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**Front cover**

Pride & Prejudice

Jon Jory, author

Ryanne Domingues, director

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Friday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 30 at 2 & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 31 at 2 p.m.

Yvonne Theate­­r

Rider University

2083 Lawrenceville Road

Lawrenceville, N.J.

Director’s Note

When given a play to direct, the first question I always ask is, “why *this* play *now*?” Why is this relevant to audiences in 2021, or to the current students at Rider University? Jane Austen’s work, *Pride and Prejudice* in particular, has been produced and adapted time and time again, and all over the world. Why? What do we still have to learn from it, and what light is it shedding on current events?

Over the past few years, our world has grown incredibly divisive. We read news articles, watch television, and read our friends’ posts on social media before choosing whose side we want to take, who else’s opinion we want to adopt. But often, the issue is much more complicated. Often, the solution requires a far more nuanced view than what can be gained through a few articles or posts. Having the patience and grace to wade through the tiny details can be tough. And to complicate matters more, we often find ourselves in a situation where we are using clips, articles, and quotes to define a person’s character. The tricky thing about humans is that we change and grow. We often speak in draft long before we give critical thought to our words. We change, and we make mistakes, often changing our view long before our actions “go to print.”

For me, *Pride and Prejudice* examines all of this and more. This play, which takes place in 1813, has an incredible amount to say about the “cancel culture,” assumptions, and incomplete narratives we see today. In this play, Elizabeth’s relationship with Darcy makes her take a long look at both herself and her preconceived notions. Not only does her opinion change, but she changes. She is introduced to a more nuanced world; one that is messy and complicated, and full of inconsistencies. And it is in this world where she finally falls in love.

My hope is that this play reminds us of the value of grace and humility. None of us are perfect, and very rarely is there one side to any story. As we grow older, the world becomes far less black and white, and we are reminded time and time again to appreciate the spectrum of colors in between.

With warmth and gratitude,

Ryanne

Time

1813

Setting

Hertfordshire, England

This play is performed in two acts

*There will be one 10-minute intermission*

Cast

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| --- | --- |
| Elizabeth Bennet  Mr. Darcy  Mr. Bingley/ColonelFitzwilliam/Servant  Mrs. Bennet  Jane Bennet  Mary Bennet/Charlotte Lucas  Kitty Bennet  Lydia Bennet/Georgiana  Mr. Bennet  George Wickham/Ball Guest  Lady Catherine de Bourgh/Ball Guest/Servant  Miss Bingley/Mrs. Gardiner  Mr. Lucas/Mr. Collins/Mr. Gardiner  Officer/Servant/Ball Guest | Sophie Friedman  John Ververis  Kaedon Knight  Alexa Goyden  Katie Blanton  Samantha Ringor  Emma Brennan  Dana DeVestern  Benjamin Simonetty  Ned Way  Annie Chalice  Ellie Pearlman  Josiah Jacoby  Erik Olsson |

­­Artistic Staff and Crew

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| --- | --- |
| Director  Adaptor  Author of book  Assistant Director  Technical Director  Scenic Designer  Lighting Designer  Costume Designer  Sound Designer  Properties Master  Choreographers  Dialect Coach  Production Stage Manager  Stage Manager  Production Coordinator  Assistant Stage Managers  Props  Costume Shop Supervisor | Ryanne Domingues  Jon Jory  Jane Austen  Lydia Diekmann  Buck Linton  Yoshi Tanokura  Todd Loyd  Robin Shane  Sean McDonald  Jaiden Patterson  Rylee Carpenter, Maclain Rhine  Sarah McCluskey  Amanda Donnelly  Rylee Berger  Meaghan Finlay  Juliette Nero Eddings,  Olivia Sauerberg  Ryan Alger, Sidney Martinez,  John Roca  Jim Parks |

About the Cast

**KATIE BLANTON (Jane Bennet)** is a senior Musical Theatre and Arts & Entertainment Industries Management major. Rider credits: *Bright Star* (Ensemble). Professional credits: *Carrie* (Miss Gardner), *Sweeney Todd*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Casa Mañana, Fort Worth, Texas).

**EMMA BRENNAN (Kitty Bennet)** is a junior Acting major. Rider credits include: *Rider New Works*.

**ANNIE CHALLICE (Lady Catherine de Bourgh/Housekeeper/Ball Guest)** is a senior Acting major. Her Rider credits include: *Hair* (Tribe/Jeanie US) and *The Wolves* (#14).

**DANA DEVESTERN (Lydia Bennet/ Georgiana Darcy)** is a junior Acting major. Previous Rider Credits include: *It’s a Wonderful Life: Radio Show* (Mary). This is her first live Rider mainstage debut.

**SOPHIE FRIEDMAN (Elizabeth Bennet)** is a junior Acting major. Rider credits: *The Wolves* (#8), *Working! The Musical* (offstage singer/woman   
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ALEXA GOYDEN (Mrs. Bennet) is a junior Acting major. This is her first Rider University mainstage production.

**JOSIAH JACOBY (Mr. Lucas/Mr. Collins/Mr. Gardiner)** is a junior Dance Performance and Acting major. Professional credits: J*esus Christ Superstar, Rock of Ages* (Surflight Theatre, N.J.), *Newsies* (Grand Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (The Quintessence Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (The Media Theatre), *Lord of the Flies* (Jack Merridew). TV/FILM: T*he Mind of a Murderer* (Investigation Discovery), *Valley High* (Drew Gasparini), *Jambo’s Journey* (Originated “Charlie”).

**KAEDON KNIGHT (Mr. Bingley/Colonel Fitzwilliam)** is a junior Musical Theatre and AEIM double major. Rider credits: *Steel Pier* (Luke Adams), *It’s a Wonderful Life* (Mr. Porter), *The Ungodly Hour* (Robert Johns), *Monstersongs* (Yeti).

**ERIK OLSSON (Officer/Servant/Ball Guest)** is a junior double major in Acting and Filmmaking. Rider credits include *Everybody* (Somebody #4/Stuff/Senses), *It’s A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play* (Joseph/Uncle Billy/Various Others), and *Our Time: A Virtual Stephen Sondheim Cabaret.*

**ELLIE PEARLMAN (Miss Bingley/Mrs. Gardiner)** is a sophomore Musical Theatre major. Rider credits include *Everybody*, and *Rider New Works 2020*. Regional credits include *Cinderella, Mary Poppins*, and *Peter Pan* (The Canyon Theatre Guild).

**SAMANTHA RINGOR (Mary Bennet/Charlotte Lucas)** is a sophomore Musical Theatre major. Rider credits: *Monstersongs* (Child/Dragon), *It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (ensemble).

**BENJAMIN SIMONETTY (Mr. Bennet)** is a junior Acting major. This is his first year at Rider and his Rider mainstage debut.

**JOHN VERVERIS (Mr. Darcy)** is a senior Musical Theatre and English Literature double major. Rider credits include *Summer of ‘69: A Celebration of Woodstock, Hair, MAD About You, Girls Like That*, and *Xanadu* (cancelled due to COVID). Professional credits include: *Titanic: The Musical* (Jean’s Playhouse, N.H.) and *Cinderella* (Jean’s Playhouse, N.H.).

**NED WAY (Mr. Wickham/Ball Guest)** is a junior Musical Theatre major. Rider credits: *Mad About You* Cabaret.

About the Artistic Staff and Crew

**RYLEE BERGER** (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theatre Production and Design and Arts and Entertainment Industries Management double major. Recent Rider University stage management credits include *Working! The Musical* and *Monstersongs*.

**LYDIA DIEKMANN** (Assistant Director) is a Freshman Musical Theatre major and is excited to be part of the artistic team for her first production at Rider University. Previous Credits: *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Assistant Director) *Guys and Dolls* (Assistant Choreographer), *Now. Here. This.* (Assistant Stage Manager).

**C. RYANNE DOMINGUES** is the Artistic Director of Passage Theatre in Trenton, N.J. Prior to her time at Passage, she worked at a variety of theatres on both coasts, with most of her work being for Simpatico Theatre (which she co-founded in 2004) and the Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia. She received her MFA in Directing from the University of California, Irvine, and has been an adjunct professor at Rider University since 2018. She was nominated for a Barrymore Award for her direction of Passage’s *Morir Sonyando* in 2019, and she will be directing *The OK Trenton Project* at Passage this February. Past Rider directing credits include *The Wolves* (Spring 2020) and *Everybody* (Spring 2021).

AMANDA DONNELLY(Production Stage Manager) is a junior Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre double major. Recent stage management positions at Rider include *Monstersongs,* *It’s a Wonderful Life: Radio Show*, *The Ungodly Hour: Radio Show,* *Steel Pier, Mad About You* Cabaret, and *Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Grand Night for Singing*. Other professional credits include Surflight Theatre where she was the Assistant Stage Manager for their summer 2020 season.

**MEAGHAN FINLAY** (Production Coordinator) holds a bachelor’s degree in Arts Administraton from Rider University, and she is now a master’s degree candidate in Arts Management and Executive Leadership. She also works frequently as a stage manager and production manager throughout New Jersey and New York.