

PUFFS

**Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A
Certain School of Magic and Magic
By Matt Cox**

directed by Ruth Sturm
produced by Heidi Keller, Lorna Isaac, and Anupama Torgal

performances:
October 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18 at 8PM
plus October 11 at 2PM

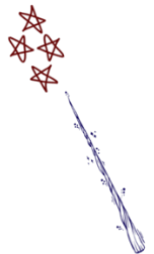
**Run Time:
2 hours with one 15-minute intermission**

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

"Puffs (Two Act Edition)" is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

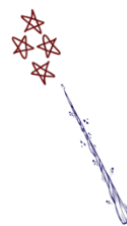
www.concordtheatricals.com

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





WELCOME FROM THE ST. MARK'S PLAYERS



Get ready to step into the world of Puffs! We're so glad you're here. For over 40 seasons, we've had the joy of bringing live theater to the Capitol Hill community, and it's an honor to continue that tradition with you tonight.

This 42nd season is a magical one for us. Much like the Puffs themselves—brave, loyal, and ready for a good laugh—we're celebrating a mix of familiar favorites and new discoveries. Along with "Emma" and "Spring Awakening," these three plays tell a season-long story about growing up, finding your place, and navigating the gap between who you think you should be and who you really are.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our cast, crew, and volunteers, who work tirelessly (sometimes with a dash of wizardly energy) behind the scenes to bring each production to life.

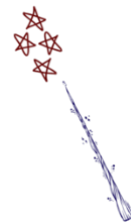
We are deeply grateful to the leadership and parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church for their ongoing support and for providing a home where the arts can flourish.

And of course, thank you—our audience—for joining us, for believing in community theater, and for being part of this shared adventure. We hope you enjoy the show, cheer loudly for the underdogs, and join us again as we continue to bring you fun, inspiring, and thoughtful stories.

Sincerely,

Margaret Chapman
President, St. Mark's Players





ST. MARK'S PLAYERS

Third and A Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Please visit our Website: www.stmarksplayers.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksplayers>

Instagram: stmarksplayers

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ST. MARK'S PLAYERS MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Mark's Players is a participatory company that uses theater to explore our lives – theologically and personally – and to serve our community and the St. Mark's Parish. Great thanks and appreciation to our sponsors!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SPONSORS' CIRCLE DONOR LEVELS

The St. Mark's Players gratefully accepts the donations of its supporters, which contribute significantly to its budget.

Archangel: \$5,000+, Angel: \$1,000+, Winged Lion: \$500+,
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SPONSORS CIRCLE

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Leilani Mustin	Tom Zebovitz

If you'd like to become a St Mark's Players supporter, please go to stmarksplayers.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry
Little Theatre of Alexandria



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the world of the Puffs. Warning — this show is very silly. If you are not prepared for silliness, I suggest you prepare now. I'll give you a minute.

Ready? Great. Puffs is a show about magic. Or it's a show about friendship. Or maybe it's a show about how many props an actor can carry at once.

Personally, I think Puffs is a show about people, with all our good parts and our bad parts. We can be weak, and we can be impatient, and we can be selfish. Some of us are famous authors who use our fame to advocate against trans rights. Not a good use of time and power in my opinion! (If you don't know what this is referencing, don't bother -- what matters is to vote for trans rights.)

All those negatives can be true. But man, what good stuff we can make when we work together. This show was made by some of the kindest, hardest-working people I have ever met. It was amazing how many humans volunteered to be a part of Puffs. I felt indescribably lucky to watch this cast and crew create something magical.

So, let's celebrate the good parts of being us. And let's have some fun while we're at it. Right now, the Puffs are buzzing backstage, ready to give us all a few hours of laughter. Thank you for coming out to be part of it.

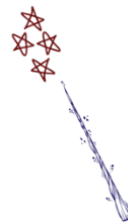
Ruth Sturm
Director





About the Author

Matt Cox is a playwright, actor, improviser, sound designer and former comic book retail associate based in New York City. His play *Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School Of Magic & Magic* (2016 Off-Broadway Alliance Best Theatrical Experience Nominee) began as small show made by friends at a small comedy venue, the People's Improv Theater. It has since broken records off-Broadway in New York, was screened in movie theaters across the country with Fathom Events, and its production in Melbourne, Australia is Melbourne's longest-running play of the century.

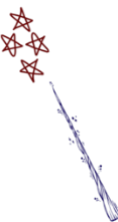


His other work includes *Happy Little Trees: A Bobyssey*, *Cool Chefs Jr.*, *The Madness of Captain Dread* and the four-hour geek epic *Kapow-i GoGo* (along with its spinoffs: *The Kapow-i GoGo Holiday Special* and *I Am Mr. Snuggles*.) He authored the radio play *El Hombre Bovino* for WNYC's *The Greene Space*, and was a contributing writer to The Flea Theater's *The Mysteries*. His work has been produced off-Broadway at New World Stages and The Elektra Theater; off-off-Broadway at The Tank and The Flea Theater; three blocks from Broadway at The Peoples Improv Theater, and much further from Broadway at the Alex Theater in Melbourne, Australia. He studied theatre at Tarleton State University. He is working on a novel about an Orc.



CAST (alphabetical by first name)

Wayne Hopkins	Aarij Mohammad
Hannah/First Headmaster/Professor Mcg/Professor Sprouty/Xavia Jones/Professor Lanny/Runes Teacher/Ms. Babble/Death Buddy.	Alicia Yass
Ernie Mac/A Very Tall Man/Seamus/A Certain Potions Teacher/Professor Turban/Ghost History Teacher/Professor Locky/Mr. Nick/Sal/Second Headmaster/Real Mr. Moody/Death Buddy	Betsy Scarisbrick
Megan Jones	Brianna Rodriguez Day
Cedric/Mr. Voldy	Chris D'Angelo
Narrator	Erica Irving
Sally Perks/Hermeone/Blondo Malfoy/Rowena/Rita Scooter/Bippy/Death Buddy	Hart Wood
Leanne/Ginny/Helga/Frenchy/Death Buddy	Lilly McGee
Susie Bones/Harry/Colin/Hermeone #2/Ric Gryff/Myrtle/Death Buddy . .	Madeline Marie
J. Finch Fletchley/Uncle Dave/Goyle/A Fat Friar/Clumsy Longbottom/Hermeone #3/Viktor/Mr. Bagman/Zach Smith/Death Buddy	Marcus Martinez
Oliver Rivers	Maya Lameche

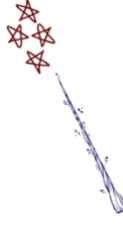


PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Ruth Sturm
Assistant Director	Madeline Mustin
Stage Manager	Elizabeth Moseley
Producers	Anupama Torgal Heidi Keller Lorna Isaac
Run Crew.	Nicholas Andonie Hillary Steen
Intimacy Coordinator	Helen Aberger
Set Dressing/ Decoration	Kathryn Stirling
Props Design	Tongjia (Tonya) Fu
Lighting Design	David Chase
Assistant Lighting Design	Leslie Davis
Sound Design	Alan Wray
Costume Design	Amelia Schuster Fiona Meagher Rose Lane
Hair/Makeup	Rachel Watson-Pass
Photography	Mark Andre
Light Board Op	David Chase
Sound Board Op	Alan Wray
Graphic Design	Lorna Isaac Steve Isaac Ruth Sturm
Social Media	Lilly McGee
Publicity	Lorna Isaac
Box Office	Roger Munter
House Manager	Helen Bard-Sobola
Opening Night Party	Heather Cipu



CAST (*alphabetical by first name*)



Aarij Mohammad (Wayne Hopkins) is thrilled to be making his SMP debut! He has played characters ranging from a chronically online detective, to an unqualified Lamaze instructor, to Oscar the Grouch, and loves exploring characters that bring both humor and heart to the stage. He's over the moon to be sharing the stage with such a talented cast and he'd like to express his deepest gratitude for the never-ending support he gets from his parents, his friends, and the love of his life, Anoushay, who makes him believe in real magic.



Alicia Yass (Hannah) is excited to return to the stage after a few years behind the scenes! Alicia was last seen on stage as Hortensio in *Taming of the Shrew* with FGC, and as Waverly in *Recent Tragic Events* with SMP. Off-stage Alicia has done work with props, choreography, and producing. She is always thrilled to be a part of bringing stories to life for you to enjoy!



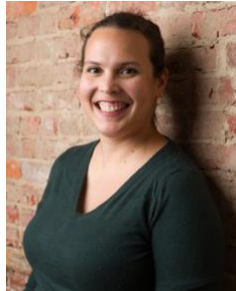
Betsy Scarisbrick (Ernie Mac) is thrilled to be making her SMP and D.C. debut! Previous credits include Shelby (*Steel Magnolias*), Lucy (*Bright Star*), Octavius Caesar (*Julius Caesar*) and Roxie Hart (*Chicago*), among others. Thanks to her family and her besties for their patience and understanding every time they received an "I can't. I have rehearsal." Paws up little badgers!



Brianna Rodriguez Day (Megan Jones) Brianna is thrilled to be back on the SMP stage for another season! Her most recent credits include Stage Managing *On Your Feet!* and Producing *The Birthday Party*. Thank you to Ruth for the opportunity to live out my childhood dreams!



Chris D'Angelo (Cedric/Mr. Voldy) is very pleased to be making his debut with SMP. Most recently, he directed *Fool for Love* at NOVA Nightsky (Ruby Griffith Award winner, Outstanding Achievement in a Play). His favorite DMV acting credits include The Baker in *Into the Woods* (Arlington Players), Gordon in *Dead Man's Cellphone* (NOVA Nightsky), and Macduff in *Macbeth*, (CFTC). A former high school history and drama teacher, Chris now works as a curriculum designer. Much love and thanks to ANG for all her support. For a more complete list of credits, please see chrisdangelothetheater.com.



Erica Irving (Narrator) is excited to be back on the SMP stage, after making her debut in *The Birthday Party* last Fall. Other favorite roles include Rosalind in *As You Like It* (NOVA Nightsky Theater), Woman 1 in *Songs For a New World* (Spotlighters Theatre), and Nikki in *The Trip* (Best Medicine Rep - Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Ensemble). She is an alumna of the Theatre Lab Honors Conservatory and a former Jeopardy champion. She would like to thank her friends and family for their boundless love and support.



Hart Wood (Sally Perks) is delighted to return to SMP following his debut as Francalou in *The Metromaniacs* earlier this year. Hart has also appeared as Mr. Collins in *Pride & Prejudice*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Charlie Whitmore in *Church & State* at SSS. Love to his family, friends, fellow cast, crew, and this wonderful theater community.



Lilly McGee (Leanne) Lilly (she/her) is chuffed to be a Puff. Favorite roles include Julia Seton in *Holiday* (LTA), Millie Martindale in *Perfect Arrangement* (SMP), Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (FGC), and Cassius in *Julius Caesar* (AU). To the friends who listen to the voice notes, laugh at the memes, and encourage you to take up space. And also, to the inventor of Celsius.



Madeline Marie (Susie Bones) Madeline (she/her) is an actor, singer, dancer, and choreographer whose recent credits include *The Pliant Girls* (Theatre Prometheus/Nu Sass), *Anastasia* (The Theatre Lab), and *Man of La Mancha* (The Theatre Lab). She also originated the role of Judge McManton in the new original musical *Shangri-la-la*, which is the subject of an upcoming docuseries. A proud graduate of both The Honors Acting Conservatory at The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts and The George Washington University Law School, Madeline is grateful to her friends and family for supporting her as she takes on her most difficult role yet — convincing the world that she is a “Puff” rather than a Ravenclaw! #WitBeyondMeasure



Marcus Martinez (J. Finch Fletchley) is excited to start his SMP debut in this fantastic production of *Puffs*. He is currently pursuing an acting BFA at George Mason University. His most recent university productions include *Mason Cabaret* (Ensemble) and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Ferdinand). Marcus wants to sincerely thank his family and two best mentors, Gabby A. and Bess K. for being a constant source of encouragement and strength throughout his artistic pursuits.



Maya Lameche (Oliver Rivers) *Puffs* marks Maya's return to the stage after a four-year hiatus, and her first production in the United States. Originally from France and Algeria, Maya grew up acting primarily in French, with roles in student productions of *Death of a Salesman*, *Waiting for Godot*, and classics such as Molière's *George Dandin*, or *The Thwarted Husband*—a personal favorite. Offstage, she focuses on clean energy policy and is pursuing a Master's in International Law. Maya is thrilled to be back in the theater with this magical production.

PRODUCTION TEAM *(alphabetical by first name)*



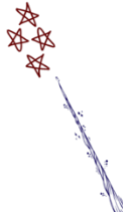
Alan Wray (Sound Design) is excited to be working with Ruth and the exciting team for *Puffs*. He most recently designed the sound at SMP for *On Your Feet*. Also at SMP, he designed the sound for *Rapture*, *Burn*, *Blister* and *Perfect Arrangement*. Other favorite designs include, *Kinky Boots* (LTA), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (LTA), *Young Frankenstein* (LTA) Watch Nomination, *The Seagull* (TAP) Watch Nomination, *Torch Song* (DS), *The Boys in the Band* (DS) Watch Nomination.

Amelia Schuster (Costume Design) Amelia is so excited to be making her debut at SMP. She has had such an amazing time working on this hilarious production and can't wait for everyone else to enjoy the magic. Amelia's past theatre credits include Skidmore College JKB Theatre Department (*Borrowed Letters* - Director), and The Walnut Street Theatre Company (Props Apprentice). Finally, she wants to say thank you to the rest of her amazing costume team, Rose and Fiona, none of this would be possible without them.

Anupama Torgal (Producer) is thrilled to be a part of this production. Her theatrical contributions include some acting for SMP: *Perfect Arrangement* (Kitty Sunderson) & *Book of Days* (Sharon Bates), for FGC: *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mustardseed), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Constance), and a variety of roles in the crew (FGC & SMP). This cast and crew are superlative, and she is grateful for all of the giggles!

David Chase (Lighting Design) began working with SMP in the production of *Our Town* in the role of Mr. Webb. Since then, David has worked with SMP lighting crew in all their productions. He is excited to be working once again with the lighting team on this production of *Puffs*.

Elizabeth Moseley (Stage Manager) is elated to participate in her first SMP production and would like to thank Ruth and the lovely producers for such a warm welcome. She studied journalism and theater at the University of Alabama and UNC-Chapel Hill, where she was the producing artistic director of Company Carolina. Her backstage credits include *Hairspray* (Stage Manager), *The Producers* (Producer) and *Urinetown: The Musical* (Producer).



Fiona Meagher (Costume Design) has worked with SMP in front of and behind the curtains of many wonderful shows, including *The 39 Steps*, *Gypsy*, *Proof*, *Evita*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Her favorite SMP experience was playing Liz Imbrie in the 2018 production of *The Philadelphia Story*. In her spare time, Fiona thinks about what she's going to be for Halloween.

Heidi Keller (Producer) is excited to be back again at SMP in a producer role with two other amazing producers and a talented cast and crew. She has lived on the Hill for 17 years with her husband and spends her free time restoring local park habitats, including her own rowhouse yard.

Helen Aberger (Intimacy Choreographer) An enthusiastic intimacy professional for live theatre, select area credits include *Beautiful* and *Lend Me A Soprano* (Olney Theatre Center) *Radio Golf* and *The Tempest* (Round House Theatre), *Rocky Horror Show* (Iron Crow Theatre), and *Bright Star* (Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre). Helen is also a director specializing in opera and operetta. See her complete work at HelenAbergerDirector.com.

Hillary Steen (Run Crew) is thrilled to join SMP. Although she usually performs in various capacities, hopefully you won't see her at all in this show. She was on production crew at Clarkstown South High School (costumes) and Eisner Camp (set painting), and this is her first time on run crew. Break a leg, everyone!

Kathryn Stirling (Set Dressing Design) can't believe her luck in finding SMP within walking distance of her new home. Acting credits include: Actor's Studio (London), Alliance Theatre Company, Southern Theatre Conspiracy, Seven Stages, CBS My Father My Son, ABC All MY Children. Directing/Design: Rockville Little Theatre, The Strand, Baltimore Equity Actor's Co-op, Atlanta.

Leslie Davis (Assistant Lighting Design) Leslie is so excited to return to the world of stage lighting for *Puffs*. This is her third show with SMP. She previously worked as an assistant stage manager for *On Your Feet* and a house manager/lighting assistant for *Metromaniacs*.

Lorna Isaac (Producer) is excited to be involved in her first SMP Theater production! She has previously worked with Mosaic Theater Company of DC, Studio Theatre, and Washington Performing Arts in DC, and Perry Street Theatricals and SpotCo in NYC.

Madeline Mustin (Assistant Director) excitedly (HI!!) returns for collaboration with SMP following performing in *Our Town* as Rebecca, participating in this season's Artistic Committee, and assistant stage managing several SMP productions within the last two years. Other recent, notable credits include *Abdication!* (Viola | SSS), *American Psycho* (Wardrobe Supervisor | Monumental Theatre Company), and *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Stage Manager | Monumental Theatre Company). Although she'd probably be sorted into the "Smarts" by the magic, talking hat, Maddy is delighted to use her assistant directorial debut to pay homage to the "Puffs" through a wonderfully nostalgic lens, and she offers a giant Puff hug to all who have supported this show and to all who made its magic possible – with especial love to Mom, Dad, and Stephen and unequivocal, heartfelt gratitude to Ruth. ... OK BYE!! Enjoy the show! Cheerio! AVIAFORS!

Mark Andre (Photography) Mark's work has been featured by the Washington Post, The Weather Channel, and *Wallpaper Magazine. He has been photographing SMP for many years across numerous productions including *The Color Purple*, *Our Town*, and most recently *On Your Feet*.

Nicholas Andonie (Run Crew), Hi! I'm Nicholas. :) I had lived in DC for a little bit almost 15 years ago and always wanted to come back but did way too much school in Miami and spent some time in China and Taiwan too before finally making it back to DC in 2022. Last year I had been searching for a Shakespeare reading group and found SMP instead. I love supporting communities by making and building and doing projects, so I started volunteering! (Also, apparently DC didn't have a Shakespeare reading group, so I started

one - feel free to reach out if you'd like to join!) Outside of reading and volunteering, I make homemade reed diffuser mixes and fix fountain pen quality control errors semi-professionally.

Rachel Watson-Pass (Hair and Makeup Design) is delighted to sink her CLAWS into SMP's production of *Puffs* through the magic of hair and makeup. She has been working with SMP for over fifteen years, both on and off stage, with favorite roles including Lucy in *Dracula*, Phoebe in *As You Like It*, and Barbara Grant in *Perfect Arrangement*.

Rose Lane (Costume Design) is delighted to be part of this production of *Puffs* and even more delighted that she has not (yet) sewn herself into a cloak or been discovered wandering the fabric store muttering "what the heck needs to go in all these interior robe pockets???" Favorite past productions she's dressed up include *Perfect Arrangement* (SMP); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (SMP); *Sweeney Todd* (SMP); *Much Ado About Nothing* (FGCB); *Arcadia* (SMP); *The Wiz* (SMP); and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (TAP). Onstage, Rose has appeared in *Cabaret* (SMP), *Chicago* (SMP), *Parade* (SMP), and *The Most Massive Woman Wins* (Fringe)—proving that if she can't costume the cast, she'll happily join it if they let her. She thanks her brilliant costume partners Amelia and Fiona (kindred spirits in thrift-store treasure hunts, hot glue gun shenanigans, and last-minute quick changes), as well as LTA for their generous loans. Finally, she thanks her husband and family for tolerating the mysterious collection of robes and capes that have taken over their home, which currently resembles a wizarding world lost-and-found.

Ruth Sturm (Director) is overjoyed to be directing her first production at SMP. Notable directing credits and training belong to the Good Night Theatre Collective (now celebrating their tenth anniversary!) Ruth is eternally grateful to her husband, friends and family for supporting her and this production. Special shoutout to the best production team ever to exist. And an even special-er shoutout to organizations working to support trans people, like genderedintelligence.co.uk.

Tongjia (Tonya) Fu (Props Design) is thrilled to be a Puff — and a prop-making Puff at that! She finds it pure magic to conjure a parade of whimsically ridiculous props with that special brand of Puff magic. Her last stage outing was as Props Master for RLT's production of *The Foreigner*. She has studied foundational special-effects makeup and prop design and construction and previously contributed to the sci-fi film *The Wandering Earth*. With glue guns blazing and foam flying, she's proud to turn every Puff moment into a bit of magic.

WATCH Theater abbreviations:

SMP: *St Mark's Players*

FGC: *Fat and Greasy Citizens Brigade*

LTA: *Little Theater of Alexandria*

DS: *Dominion Stage*

RLT: *Rockville Little Theatre*

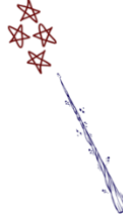
SSS: *Silver Spring Stage*

RLT: *Rockville Little Theatre*

CFTC: *City of Fairfax Theater Company*



2025/2026 Season Shows



Emma

February 27 – March 14, 2026

by Kate Hamill

based on the novel by Jane Austen

directed by Heather Cipu

AUDITIONS TAKING PLACE

EARLY DECEMBER 2025!!

Spring Awakening

May 1 – 16, 2026

by Steve Sater and Duncan Sheik

directed by Paul Di Salvo

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Opportunities include:

Producing	Costumes
~	~
Directing	Makeup / Hair
~	~
Sound	Box Office
~	~
Lights	House Management
~	~
Stage Management	Ushering
~	
Set / Props	

If interested in volunteering with us, please send an email to info@stmarksplayers.org