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BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE *presents*



ANASTASIA

THE MUSICAL

STUDY GUIDE

**BUCKS
COUNTY
PLAYHOUSE**

Bucks County Playhouse



The Bucks County Playhouse is located on the site of a former grist mill on the banks of the Delaware River, 90 minutes from New York City in New Hope, Pennsylvania. The original structure was built in 1790 when owner Benjamin Parry rebuilt the Hope Mills, which had recently burned down. The newly christened New Hope Mills inspired the village to change its name from Coryell's Ferry to New Hope.

Facing demolition in the 1930s, the site was saved when a small band of artists, including Broadway orchestrator Don Walker, and playwright and Bucks County resident Moss Hart, helped rally the local community to renovate it as a theater. The Bucks County Playhouse opened on July 1, 1939, with a production of "Springtime for Henry", featuring Edward Everett Horton.

The BCP quickly became "America's Most Famous Summer Theater" with a veritable who's who of American theatrical royalty including Kim Hunter, Helen Hayes, Kitty Carlisle, George C. Scott, Colleen Dewhurst, Shirley Booth, Lillian Gish, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, James Daly, June Lockhart, Grace Kelly, Alfred Drake, Bert Lahr, Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson, Leslie Nielsen, Bea Arthur, Walter Matthau, Bob Fosse, Richard Kiley, Angela Lansbury, Jack Klugman, Zero Mostel, Dick Van Dyke, Robert Redford, Howard Keel, Bernadette Peters, Rob Reiner, Alan Alda, Tyne Daly, Mike Nichols, Liza Minnelli, John Lithgow, James Whitmore, Jessica Walter, Kevin Kline, Andrea McArdle, George Segal, Audra McDonald, and many more. The Bucks County Playhouse remained in continuous operation until December 2010.

Thanks to the Bridge Street Foundation, the nonprofit family foundation of Kevin and Sherri Daugherty, this beloved theatrical landmark was beautifully renovated, re-opened and celebrated on July 2, 2012, exactly 73 years and a day from when it originally opened in 1939.

Producing Director, Jed Bernstein, revitalized the BCP with the return of professional Equity productions. In 2014, Tony Award-winning producers Alexander Fraser, Robyn Goodman and Josh Fiedler took the helm of the Playhouse, reclaiming its reputation of attracting Broadway and Hollywood artists.

In 2023, Bucks County Playhouse is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its 2012 re-opening and restoration. With more than 75,000 patrons walking through its doors every year, the Playhouse is leading the economic resurgence of New Hope and the surrounding community. Playhouse productions of "Company" starring Justin Guarini, and William Finn's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" were named by Wall Street Journal to its "Best of Theatre" list for 2015. In 2018, the Wall Street Journal again hailed the Playhouse and Artistic Associate Hunter Foster in its Best of the Year listings for its production of "42nd Street" and in 2019 labeled the Playhouse "one of the best regional theaters on the East coast." Box office records have been repeatedly broken by signature productions of "Steel Magnolias" directed by Marsha Mason, "Mamma Mia!" directed by John Tartaglia and "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," "Million Dollar Quartet," "42nd Street," and "Guys & Dolls" (all directed by Hunter Foster). In 2021, the team developed and presented Candace Bushnell's "Is There Still Sex in the City," which the Playhouse then partnered to move to New York.

The creative teams who come to create new productions at the Playhouse are among the most talented artists working in the professional theatre today and relish the opportunity to work on the historic stage where Grace Kelly, Robert Redford, and Jessica Walter began their careers.

Education Programs



We believe that quality arts education has a positive and lasting impact on individuals and communities. Bucks County Playhouse Education offers a wide range of classes, workshops, and performance opportunities for students, teachers, artists, and audiences of all ages. Whether you are a seasoned professional, a theater enthusiast, or just looking to have fun while learning a new skill, we are here to help you explore creativity through the arts.

CLASSES

We offer a wide range of classes, workshops, and residencies for students of all ages.

Select dates year-round

PLAYHOUSE YOUTH COMPANY

This audition-only, tuition-free, 5-week program offers master classes with Playhouse artists, provides performance opportunities at Playhouse events, and culminates in a full-production performed in repertory with BCP's professional shows on the Playhouse stage.

Summer | Ages 13 - 18

REVERB

This educational program for students between the ages of 13 and 18 provides a safe space for discussion and exploration of issues facing teenagers and through the lens of devised theater, storytelling, and writing techniques. Select dates | Ages 13 - 18

STUDENT THEATER FESTIVAL

A multi-day festival for students across the region that includes workshops taught by BCP theater artists as well as the opportunity to perform on our historic stage and receive feedback from a panel of theater professionals and educators.

March 31 - April 3 & April 7 - April 10, 2025
Middle and High Schools

BOUNCE RESIDENCY

Our partnership with the Morrisville School district brings arts programming into the classroom and Morrisville school children to the Playhouse to watch live theater.

Select dates year-round | 4th grade and up

QUESTIONS?

info@buckscountyplayhouse.org • 215.862.2121 • www.BucksCountyPlayhouse.org

BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE *presents*



Book by
TERRENCE McNALLY

Music by
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Directed by ERIC ROSEN
Choreographed by AL BLACKSTONE

Set amidst the turmoil of the Russian revolution with the Bolshevik regime on the rise, Anya, an amnesiac orphan stranded in what was once the Russian capital, St. Petersburg, is on a quest to rediscover her past which she believes lies in Paris. Joined by a dashing conman, Dmitry, and an ex-aristocrat, Vlad Popov, who want to use Anya to bamboozle the only remaining Romanov, Dowager Empress Marie into believing that Anya is the lost Anastasia, she escapes to Paris with a determined Soviet officer on their heels. *Anastasia* explores one determined girl's journey to find home, love, and family as she discovers who she was and embraces who she is meant to be.

Runtime: 2 hours, including one intermission

Music Director: EVAN ZAVADA

Scenic Design: JACK MAGAW

Costume Design: RICKY LURIE and JESS GERSZ

Lighting Design: WHEELER MOON

Projection Design: MICHAEL COMMENDATORE

Sound Design: SAM KUSNETZ

Hair, Wig & Makeup Design: J. JARED JANAS

ANASTASIA: THE MUSICAL
runs NOVEMBER 22, 2024 - JANUARY 5, 2025

Setting

Saint Petersburg, Russia and Paris, France

Time

1906, 1917, and 1927

Cast of Characters

LITTLE ANASTASIA - The daughter of Tsar Nicolas and Tsarina Alexandra.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS - The grandmother of Anastasia and mother of Tsar Nicolas. Anastasia was her favorite grandchild.

THE TSARINA - Tsarina Alexandra, wife of Tsar Nicolas and mother of Anastasia.

THE TSAR - Tsar Nicolas, ruler of Imperial Russia, father of Anastasia and son of The Dowager Empress.

ANYA - A young woman with amnesia who may or may not be the true Grand Duchess Anastasia.

DMITRY - A young con man with a plan to use an Anastasia impersonator to secure escape from Russia and collect the reward money.

VLAD - A former member of the Russian Imperial court turned conman, partners with Dmitry, former lover of Lily.

GLEB - The son of a Bolshevik revolutionary, Gleb is an officer for the Russian secret police.

LILY - A former Russian aristocrat living in exile in Paris, The Dowager Empress' lady in waiting, former lover of Vlad.

COUNT IPOLITOV - a distant relation of the Romanov Royal Family attempting to make his claim as heir.

COUNT LEOPOLD - A Russian intellectual wanted by the secret police.

ENSEMBLE - A versatile group that helps define the world of the show by appearing at different times in the story to represent the common people of Russia, the aristocracy, the international press, secret police, etc.

Musical Numbers

"Prologue: "Once Upon a December"	Dowager Empress and Little Anastasia
"The Last Dance of the Romanovs"	Ensemble
"A Rumor in St. Petersburg"	Dmitry, Vlad and Ensemble
"In My Dreams"	Anya
"The Rumors Never End"	Gleb and Ensemble
"Learn to Do It"	Vlad, Anya and Dmitry
"The Neva Flows"	Gleb and Anya
"The Neva Flows" (Reprise)	Men
"My Petersburg"	Dmitry and Anya
"Once Upon a December"	Anya and Ensemble
"A Secret She Kept"	Anya
"Stay, I Pray You"	Count Ipolitov, Anya, Dmitry, Vlad and Ensemble
"We'll Go From There"	Vlad, Anya, Dmitry and Ensemble
"Traveling Sequence"	Gleb, Gorlinsky, Anya, Dmitry and Vlad
"Still"	Gleb
"Journey to the Past"	Anya

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

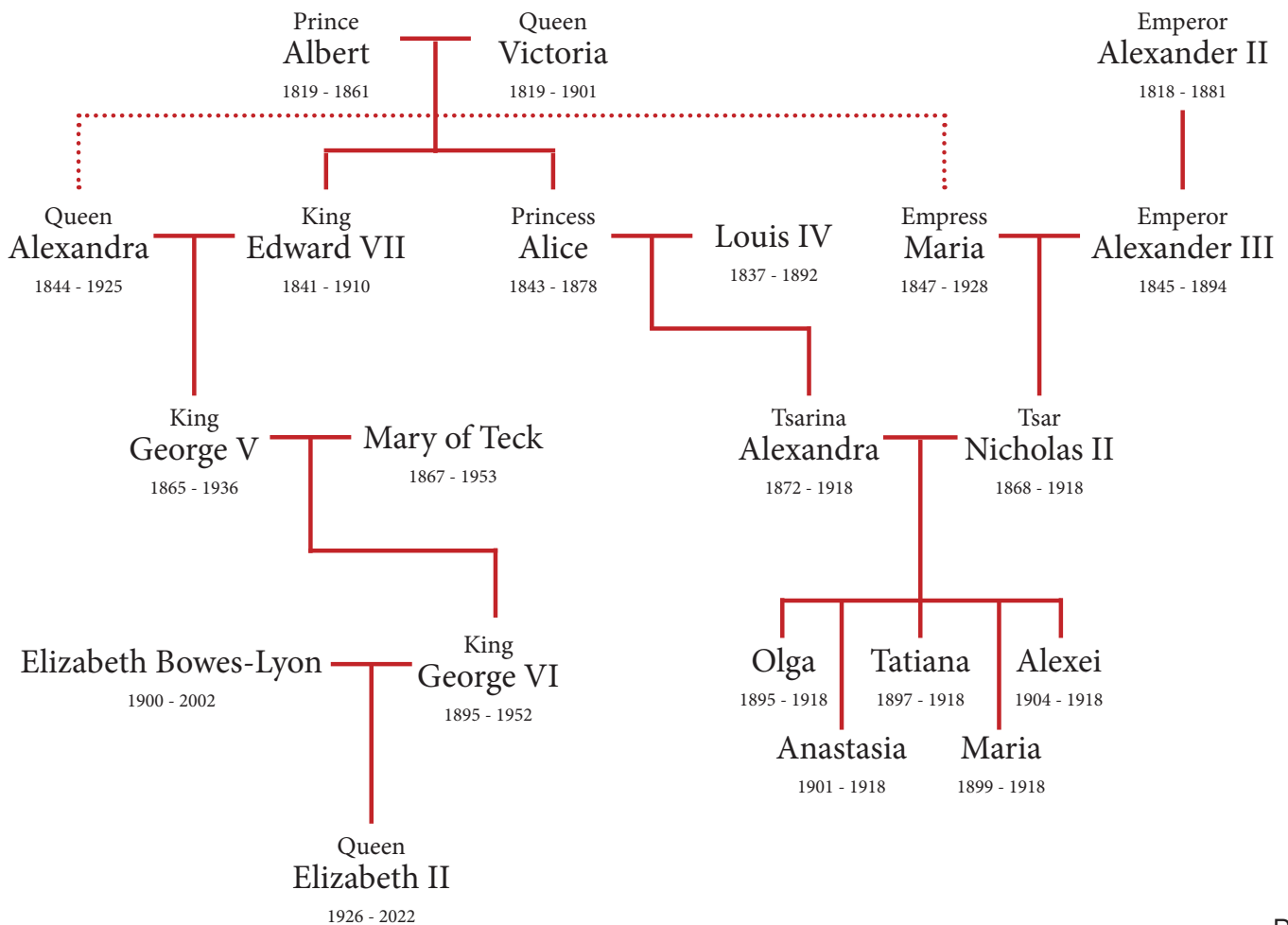
ACT II

"Paris Holds the Key (To Your Heart)"	Vlad, Dmitry, Anya and Ensemble
"Close the Door"	Dowager Empress
"Land of Yesterday"	Countess Lily and Ensemble
"The Countess and the Common Man"	Vlad and Countess Lily
"Land of Yesterday" (Reprise).....	Gleb
"A Nightmare"	Romanov Children, Tsar and Tsarina
"In a Crowd of Thousands"	Dmitry and Anya
"Meant to Be"	Vlad
"Quartet at the Ballet"	Anya, Dmitry, Dowager Empress, Gleb and Ensemble
"Everything to Win"	Dmitry
"Once Upon a December" (Reprise).....	Anya and Dowager Empress
"The Press Conference"	Countess Lily, Vlad and Ensemble
"Everything to Win" (Reprise)	Anya
"Still"/"The Neva Flows" (Reprise)	Gleb, Anya and Ensemble
"Finale"	Anya, Dmitry and Company

Family Tree



The Russian Imperial Family - Seated (left to right): Olga, Tsar Nicolas, Anastasia, Alexei, Tatiana
Standing (left to right): Maria, Tsarina Alexandra



Vocabulary

A la carte - French for “according to the menu”; a menu where items are priced individually.

Amnesia - a medical condition characterized by memory loss. It can be caused by a few different variables, including brain injury, stroke, medications, or psychological conditions.

An act of desperation - A reckless action taken due to extreme distress.

Anarchist - A person who opposes all forms of government.

Astonished - to be very surprised or in disbelief.

Avant-garde - a French term that means “cutting edge” or “vanguard”; often used to describe artistic or cultural movements that are experimental, innovative, and challenging to traditional norms.

Bartered - An exchange of goods or services instead of using money.

Bolsheviks - A faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party that seized power in Russia in 1917.

Budapest - The capital of Hungary.

Caviar - an expensive delicacy made from fish eggs, typically sturgeon; often served as an appetizer or garnish, and is known for its rich, salty flavor.

Charleston - A popular dance style from the 1920s.

Chekist - A member of the Cheka, the Soviet secret police established in 1917.

Chic - French for stylish or fashionable.

Composure - Calmness and self-control.

Comrades - Friends or companions, especially in a political or military context.

Con - A trick or swindle.

Consternation - A sudden feeling of great distress or alarm.

Contradict - To say or do something that is opposite to what has been said or done before.

Convictions - Strong beliefs.

Count - A title in the upper aristocracy.

Count Yusupov - A Russian aristocrat involved in the assassination of Rasputin.

Counter-revolutionary - A person who opposes a revolution or political change.

Desert - a dry, barren region.

Diaghilev Ballets Russes - A famous Russian ballet company founded in 1909 by Serge de Diaghilev.

Eiffel Tower - Built as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair by Gustav Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower is famous French landmark located in Paris, France.

Ember - A glowing piece of coal or wood.

Exit papers - Documents needed to leave a country.

Expatriates - People who live in a foreign country.

Fickle - Changing frequently or unpredictably.

Finland - A country in Northern Europe.

Firing squad - A group of people who shoot someone as a form of execution; Tsar Nicolas II and his family were executed by a firing squad following the Russian Revolution.

Foolproof - Impossible to fail.

Frolicked - Played happily and playfully.

Gendarmes - The French title for police officers.

Guile - Cunning or deceit.

Haughty - Arrogant or condescending.

Hobnobbed - Associated or mingled with people of a higher social standing.

Homeland - One's native country.

Imperial heyday - The period of greatest power and glory of an empire.

Imposter - A person who pretends to be someone else.

Kowtowing - Showing excessive deference or respect to someone; in East Asian cultures, kneeling and bowing your head to the ground.

Labor camp - a place where prisoners are forced to perform manual work, often under harsh conditions.

Lady-in-waiting - A woman who attends to a queen or noblewoman.

Le Pont Alexandre - A bridge that crosses the River Seine in Paris, France; named after Tsar Alexander III, who was an ally to France.

Leningrad - the name of the city of St. Petersburg from 1924 to 1991. It was renamed in honor of Vladimir Lenin, a leader of the Russian Revolution.

Vocabulary

Lent - In Christianity, Lent is the religious season of fasting and prayer leading up to Easter.

Light the lamps - meaning turn on the lights.

Livadia Palace - a palace located near the Black Sea in Livadia, Ukraine. It was a summer residence of the Russian Imperial family, particularly during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

Loiter - to hang around idly.

Mother of Moses - A reference to Jochebed, the mother of Moses.

Music box - A small box that plays music; usually wound up with a key or dial.

Nerves of steel - to be very calm and composed under pressure.

Neva River - a river in northwestern Russia that flows through St. Petersburg.

Nevsky Prospekt - a famous street that cuts through the center of St. Petersburg; it is a destination for shopping, nightlife and entertainment, and is lined with historic buildings.

Odessa - A city in Ukraine.

Olivewood - the wood from an olive tree.

Papers - documents, usually personal identification.

Perm - A city in eastern Russia.

Petersburg - the former name of St. Petersburg.

Pistol - A small gun.

Prance - to move in a lively and spirited way.

Preposterous - Ridiculous and absurd.

Quay - Pronounced 'key'; a wharf or dock usually made of concrete or stone.

Queen Victoria - The Queen of the United Kingdom and Empress of India from 1837 to 190. Known as the Grandmother of Europe, Queen Victoria was the grandmother of George V of England, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, and Wilhelm II of Germany who were important world leaders at the turn of the century and start of World War I.

Raided - to sear a place forcefully and without prior notice or permission.

Red flag - A symbol often associated with socialist, communist, and anarchist political views and movements.

Regal bearing - to have a dignified and majestic manner.

Reminiscing - to think about past experiences.

Ruble - The currency of Russia.

Samovar - a metal container used to heat and boiler water; in Russian culture samovars are largely used to make tea.

Sedan chairs - Carriages carried by people; typically made for transporting one person.

Serene - Calm or peaceful.

Siberia - A vast region in Russia known for being extremely cold and remote.

Soliciting - Trying to persuade someone to do something.

Spasibo slukhi - Russian for "Thank goodness for the gossip."

St. Petersburg - A city in Russia.

Stravinsky - A famous Russian composer best known for his works "The Firebird" and "The Rite of Spring".

Stroganoff - a Russian dish usually made with beef in a sour cream sauce.

Swan Lake - A famous ballet composed by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky about the beautiful princess Odette who is turned into a swan by the sorcerer Rothbart.

The Peterhof Palace - A royal palace located in St. Peterburg; used as a summer residence by the Tsar and his family.

The Revolution - A reference to the Russian Revolution of 1917 which overthrew the reign of Tsar Nicolas II.

The Volga - A major river in Russia.

Tsar - The title of the ruler of Russia before the revolution; sometimes spelled czar.

Tsarina - The title of the wife of a tsar.

Underclothes - Clothing worn beneath other clothing; underwear.

Underhanded - Secret or dishonest.

Vodka - A Russian alcoholic drink distilled from fermented grains or potatoes.

Wallow - to roll around or lie in something; to completely give yourself over to something, like an emotion.

White Russian - A supporter of the counter-revolutionary forces that opposed the Bolshevik regime.

Post-Show Discussion Questions

About the Show

- Why is finding home and family so important to Anya? In what ways are the other characters in the show also searching for home?
- Instead of joining her grandmother in front of the international press, Anya chooses to meet Dmitry and live a private life with him. Why does she choose to stay with Dmitry? If you were in her position, what would you do?
- Why is Gleb so determined to stop Anya from going on her journey of self-discovery? How do his past and his father's legacy shape his actions in the show?

About the History

- While *Anastasia* is based on true historical figures and events, it is a work of fiction. What is the difference between historical fiction and true historical facts? How can you tell the difference?
- DNA evidence discovered in 2007 proved that both Anastasia and her younger brother Alexei were also assassinated along with the rest of their family. Even with this discovery, the legend of the Grand Duchess Anastasia's miraculous and mysterious possible survival continues to captivate the imaginations of people around the world. What is it about this mystery that makes it so interesting to so many people? What other mysteries interest you?

About You

- Describe a time you felt homesick or deeply missed something. Be specific. What memories, sounds, or smells come to mind?
- How much of who you are as a person is shaped by what you own, where you live, your family and how much is inherent in you and never changes?

Post-Show Activities

Activity 1

Palace of Memories:

Students gather images, objects, sounds, textures, and any other materials to re-create the mood and engage the senses around a specific memory from their early childhood.

Palace of Dreams:

Students gather or create materials used to express a specific dream they've had either while sleeping or as an aspiration.

Activity 2

Home is....

Ask students to write about how they define the word: HOME. Ask students to describe the places or place where they feel at home. Students are asked to share their work for an open discussion.

Activity 3

Family Tree

Have students create a family tree based on what they know of their family. Then have students seek out information from parents and / or grandparents and make those adjustments to their tree accordingly.

Activity 4

Proof of Identity

Students are asked how they would go about proving their identity. What are some of the unique identifiers that prove who you are? Who in your life would know you no matter what? Have students prepare to make their case and prove who they are.

Resources

Suggested Viewing

"Anastasia," Film, 1997 - Available for streaming on Disney+ and Amazon Prime

"In Search of a Lost Princess," Documentary, 2017 - Available on Amazon Prime

Suggested Reading

Anastasia: The Last Grand Duchess, Russia, 1914 by Carolyn Meyer

Contact Us

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