

NEWTON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

Newton
STAGE Theatre
Company

jane austen's

pride and prejudice

adapted to the stage by CLAIRE WITTMAN

FALL OF 2023

Friday, Oct. 27
8 PM

Saturday, Oct. 28
2 PM | 8 PM

Friday, Nov. 3
8 PM

Saturday, Nov. 4
2 PM | 8 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
96 Otis Street, Newtonville

<https://ntc-pnp.eventbrite.com>



Pride and Prejudice was produced by special
arrangement with YouthPLAYS
www.YouthPLAYS.com

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Newton, Massachusetts is on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett Indigenous Peoples.

The name Massachusetts comes from the Massachusett language term for "At the Great Hill," referring to the Blue Hills overlooking Boston Harbor from the south.

The Indigenous Nations that belong to this land are known as the Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, Ponkapoag, Stockbridge Munsee Mohican Nation and Nimuc.

We respect & recognize it is a privilege to be living on these lands as guests. We acknowledge the trauma experienced over centuries to the indigenous peoples who live on these lands and continue to face injustice.

We honor with gratitude those peoples who have stewarded this land. We also acknowledge that these lands are sacred to generations yet to be born.

Cast, in alphabetical order

Linda Goetz.....	Mr. Collins/Caroline Bingley
Frances Hellums.....	Charles Bingley
Dani Johnson.....	Mary and Lydia and Kitty Bennet
Vivian Liu-Somers.....	Mrs. Bennet/Anne De Bourgh
Luz Lopez.....	Lizzy Bennet
Scarling Ferrera Mejia.....	Charlotte Lucas/Mr. Wickham
Wendy Mnookin.....	Lady Catherine De Bourgh
Shalini Prasad.....	Fitzwilliam Darcy
Karin Trachtenberg.....	Mr. Bennet/Mrs. Reynolds
Darby Wilson.....	Jane Bennet

Pride and Prejudice Creative Team

Director.....	Melissa Bernstein
Stage Manager.....	Jesse King
Sound Designer.....	Alex Taylor
Lighting Designer.....	Joel Lawitts
Technical Director.....	Bernie Bernstein
Artistic Director.....	Melissa Bernstein
Digital Marketing Director.....	Abby Strayer
Graphic Designer.....	Tess Vigdor
Social Media Manager.....	Alex Taylor
Bookkeeper.....	Anna Stenberg

2023-2024 Newton Theatre Company Board

Chair.....	Melissa Bernstein
Treasurer.....	Courtney Cole
Clerk.....	Karen Woodrow
Members.....	
.....	Rosalind Bevan, Vivian Liu-Somers, Shalini Prasad, Tamika Olszewski

Director's Note

Pride and Prejudice reimagined!

What does that mean? And why an all-woman cast?

Pride and Prejudice is a beloved classic. And much of it still rings true: The enduring strength of best friends, close siblings, family first. Celebrating a character like Lizzy, who goes against the grain and dares to think differently. The prejudice people face because of their “otherness,” be it class, race or gender.

But “reimagined” means looking at parts of the story with a different lens - pointing up the silliness of the social mores of the time. The sting of women’s social status is turned on its head because the swoony male characters are played by women actors who are having a hoot embodying these “dashing” and sometimes ridiculous men.

“Reimagined” means the makeup of the world of *Pride and Prejudice* includes some familiar modern things juxtaposed with the old-timey. What new insights into Jane Austen’s beloved story would a mix of those two worlds bring?

And “reimagined” means puppets. And I must say the puppets have been delightful to work with. They are true professionals and I hope this launches their Boston theatre acting career. Stay tuned!

Melissa Bernstein



Linda Goetz



Frances Hellums



Dani Johnson



Vivian Liu-Somers



Luz Lopez



Scarling Ferrera Mejia



Wendy Mnookin



Shalini Prasad



Amber-Nicole Rodriguez



Karin Trachtenberg



Darby Wilson



Jesse King

Who's Who

Linda Goetz (Mr. Collins/Caroline Bingley) Linda was last seen in NTC production of *Saint Joan*, previous NTC shows include *Our Tears are the Same Color*, *Mary Stuart*, *Mansfield Park*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Iphigenia at Aulis* and *The Oresteia*.

Frances Hellums (Mr. Bingley) (she/hers) is a Boston based actor, director, and educator. She is currently the Part Time Education Associate at the Huntington Theatre while working as a freelance teaching artist throughout the city. Recently she served as assistant director on the world premier of Taylor Mac's *Joy and Pandemic* at the Huntington. She is overjoyed to be back on stage, and would like to give a big thank you to Roz Bevan for connecting her with this wonderful company. She holds a BFA from Boston University in Theatre Arts Performance with artistic concentrations in Musical Theatre and Directing. Learn more about her at franceshellums.com

Dani Johnson (Mary Bennet/Lydia Bennet/Kitty Bennet) is excited to be performing in her seventh season with Newton Theatre Company. She is thrilled to be working with this incredible cast of women actors. Past NTC credits include *Saint Joan*, *Macbeth*, *All About Eve*, *War of the Worlds*, and *Marie Antoinette* – among others. Early work includes *Twelfth Night*, *Footloose*, *The Crucible*, et al. Dani teaches twelfth grade English at Newton North High School. *Pride and Prejudice* is one of her favorite novels of all time.

Jesse King (Stage Manager) My pronouns are he/him and I'm the stage manager. Although I have been working with Newton Theatre Company in other aspects for about a year, mainly with Newton Theatre Kids, this is my first time stage managing a show. I'd like to send out a special thanks to our director, Melissa, for having the confidence in me to ask me to do this and for guiding me along this new experience. Working on it has been a blast and I hope the love everyone in the cast and crew has put into it shines through for you.

Who's Who

Vivian Liu-Somers (Mrs. Bennet) she/her/hers is delighted to be playing Mrs. Bennet and to be part of her third Newton Theatre Company production. She is a Boston based actor/writer/director and proud member of the Asian American Playwright Collective Her 10 minute play *Waiting for Kim Lee* has been performed on both coasts. You can see examples of her work at rebrand.ly/vliusomers

Luz Lopez (Lizzy Bennet) is so excited to make her debut with Newton Theatre Company interpreting one of her favorite literary characters! Recent credits include: *Alma* at Central Square Theatre and *Don't Eat The Mangos* with Apollinaire Theatre and Teatro Chelsea (Elliot Norton Nominated - Best Featured Performance). You can learn more about Luz at www.luzlopez.com or follow her @luzlopezactor on instagram.

Scarling Virginia Ferrera Mejia (Charlotte Lucas/George Wickham) Born in Dominican Republic and currently based in Boston, MA. Graduated from Rhode Island College in 2022 with a B.A in Theatre Performance. I am interested in bringing awareness of social issues, immigrant experience and highlighting culture. To live my life using my art to speak out and bring a platform of conversation to such topics is the ultimate pleasure as an artist I can have. Past shows: *1776: The Musical* (Caesar Rodney), *The Laramie Project* (Catherine Connolly, Judge, Amanda Gronich, Narrator), *Abue' The Play* (Rosa, Lucia), *Good Friday* (Joe, Georgina), *A Work In Progress* (Francesca, Jocelyn, Trisha). Special thanks to: My family, friends and my community for being the reason I am here today and who I dedicate my art to. And thank you to the cast and crew for your hard work and making my *Pride and Prejudice* journey so special. Thank you NTC for welcoming me into your family.

Wendy Mnookin (Lady Catherine) was active in theater years ago, performing roles ranging from Eeyore to Antigone. She has recently had the chance to take up acting again in productions at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Wendy is grateful for the opportunity to join NFT in this production--and thanks her grandchildren for running lines with her.

Who's Who

Shalini Prasad (Mr. Darcy) is an integrative graphic designer who practices as an independent consultant and teaches at Lesley University College of Art & Design. Alongside her role as a designer, artist and educator, she enjoys partaking in dance, choreography and acting projects that come her way. She believes her interdisciplinary background in both the creative arts (architecture, graphic design and art) and performing arts (classical Indian dance and theatre) allows her to seamlessly transcend platforms, and fearlessly dismiss boundaries in whatever creative endeavor she undertakes. She is excited to be for the NTC family, where she gets to share, learn and grow her repertoire, as an actor, board member and design adviser. Her past performances with NTC include *Macbeth*, *The Monologue Project* and *Iphigenia Among the Taurians*.

Amber-Nicole Rodriguez (Swing) (she/ella) is a multidisciplinary performer/creative/educator based in Boston, MA. This is her second time working with the Newton Theatre Company – you might have seen her play ‘Maria Teresa’ in their production of *In the Time of the Butterflies* last April. Most recently, she played ‘Flaca’ in *La Lengua No Tiene Hueso* during Moonbox’s Boston New Play Festival. This is her first time understudying and she is grateful to the Newton team for the opportunity. You can support her photography endeavors on Instagram - @projectanr.

Karin Trachtenberg (Mr. Bennet/Mrs. Reynolds) is delighted to be returning for a 7th season with NTC! A classically trained actress, Karin has appeared in professional theaters throughout New England and beyond performing major roles in Greek Drama and Shakespeare productions. The one woman show she wrote and stars in *My Mother Has Two Faces: Reflections on Beauty, Aging and Acceptance*, will have its world premiere this December at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles. Learn more about Karin’s thespian adventures at: karintrachtenberg.com

Darby Wilson (Jane Bennet) (she/her) is an actor, musician, and artist based in Providence, RI. Her recent credits include playing Bayard in Arthur Miller’s *Incident at Vichy* (Headtrick Theatre Co dir Rebecca Maxfield), and playing Judy Chen in Ayad Akhtar’s *Junk* (Burbage Theatre Co, dir Jeff Church). This is her first time working with Newton Theatre Company and she is so grateful for the opportunity to play Jane and work with such a fantastic team.

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— Chita Rivera



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innovative and thought-provoking shows.

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