

# PALACE Theatre

ARTS COMMONS

LONDON COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS



Jane Austen's

# PRIDE & PREJUDICE

May 5-15, 2022

Adapted by  
Janet Munsil

Tickets at  
[palacetheatre.ca](http://palacetheatre.ca)

Directed by  
Debra Chantler

Produced by  
Cindi Armer-Almeida



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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PLAYWRIGHTS GUILD OF CANADA

# Coming May 2022

Presented by LYTE's 2022 Senior  
Main Stage Musical Company



May 20-22, 2022



May 27-29, 2022

**The  
London Community Players  
are proud to present**

# **Pride & Prejudice**

Novel by Jane Austen

Adapted by Janet Munsil

Director

**Debra Chantler**

Producer

**Cindi Armer-Almeida**

Run time is 2 hours and 20 minutes  
Including one 20 minute intermission



The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited.

..... **CHAIR'S ADDRESS** .....

Four years ago, the London Community Players Production Committee decided that we should put on *Pride & Prejudice*. Notices were posted, auditions were held and cast selected. Rehearsals were being held in earnest. It was weeks away from the big opening day when, yes, Covid struck.

Now here we are, four years after that initial decision was made, thrilled and relieved to be able to host the show once and for all.

We hope that you are delighted with this production, as you take a step back into Regency England. Our cast is spectacular, and our production value is very high. Our set builders, costume designers, props team, lighting and sound team, make up and hair stylists, and everyone else involved in the show backstage has worked tirelessly to bring you this show.

If this is your first experience at the Palace Theatre, we hope you enjoy it and will return for future shows. If you are returning patron, thank you for your ongoing support. We are just starting to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel, and your presence is a big part of that light.

Kelli Gough  
Chair, Board of Directors

..... **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** .....

We acknowledge the history of the traditional territory on which we witness tonight's performance. We respect the longstanding relationships of the three local First Nations groups of this land and place in Southwestern Ontario.

We acknowledge that the land this building sits on was part of the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe), Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee), and Munsee-Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape).

## ..... DIRECTOR'S NOTES .....

In early 2019 this question was asked at a Production Committee meeting ... “If there’s nothing on TV to watch, what is your go to movie?” David Long (our Set Designer) and I answered in unison, “Pride and Prejudice”. Thus, the seeds of this production were planted. From that moment to this, it has been quite the journey. I originally joined the team as the Costume Designer and was hard at work sewing costumes when Covid hit. The show was to open originally in May of 2020. It was shut down and rescheduled for May of 2021. But Covid was not done with the production and it was shut down a second time in 2021. Over that summer, it became apparent that the original director and several actors from the original cast could not continue with the project. I was asked to take the reins and accepted the directorship. We recast the show in Oct 2021. This became a challenge for costumes however. With new actors in place, what had been previously made did not now necessarily fit. After careful reassignments, alterations and help from an army of ladies sewing, the costumes have come to life over the past 6 months. I will be forever grateful to the sewing team for their talent and support. The cast have worked hard to learn the manners and etiquette of the Regency era. They spent over a month at special rehearsals to learn 4 period dances which are featured in the show. David Long our set designer ensured that every piece of furniture used in the show is from the Regency era. We have spent a lot of time trying to get the small details right. Hopefully we have hit the mark and have created a world of elegance you will recognize in this classic love story. Finally, thank you to the audience for coming out in this Covid world to support community theatre. Many, many volunteers have given countless hours to this project. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

Debra Chantler  
Director, Costume Designer, Dance Teacher, and Sewing Team



### **Special Thanks to**

Israa Ali, Kerry Bishop, Ceris Thomas  
Desiree Baker, Sharlene Wegg  
Anne and Mark Mooney

## CAST

Mr. Bennet .....	<b>Christopher Parker</b>
Mrs. Bennet .....	<b>Ceris Thomas</b>
Jane .....	<b>Emma Semple</b>
Lizzie .....	<b>Lisa Albert</b>
Mary .....	<b>Jennifer Groulx</b>
Kitty .....	<b>Lauren Matassa</b>
Lydia .....	<b>Mia Castell</b>
Mrs. Gardiner .....	<b>Kelly Martin</b>
Mr. Gardiner .....	<b>David Pasquino</b>
Charlotte Lucas .....	<b>Nicole McTeer</b>
Mr. Collins .....	<b>Dustin Freeman</b>
Caroline Bingley .....	<b>Jessica Pereira</b>
Charles Bingley .....	<b>Dustin Didham</b>
Mr. Darcy .....	<b>Ben Kennes</b>
Georgiana .....	<b>Aleesa Prendergast</b>
Lady Catherine .....	<b>Holly Kinchlea-Brown</b>
Lady Anne .....	<b>Aleesa Prendergast</b>
Mrs. Reynolds .....	<b>Maria Marsh</b>
Wickham .....	<b>Sam Didi</b>
Man 1 .....	<b>James Molloy</b>
Man 2 .....	<b>Michael Testolin</b>
Man 3 .....	<b>Ali Jawad</b>
Woman 1 Friend .....	<b>Leah Ede-Pisano</b>
Woman 2 Maid .....	<b>Megan Belanger</b>

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Producer/Props .....	<b>Cindi Armer-Almeida</b>
Director .....	<b>Debra Chantler</b>
Stage Manager .....	<b>Amanda Marshall</b>
Assistant Stage Manager/Props .....	<b>Anita Goodfellow</b>
Assistant Stage Manager .....	<b>Mariann Sawyer</b>
Sound Design and Operator .....	<b>Lisa Desgroseilliers</b>
Set Design & Decoration.....	<b>David Long</b>
Costume Design .....	<b>Debra Chantler</b>
Lighting Design and Operator .....	<b>Frank Almeida</b>
Dance Teacher.....	<b>Debra Chantler</b>

..... **ARTISTIC STAFF (CONT'D)** .....

Sewing Team ..... **Karen Deruiter, Louise Koza, Anne Humberstone  
 Mary Jane Walzak, Annette Kavelaars-Burrows  
 Donna Knight, Whitney Bolam, Vivian Cheung  
 Emilie Bailey, Sylvia Behr, Debra Chantler, Erin Pierce**

Hair Consultants ..... **Irene Franco, Tammy Groulx**

Wigs by..... **Ceris Thomas**

Show Photographs ..... **Debra Chantler**

Poster Design ..... **Matt Butler**

Program ..... **Doug Weir**

..... **WHO'S WHO** .....

**Lisa Albert** (Lizzie) – Lisa has been actively involved with theatre for most of her life. She is a graduate of University of Waterloo and an Original Kids Alumnus. Previous roles include *The Twiddle Plays* (Emmy), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Ensemble), *The Bucket List* and *You Can't Take It with You* (Essie). Playing the role of Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice* marks her return to the London Stage after a seven-year absence during which she married her husband and became a Mom to their beautiful daughter! Thanks to Deb, Cindi, and the cast and crew of *Pride & Prejudice* for this once in a lifetime opportunity! Thank you, Chris, Mom and Dad, for all of the love and support, and to Gabrielle-Mommy loves you!

**Cindi Armer-Almeida** (Producer/Props) - Cindi has been attached to *Pride & Prejudice* as the Producer since 2019. Cindi would like to thank the Artistic and Production teams for their hard work and dedication to bring this show to you the audience.

**Megan Belanger** (Woman 2 Maid) - I have been blessed with a lot of opportunities to continue with theatre after high school. I continued my experience with ITOPA in Ingersoll for the last few years, but glad to bring my talents more local with *Hair* at The Wolf Theatre and now to work at the Palace for *Pride & Prejudice* and in the fall at the Art's Project with the *Importance of Being Earnest*. I couldn't be more happy to continue with my passions and having the opportunity to work and meet such wonderful people! Thanks again cast and crew!

## ..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Mia Castell** (Lydia) - Mia is thrilled to participate in her first LCP production, playing the role of Lydia Bennett. Her past roles include Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Sophie in *Mamma Mia!*, so she's used to playing the girl who just wants to get married. Mia is studying Medical Science at Western University and would love to continue acting while she pursues a future in science. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, coming to see the show, and taking her out for margaritas after!

**Debra Chantler** (Director, Costume Designer, Dance Teacher, and Sewing Team) - Debra has worn many hats for this play and enjoyed them all. She has been with the show since 2019 and is so proud to see it finally hit the stage. Debra's been active in the London theatre scene for over 15 years. She is a Life Member of the London Community Players and a recent graduate of the Theatre Costume Design program at Fanshawe College. She wishes to thank the cast and crew for their enthusiastic energy and hard work. She sends kisses to her husband Jim whose support means everything.

**Lisa Desgroseilliers** (Sound Design and Operator) - Thank you Debra for the opportunity of helping make this extravagant play and story sound even better. I love working with Deb, and her attention to every detail of a show has always made working with her even more fun. Lisa has been very busy in a good way these past few months having tapped in her sound talents on the last few shows that the Palace has brought together. I hope you enjoy *Pride & Prejudice*.

**Dustin Didham** (Charles Bingley) – Dustin has been acting in and out of London for the last ten years and has worked with LCP on a couple of productions like *The Trials of Robin Hood*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Stag and Doe*. He studied at Fanshawe College for Theatre Performance and works as an Apprentice Combat Choreographer. He is very excited for everyone to see this production.

**Sam Didi** (Wickham) - Sam is a Theatre Arts graduate from Fanshawe College. He's performed on The Palace stage before but has long awaited the performance of *Pride & Prejudice* for 2 years due to the pandemic and is now ready to get running. His last performance at The Palace was as Stephen Biddle in *Kitchen Witches* in October of 2021.

## ..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Leah Ede-Pisano** (Woman 1 Friend) - As a librarian and lifelong admirer of Jane Austen's works, Leah feels very privileged to be making her acting debut in Palace Theatre's production of *Pride & Prejudice*. The cast, directors and stage management provided a welcoming environment where Leah, in the role of Woman 1, was able to indulge her lifelong dream of being on stage. Leah is blessed and eternally grateful for the amazing support of her new P&P community, family, friends and her library family who have made this experience possible. Thank you, dear audience, for sharing in the magic that is live theatre.

**Dustin Freeman** (Mr. Collins) - Dustin is thrilled to be making his return to the stage after a two-year hiatus in the wonderfully absurd role of Mr. Collins! He is incredibly proud of all of the incredible work that has been put in by his amazing cast mates, as well as by the fantastic production team to make this show something truly spectacular. He thanks each and every person who takes the time to come out and see the show, and hopes that each of you will have just as much fun watching it as he's had being a part of it!

**Anita Goodfellow** (Assistant Stage Manager/Props) - Anita has recently stage managed *On a First Name Basis*, was Assistant Stage Manager for *Veritas* and has appeared on stage in New Stage performances of *Her Naked Skin* and *Of Some Importance*. She is proud to be part of the crew of *Pride & Prejudice*.

**Jennifer Groulx** (Mary) - Jennifer has done shows with LCP for just over 5 years. She has played a role in youth productions of *Juvie and Oliver*. She debuted her adult acting career in *Her Naked Skin* and *Damn Yankees*. She is now very proud to be playing the role of Mary Bennett in *Pride & Prejudice*. Besides performing, Jennifer is bilingual speaking both English and French fluently. She very recently completed her bachelor's degree at Brescia University College in the French for Teaching Program and aspires to attend teachers college next. Jennifer has a passion for helping others achieve their goals, especially her 5 siblings. She is dedicating her performance to her late partner. She would like to thank her friends and family immensely for supporting her in the pursuits her passions. Enjoy this classic Jane Austin love story.

## ..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Ali Jawad** (Man 3) - Ali is so excited for audiences to see this year's production of *Pride & Prejudice*. He is currently finishing his master's at Western in the field of Chemical Engineering and although his education is nowhere related to performing arts, his passion for theatre knows no bounds. Though relatively new to Canadian theatre, Ali has long been an enthusiastic debater and so his relationship with Stage and Mic is old. He really enjoys the dances in the play and believes that everyone should learn regency dances at least once in their lives!

**Annette Kavelaars-Burrows** (Sewing Team) - Annette is excited to see the women of *Pride & Prejudice* take the stage in costumes she has had great fun creating over the past two years. Annette would like to thank Debra for her guidance and trust and her mother for teaching her, as a young girl, to sew and design clothing.

**Ben Kennes** (Mr. Darcy) - Ben is excited to finally get back out there and entertain you folks with some high quality theatre! After 2 years we need it! Credits include *Heathers*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Nothing Sacred*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, *Arcadia*, *Chicken Feather*, *The Cheese Poet*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Thank you to all my friends and family for your continuing support. I love you all. Now take your seats and enjoy the show!

**Holly Kinchlea-Brown** (Lady Catherine) - Although having sung for many years in public, Holly is making her acting debut on the Palace Theatre stage in *Pride & Prejudice*. She would like to thank her fellow actors and amazing director for helping to make it a comfortable and fun experience for this "first-timer"!

**Maria B. Marsh** (Mrs. Reynolds) – Maria was a scream as Veronica's Mom in *Heathers* (McManus Theatre), a hoot as Agnes Gooch in *Mame* - Mrs. Allen in *Dark of the Moon*, and alarming as Lady Lucy (*The Trials of Robin Hood*) - Huldah Shenick in *The Duncombe Rebellion* (Fanshawe Pioneer Village) and the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, Capitol Theatre, St. Thomas.

## ..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Amanda Marshall** (Stage Manager) - Amanda is excited to be stage managing again at LCP. She has really enjoyed working on previous shows at this theatre and is so glad to be back again! She began acting at the age of 6 at Binbrook Little Theatre, eventually working backstage and stage-managing. While at York University, she stage-managed a production of *Doctor Faustus* as well as many other small productions. She has been teaching primary French immersion in St. Thomas and London since 2014. She would like to thank her family for inspiring her love of theatre.

**Kelly Martin** (Mrs. Gardiner) - Kelly is delighted to be a part of this lovely project and feels blessed to be working with such a talented cast and crew. This will be Kelly's sixth production with LCP. She was last seen in the award-winning production of *The December Man*. Kelly would like to thank Deborah for her dedication to this project and trusting her with the delightful Aunt Gardiner. This project is especially fun since Kelly is sharing the stage with her husband, Michael Testolin. When Kelly is not wandering the grounds of Pemberly, she is an educator with the Thames Valley District School Board.

**Lauren Matassa** (Kitty) - Lauren is thrilled to be playing the role of Kitty Bennet in London Community Players production of Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*. This is her second time performing at the Palace Theatre after appearing in LYTE's 2019 production of *The Wolves*. Lauren is so delighted to be back onstage and to be working with such an amazing cast and crew. She hopes that everyone enjoys the show!

**Nicole McTeer** (Charlotte Lucas) - Nicole is delighted to be back treading the boards at the Palace Theatre after playing Willa Scarlet in the 2015 production of *The Trials of Robin Hood*. Prior to this, Nicole was Costume Designer and appeared on stage as Alice in the Althouse production of *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. When Nicole isn't playing her favourite role as mom to her daughter Lydia, she enjoys spending time at the piano and in the dance studio. Nicole is thrilled to be a part of this talented cast.

**James Molloy** (Man 1) - As a long-time admirer of theatre and the richness it can add to life with lessons and entertainment, James is excited to be part of the Palace Theatre production of *Pride & Prejudice*. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be part of a wonderful cast and crew enjoying the camaraderie as the play came together. Great thanks and appreciation to his wonderful family and friends for their love and support.

..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Christopher Parker** (Mr. Bennet) - Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice* speaks to my heart. Playing the father, Mr. Bennet to my five daughters had me reflect on my twenty-year (58 productions) theatre career and to acknowledge an outstanding group of professionals. From directors, producers, actors, singers, wardrobe, properties and stage managers these remarkable women have added grace to my life. I dedicate all my performances of *Pride & Prejudice* to: Debra Chantler, Cindi Armer-Almeida, Kristina Baron-Woods, Sara Topham, Ceris Thomas, Hillary Tufford, Diana Barr, Mariann Sawyer, Amanda Marshall, Norah Cuzzocrea, the late Elizabeth Van Doorne, the late Ann Cuthbert, Rachel Ginther, Desiree Baker, Toni Wilson, Maria Hardcastle, Becky Lenko, Jenny Teplisky, Whitney Bolam, Mary Jane Walzak, Diana Watts, Sookie Mei, Elle Denny, Marion and Nancy Johnson, Jeanne Quarrie Mersereau, Charlene McNabb, Melanie Stewart, Kaitlyn Rietdijk and Aiden Thomas.

**David Pasquino** (Mr. Gardiner) - Preparing for this play has been an absolute delight. The energy, enthusiasm and genuine joy of the cast has been infectious and energizing, and I have no doubt that will be apparent and spread to the audience. Many, many thanks to Debra for her direction, gorgeous costumes and for casting me! None of this would be possible without the continued love and support from my amazing wife Diana and our daughter Rosalind who continues to inspire and astonish me and keeps me young. Take care, and play on!

**Aleesa Prendergast** (Lady Anne, Georgiana) - Aleesa is thrilled to perform in her first LCP production! Recently, Aleesa assistant stage managed the musical *Something Rotten!* with King's Players Theatre Company and performed as the Queen in *Cymbeline* with Western Summer Shakespeare. Her favourite memory from *Pride & Prejudice* has been learning the regency-era dances with her castmates. Aleesa studied Psychology and English Literature at King's University College, and is currently interested in furthering her education in Library and Information Science at Western. When Aleesa isn't performing, she enjoys cross-stitching and reading. She hopes to continue participating in theatre both onstage and backstage for years to come.

## ..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Jessica Pereira** (Caroline Bingley) - As a lover of all things theatre and romance, Jess is thrilled to be a part of London Community Players production of *Pride & Prejudice*. She has previously acted in theatrical productions at Theatre Orangeville and Blackhorse Village Players in shows such as *Anne of Green Gables* and *Cinderella*. This is her first time performing on Palace Theatre's main stage. Jess would like to thank this amazing cast and crew, as well as her friends, family, and partner for all their love and support!

**Mariann Sawyer** (Assistant Stage Manager) - Mariann is thrilled to be back at the Palace! Selected credits include: ASM (*Anne of Green Gables*, LCP 2017), Stage Manager (*Cleaning Up*, London Fringe 2018), Stage Manager (*Disney Heroes & Villains*, AK Arts 2018), Props (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, AK Arts 2019), ASM (*Drums In The Night*, Fanshawe 2019), Costume Design (*Stag & Doe*, LCP 2019), ASM (*Damn Yankees*, LCP 2019), Stage Manager (*Pterodactyls*, The Peanut Gallery 2020), Props (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, MTP 2020/2022), Stage Manager (*Two-Headed Boy*, B&C 2021), Props (*A Killer Party*, MTP 2021), Stage Manager (*Theatre Gods*, Prince Jake Entertainment 2021). Enjoy!

**Emma Semple** (Jane) - This is Emma's first show with LCP and her first time on stage since she attended London South Collegiate Institute, where she played Miss Casewell in *The Mouse Trap*. Being a student at Brescia University College in English Literature and Creativity, Emma is an avid lover of Jane Austen and is thrilled to help bring this beloved tale of romance to the stage. She wants to thank you all for coming and supporting live theatre and the arts in our community and asks that you please continue to see live theatre because without you, the audience, there would be no show.

**Michael Testolin** (Man 2) - Michael is a Sales Manager for Rogers Sports & Media. He graduated from Western with an English/Drama degree. It's been 40 years since he last trod the boards. His wife Kelly Martin (Mrs. Gardiner) persuaded him to join the cast when a proper actor had to pull out. He's enjoyed the experience but is slightly disappointed to have missed the opportunity to wear a powdered wig by a century.

..... WHO'S WHO .....

**Ceris Thomas** (Mrs. Bennet)- Ceris has been working in theatre since her parents got the whole family involved back in Red Deer, Alberta. She has appeared on stage as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Eliza Dolittle in *My Fair Lady*, The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Margaret in *The Light in the Piazza*. Ceris has directed and choreographed many productions including, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Oklahoma*, *Follies* and *The Three Musketeers* all on the Palace Stage. She is very happy to see the return of theatre after such a long drought. Thank you for returning to share with us, we can't perform without the audience. It just isn't the same.

Thank You

The Production Team of  
*Pride & Prejudice*  
would like to thank the following  
members of the Build Team for all of  
their work in creating our amazing set.

**David Long**  
**Heather Meadows**  
**Diana Peter**  
**Gary Parker**  
**Emil Kaszowski**

# Coming June 2022

On The Main Stage



June 18,  
2022

Performances at  
**1PM** and **7PM**

June 24-26,  
2022



WE'RE JUST PASSING BY TOUR

# DARREN POWERS



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