

# vanya and sonia and masha and spike

WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG  
DIRECTED BY KENNY HERTLING

FEBRUARY 22, 23, 24, 29,  
MARCH 1, 2 AT 7:30PM

FEBRUARY 25 & MARCH 3 AT  
2:00PM

THE TED JONES PLAYHOUSE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [MCCT.ORG](http://MCCT.ORG)



# Director's Note

I'm excited to be directing this hilarious comedy about family ties and disconnects. As someone who enjoys comedy and watching drama unfold on stage, asking to direct this piece was an easy decision. Chris Durang brings life to the fear that stems from change and inevitability as life spins, whether we are ready or not. And being ready still does not mean we make it through to the other side without a couple scratches. Much love to the cast and crew who brought our shared vision to life. You worked hard to become a tight group, now let's laugh hard with the audiences. I hope you are able to relate to the experiences of the characters - having 3 older sisters myself, I know there are moments that feel straight out of conversations I have had with them.



Kenny Hertling (he/him)  
Director

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Special thanks to Patty & Sam Ardery, Steve Heise, & Janet Templeton-Heise for underwriting the 2024 Monroe County Civic Theater season with their generous support.

# Cast

Vanya..... Tom Slater  
Sonia.....Becky Stapf  
Masha..... Emily McGee  
Spike.....Robert Ping  
Cassandra.....Jada Buehler  
Nina.....Sophia Hoffman

# Crew

Director..... Kenny Herling  
Tech Director/Stage Manager.....Hannah Bowman  
Rehearsal Stage Manager.....Kelsey Beal  
Costumes.....B. Stryker DeLong  
Stage Crew.....Sascha Cameron  
Playbill & Poster Design.....Emily Bedwell

Set used with permission of David Wade and Constellation Stage & Screen.

Sound effects from [zapsplat.com](http://zapsplat.com)

# Thank You To

Monroe County Public Library  
Indy Ghostlight Photography  
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Miranda Merkley  
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Constellation Stage & Screen  
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Anna Hughes  
David Wade

# Meet the Cast & Crew



## **Kelsey Beal**

### *Rehearsal Stage Manager*

Kelsey (she/her) is excited to return to backstage work after a five-year hiatus! She previously appeared in MCCT's audio production of *Alice in Vaudeville* and is thrilled to return to in-person theatre. She would like to thank Kenny and MCCT for putting on this show and Moccasin the Cat for putting up with late dinner times. She hopes you enjoy the show!



## **Hannah Bowman**

### *Tech Director/Stage Manager*

Hannah (she/her) is originally from Indianapolis, IN but came to Bloomington in 2018 to start her career. She currently works at Catalent Biologics as a Principal Scientist in Manufacturing Sciences and Technology - Drug Substance. Hannah has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin and a BS in Chemistry from Purdue where she also minored in lighting design. Her theatre experience from Cathedral High School, Summer Stock Stage, Purdue University, and now MCCT spans most aspects of working backstage. Previous MCCT credits: *Halloween Spooktacular* (SM); *The Mousetrap* (TD); *One Act Showcase: When Dreams Become Reality* (TD); *Love Lost and Love Found* (SM); *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike* (TD/Production SM).



## **Jada Buehler**

### *Cassandra*

Jada Buehler (she/her) is a Bloomington native and is thrilled to be making her MCCT debut. She has been involved in the local theatre scene since 2015 when she began with Bloomington High School North Theatre and Stages Bloomington. Her favorite roles include Prentiss in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Zebulun in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Aggie in *Play On!* When she isn't at rehearsal she is either reading or spending time with her partner Jack and their golden retriever Duck. Jada would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support in her artistic endeavors. Jada is so excited to be back in the theatre space and hopes to continue to be active in the community.



### **B. Stryker DeLong**

Beckie (she/her) has been costuming for decades. Her fascination with costuming began as a child when she wanted to know what Super Man's cape was made out of because her cape, made out of a towel, didn't blow in the wind like his did. She believes that costumes have the power to enrich, enliven, and define every performance, every occasion, and every body. She would like to express her deep gratitude, love, and appreciation to John, whose support helps to create the space in which her imagination can fuel the adventure. To her village — her chosen family of dancers, stitchers, performers, and misfits (you know who you are) - she expresses gratitude for all the inspiration, the moral support, and for sharing in her journey. Let the adventures continue!



### **Sophia Hoffman**

*Nina*

Sophia Hoffman is so excited to join MCCT for their latest production! A Bloomington native, Sophia's performances in the last year include *Curious George: The Golden Meatball* (Netti/Ensemble) with Constellation Stage and Screen, *Richard III (Anne)* with MCCT, and *One Flew Over a Cuckoo's Nest (Warren)* with OCCT. Favorite performances from her time at DePauw University include *Angels in America Part I: Millennium Approaches* (Emily/The Angel), *Trojan Women (Athena/Chorus)*, *The Taming of the Shrew (Katharina)*, *The Importance of Being Earnest (Gwendolen)*, and *Much Ado About Nothing (Director)*.



### **Emily McGee**

*Masha*

Emmy-Nominated actor/puppeteer, Emily McGee (she/her), is beyond thrilled to be returning to the MCCT stage. She has been seen on stage and behind the scenes as an actor, voice over artist, director, producer and puppeteer for various film and theatre companies including the Phoenix Theatre, Cardinal Stage Company, Bloomington Playwrights Project, Theatre Brown County, Breakfast Anytime Improv and Sketch Comedy, Starrynight Productions, Soundbooth Theatre, and WTIU. When she is not contributing to the magnificent chaos that is the world of theatre, she can be found working as a publicist through Rock Paper Scissors Inc, a PR company that specializes in representing companies with an eye on tech and innovation within the music industry.



## **Robert Ping**

*Spike*

Robert (he/him) returned to the stage in 2021 after a 12-year hiatus which he and his partner, Tom, used to raise kids, open YOUUnique Studio, and create alter-egos! Their alter-egos, Topsy and Tootsie Teasedale, helped them continue performing during the pandemic (all online, of course) and became a conduit for raising thousands of dollars to help erase stigma and raise awareness for mental health, HIV/AIDS, suicide, bullying, and issues concerning the LGBTQ+ community. In 2021 Robert rapped his way into the hearts of patrons of the Brown County Playhouse in *2020:COVID the Musical!* Prior, he was seen on-stage in 2008 as Rocky in *Rocky Horror*, produced by Starry Night Productions. He is a 20+-year member of the Quarryland Men's Chorus and marched with the IU Marching Hundred for five years. He is over the moon about performing with this amazing cast/crew and dedicates his performances to his Mom who passed in April 2020. Learn more about the Teasedales, YOUUnique Studio, and the causes they support at <https://youuniquestudio.com>.



## **Tom Slater**

*Vanya*

Tom (he/him) studied theater and dance at the University of Southern California. He began competing as an amateur ballroom dancer in college, eventually turning pro, adding teacher/choreographer to his repertoire. During his career he has had many unique experiences, dancing for Bob Hope, the President and First Lady Clinton, and President Gerald Ford. He performed alongside superstars Suzanne Somers, Vic Damone, Louise Mandrell, Charo, and danced personally with the super-talented, Juliet Prowse on national television. Tom has worked with Constellation on 6 shows: *Mary Poppins*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Ada and the Engine*. He was in *Covid the Musical* at Brown County Playhouse, and this is his debut with MCCT. He is very excited to perform with this amazing cast. He is the owner of YOUUnique Studio, <http://youuniquestudio.com>, a dance studio and hair salon which specializes in a boutique experience.

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## Becky Stapf

Sonia

Becky (she/her) is a local actress, singer, and radio theater voice actor, and has been involved with MCCT for many years. Some of her roles in MCCT productions include "Mrs. Reece" in *The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth*, Prospero in *The Tempest*, and Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*. More recently, Becky portrayed Jack's Mom in the musical *Into The Woods* at Martinsville Little Depot Theater, and as a soloist and ensemble member in *Covid 2020 The Musical* at the Brown County Playhouse. She's as excited as can be to among this fine cast, and as "Sonia"; a truly valued(?) member of this dysfunctional family. In real life, Becky is a retired postal clerk, and lives in the deep woods of Brown County with her husband Dave, and their four-legged friends.

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# THE PLAY THAT GOES

# WRONG

A stylized illustration of a theater set in shades of red. The set includes a yellow sofa, a yellow ladder, a yellow chair, a yellow table, a yellow lamp, and a yellow door. A man in a blue shirt is climbing the letter 'W' of the title. A man in a black shirt is hanging from the letter 'O'. A woman in a blue dress is running towards the ladder. A man in a blue shirt is lying on the sofa. A banana is on the floor. A chandelier is hanging from the ceiling. A picture of a woman's face is on the wall. A lamp is on a table. A door is in the background.

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Our company is made up of generous donors, as well as dues-paying members and participants. We couldn't do it without you!

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*\*denotes first show with MCCT*



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