previously designed costumes for Harvest. She also enjoys running, weaving, and gardening.

**Ruben Verità '26** (*Costume Design Assistant, He/Him*) is a first year Theater and Dance major who has a passion for art, music, fashion, and design. This is his second production with the Macalester Theater and Dance department, and his first time working in the production team. Ruben would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and production team for their incredible work and innumerable hours spent on making the show a reality. He is incredibly grateful for this opportunity!

**Jaime Salvador Lupercio** (*Sound Designer, They/He*) is from the far off West Texas Town of El Paso, where they graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, and have since traveled all over the US doing theatre. They have opened world premieres for Qui Nguyen, Michelle Dorrance, Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, and other such theatre/dance artists. Jaime loves playing with sound and tries to make it another character on stage for the actors to play with. When not working in the theater Jaime enjoys cuddling with their cats, Sage and Daffodil, and watching the trashiest anime possible. Jaime likes writing in the third person, and would like a nap.

**Lizzie Nelson '25** (*Assistant Sound Designer, She/Her*) is a sophomore Performance Design and Technologies minor from Minneapolis, MN. Sound is her favorite part of live theatre, and she has been sound engineering in various capacities for the past six years. Lizzie's biology major has not stopped her from working on several productions at Mac. She would like to thank Jaime for being a great example and preparing her to design sound in the future.

**Barbra Berlovitz** (*Voice Coach, She/Her*) co-founded the 2005 Tony award winning Theatre de la Jeune Lune. For thirty years she acted, directed, taught and was instrumental in the artistic leadership of this internationally acclaimed company. Barbra teaches, acts and directs in the Twin Cities.

# ARTISTIC BIOS

**James Grace** (*Intimacy Director, He/Him*) is a professional intimacy director, choreographer, and performer based in Minneapolis, MN. He works full-time as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant and has a passion for integrating justice, equity, and advocacy into all of his work. His professional theater credits include work at Hamline University, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Theater Latté Da, History Theatre, Artistry, Lyric Arts, New Epic Theater, and more. James holds a BA in Theater and Dance from the University of Minnesota.

**Brian Fox** (*Technical Assistant, He/Him*) has been Technical Assistant at Macalester since 2018, with a few pandemic inspired breaks. He got his start building sets with the Montana Shakespeare Company, and worked in the Scene Shop as a Macalester student, contributing in varying capacities to shows in the old building such as *The Glass Menagerie* and *As You Like It*. Highlights of his work include a large curved staircase in *The Rocky Horror Show*, a rolling staircase in *Angels in America*, and a slide in *Thunderbodies*.

**MaryBeth Gagner** (*Costume Shop Director, She/Her*) has been designing and building costumes both in education and professionally for over 30 years. Most recently she has designed at the Ordway, St. Paul Ballet, Park Square Theatre, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and James Sewell Ballet. She has also been an active member of USITT, Costume Enclave, and the Costume Society of America.

**Wu Chen Khoo** (*Production Manager, He/Him*) is a lighting designer, stagehand, production manager & labour organizer. He is based in Minneapolis and works internationally. He co-founded the education program *Technical Tools of the Trade*, which aimed to train, connect, and support people through the skills of technical theatre. He is a founding member of the *Class & the Arts* collective and *The Mothership*, both groups of workers organizing to build Solidarity and hold space for critical engagement with issues of social justice including through the arts & entertainment industry. He is a proud member of IATSE, the union representing many of the technical workers in the arts and entertainment industry. He shares his life with his partner Kristin & children Teng Jin and Yi Lian.

**Audrey Smyczek '25** (*Stage Manager, She/They*) is a sophomore from Waukesha, WI majoring in Computer Science and minoring in History. After taking on the role of Assistant Stage Manager for the Directing Class productions last fall, she is thrilled to take on a larger role in this production. In high school, she managed a number of theater productions, including *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls*, and ran sound for school events. Audrey would like to thank the whole production of *Fêtes* for their hard work and commitment to make a mess with a shout out to Chiara, the incredible ASM, and Mr. Khoo for his patience and guidance.

# ARTISTIC BIOS

**Chiara Guglielmo '25** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/Her*) is studying Biology and Theater at Macalester, a combination that leaves her with as much free time as you'd expect. She's worked on previous shows as run crew and an usher, and has contributed many a day's hard labor to the scene shop, but is thrilled to finally be important enough to get to write about herself in the third person. This is her first time doing stage management in college, and she's learned a lot! She's incredibly fortunate to be working under such an awesome stage manager, on a show with so much talent in everyone involved.

**Lucas Martin '24** (*Master Electrician, He/Him*) is a Junior at Macalester College from El Cerrito California. Previous Macalester productions include *Angels in America* (Assistant props designer, Automations Operator), *Seph* (Sound designer), and *Hair* (Sound Designer, Live Mix Engineer).

**Asa Rallings '25** (*Light Board Operator, He/Him*) is a sophomore studio art major gradually infiltrating THDA. He would like to thank everyone at the scene shop for welcoming his frequent intrusions and questionable music taste.

**Nicola Wong '24** (*Soundboard, She/Her*) As a dancer from Oakland, CA, Nicola strives to deconstruct restrictive structures or expectations in concert dance, to reimagine contemporary movement as encompassing freeform expression of a more intrinsic nature. Coming from a strong sense of curiosity in ways sound is used to construct a more immersive experience in performance work, Nicola is fortunate to work amongst a very innovative group of creators on campus.

**Rhys Winchester '26** (*Wardrobe, She/Her*) is a first year student from just outside Chicago. She is excited to be participating as a member of the wardrobe team during her second show at Mac. Outside of the theater, Rhys spends her time rehearsing Macalester's best and only improv team, working as a sports medicine assistant, hanging out with her friends, studying on the pre-med track and missing her two dogs back home.

**MC Nienow '26** (*Wardrobe, She/They*) is a current Marketing major, Asian Studies and Performance Design Technologies double minor. This is her first production with Macalester but not her first time in theater. Being involved in St. Paul theater since the age of 8 participating in acting, sound design, and directing. This is her first time working in Wardrobe so she is super excited and can't wait for everyone to see the show!

**Emelia Brinkley '26** (*Wardrobe, They/Them*) is a first year student from Massachusetts. After being an ASM for *Hair* last semester, they are delighted to be participating in Macalester theater once again. In their spare time they enjoy rock climbing, writing plays, and thinking about walkable neighborhoods.

# ARTISTIC BIOS

**Serena Stein '25** (*Wardrobe, She/They*) *Fetes de la Nuit* is Serena's second theater production at Macalester after bravely operating the spotlight for the Fall production of *Hair*. Serena also recently co-stage managed the 2023 Macalester Spring Playwright's Festival. She is thrilled to be back in the theatre, this time as a member of the wardrobe crew! Serena is a sophomore from Connecticut majoring in Geography and Geology, and loves rock climbing, doing puzzles, and drinking tea (though not necessarily at the same time:). She would like to give thanks to Tom, Wu Chen, and the rest of the cast and crew for their support.

# THEATER AND DANCE DEPARTMENT

The Theater and Dance Department at Macalester College prepares the next generation of performers, directors, choreographers, designers, researchers, technicians, and playwrights.

Our department offers small academic and studio courses in which students are closely mentored by expert faculty. In our class schedule, you will find a variety of theater and dance courses at all levels. We encourage students without previous experience to try a beginning course in acting, dance, design, or playwriting.

Macalester College is in a privileged location for students interested in the arts. The Twin Cities have the second highest number of theater companies per capita in the United States, after New York City, and Theater and Dance Department courses commonly bring students to on and off-campus theater and dance productions. Many Theater and Dance alumni continue to work and produce art in the Twin Cities, where the Minnesota State Arts Board provides crucial funding and support to artistic work. Current students often have the opportunity to meet influential local alumni, leading to exciting and unique opportunities for internships, mentorship, and collaborative projects.

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## FACULTY

Patricia Brown, Wynn Fricke, Mina Kinukawa, Krista Langberg, Jill Lile, Cheryl Moore Brinkley, Randy Reyes, Bob Rosen, kt shorb, Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento, and Ernesto Capello (Acting Chair).

## VISITING ARTISTS & FACULTY

Sarah Bahr, Barbra Berlovitz, Karen L. Charles, Courtney Meaker, Toni Pierce-Sands, and Marciano Silva dos Santos.

## STAFF

Oscar Amaya, Tom Barrett, Brian Fox, MaryBeth Gagner, and Wu Chen Khoo

## STUDENT STAFF

Alice Bjerneberg, Julia Brandfonbrener, James Calhoun, Jessica Chen, Caitlin Compton, Caroline Davis, Rory Donaghy, Bella Flanders, Rene'e Gonzales, Quintin Grabowski, Isaac Gregory, Chiara Guglielmo, Joe Jessop, Kitty Jiang, Minori Kishi, Gretta Koppers, Arkar Kyaw, Lucas Martin, Macie McIlvain, Lucy McNees, Bea Mellsop, Ally Mueller, Kiki Murphy, Lizzie Nelson, Linh Nguyen, Maya Schaefer-Fiello, Lila Schisgal, Emma Squires, Emery Todd, Ruben Verita, Joy Wen, Adrien Wright, Kai Yamanishi, and Lucía Zuvela.

# RUTH EASTON ENDOWMENT FOR DRAMATIC ARTS

The Theater and Dance Department is grateful to the Ruth Easton Endowment for the Dramatic Arts for its support of many Theater and Dance Department activities. Ruth Edelstein Easton, Macalester Class of 1921, was born and raised in North Branch, Minnesota. After graduation, Ruth studied for a year at Macalester before leaving the Midwest to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles. From there, she moved to New York City, where a friend introduced her to producer Oliver Morosco. Soon after, Ruth was on Broadway, acting with stars such as Clark Gable, Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel Barrymore, Judith Anderson, Walter Huston, and Al Jolson. She was also actively involved in radio dramas, performing in such shows as "The Rudy Valle Hour" and "The Fleischmann's Yeast Hour."

Later inheriting the fortune of her brothers—Dave and Jack Edelstein, who invented a paper-coating process considered the predecessor of plastic wrap—Ruth donated both time and money to acting programs throughout the country. She served as a benefactor for many Twin Cities theaters, including the Ordway, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and the Playwrights' Center. When Ruth Edelstein Easton passed away in 1998, the Ruth Easton Endowment Fund was her gift to the Theater and Dance Department at Macalester. The Ruth Easton Fund facilitates the Theater and Dance Department's relationship with the Twin Cities arts community in a myriad of ways, including support for arts residencies and internships at local arts organizations for our majors and minors, and hosting national and international guest artists on campus.