



Book by Douglas Carter Beane Music and Lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar

Directed by Joel Ferrell Music Directed Vicky Nooe

June 5 - July 6, 2025



















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Photo by Jeffrey Schmidt

T3's 2024-2025 Season



Xanadu

Book by Douglas Carter Beane Music and Lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar

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*indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production





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Musical Numbers

II'm Alive	Kira, Melpomene, Calliope, & Euterpe
	Kira, Melpomene, Calliope, & Euterpe
Evil Woman	Melpomene, Calliope, & Sirens
Suddenly	Kira & Sonny
Whenever You're Away From Me	Kira & Danny
Strange Magic	Kira, Sonny, Calliope, & Melpomene
All Over	Cast
Don't Walk Away	Sonny, Danny, Melpomene, Euterpe
	Cast
The Fall	Sonny, Melpomene, Calliope, & Euterpe
Suspended In Time	
Have You Never Been Mellow	Cast
Xanadu	Cast



Photo by Jeffrey Schmidt

Douglas Carter Beane, he/him (Book) A respected practitioner of musical theater his adaptation of Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella ran on Broadway for two years and was also nominated for Tonys for both Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical Revival. His musical stage version of the film Xanadu also ran on Broadway for two years and was nominated for a Tony for Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical. It received the Drama Desk Award for best book of a musical and the Outer Critics Circle Best Musical award. Beane's new book for the musical Sister Act ran on Broadway for two years and was nominated for the Tony for Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical. It opened in London this summer with Jennifer Saunders as Mother Superior. He wrote the book for the Broadway musical, Lysistrata Jones and received both the Drama Desk and Tony nomination for Best Book of a musical. He wrote the book to the stage adaptation of MGM's The Bandwagon which was produced at the Old Globe and Encores and he's written the summer show for the Rockettes and Radio City Music Hall. His libretto for Die Fledermaus debuted at the Metropolitan Opera and is in their repertoire.

Jeff Lynne, he/him (Music and Lyrics) formed the Electric Light Orchestra, or E.L.O., in the 1970 s. The group gradually developed from cult favorites into one of the 70s' leading recording acts, scoring international success with several platinum-selling albums, including A New World Record and Out Of The Blue. Lynne's dual talents as a composer and producer ensured the group's status but, sensing an artistic sterility, he abandoned his creation in 1986. The artist then assumed an increasingly backroom role, but won praise for his production work with George Harrison (Cloud Nine), Randy Newman (Land Of Dreams) and Roy Orbison (Mystery Girl) and he has also contributed his distinctive production gualities to much of Tom Petty's recent output. Lynne's work with Orbison coincided with his position as 'Otis Wilbury' in the Traveling Wilburys, an informal 'supergroup' completed by Orbison, Harrison, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. This particularly prolific period was also marked by his work with Brian Wilson on the ex-Beach Boys' first longawaited solo album. In recent years, Lynne has produced the Beatles lost tapes, notably Free as a Bird and Real Love. He co-produced Paul McCartney's Flaming Pie in 1997.

John Farrar, he/him (Music and Lyrics) left Australia in 1970 at the invitation of the leaendary English group The Shadows; they recorded six albums together. During a break he began working with Olivia Newton-John. He went on to produce 14 albums for her. After winning a Grammy (Record of the Year) for "I Honestly Love You," he moved to L.A. where he wrote and produced many of her hits: "Have You Never Been Mellow?," "Hopelessly Devoted to You" (Academy Award nom.), "You're the Once That I Want" (Golden GLobe nom.), "Don't Stop Delieving" "A Little More Love," "Magic," "Suddenly," "Sam," "Make a Move on Me." He also produced the mega-hit "Physical." In 1995 he co-wrote with Tim Rice the songs for the Cliff Richard musical Heathcliff. He co-wrote with Francis Ford Coppola the songs for a new musical, Gidaet.

Joel Ferrell, he/him. (Director) is a seasoned director, producer, educator, and consultant based in Dallas, Texas. In the Fall of 2023, Mr. Ferrell joined the faculty of the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University as the Inaugural Director of the newly created Sexton Institute for Musical Theatre. Tasked with building the new musical theatre program from the ground up, he will also act as a professor of practice in Meadows' existing Division of Theatre. T3 credits include direction for The Music Man, Young Frankenstein, and I Love You. You're Perfect. Now Change. Mr. Ferrell proudly serves as a Director in Residence for T3. Ferrell has directed and choreographed extensively around the country for Dallas Theater Center, Denver Center Theater, Portland Center Stage, North Shore Music Theater, and many more. He is the former Associate Artistic Director of Dallas Theater Center (2011-2019) and Artistic Director of Casa Manana Musicals (Fort Worth, TX; 1996 to 2001).

Vicky Nooe, she/her, (Music Director), is a music director and collaborative pianist in the DFW area and currently Lecturer at University of Texas Arlington. She is excited to be making her T3 debut. You may have seen her work in the area in The Little Mermaid, Into the Woods, Waitress (Dallas Theater Center), Fly By Night (Theatre Arlington), The Light in the Piazza (Mainstage-ILC), or in numerous productions at UTA.



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Bios Continued

Jeffrey Schmidt, he/him (Scenic Design) Recent credits include directing, designing and filming T3's The Immigrant, designing and directing Deathtrap. He has worked with many of the professional theaters in the metroplex including Dallas Theater Center, Casa Mañana, Shakespeare Dallas, Trinity Shakespeare, Kitchen Dog Theater, Undermain Theatre, Dallas Children's Theatre, Second Thought Theatre, StageWest, and WaterTower Theater to name a few. Jeffrey has worked professionally in broadcast, film, stage and behind the scenes for over 25 years. Recently, he's made appearances on Queen of the South, American Crime and worked on a live cinema project called Distant Vision with Francis Ford Coppola. He's Artistic Director of T3 and co-founder of the acclaimed The Drama Club.

Aaron Johansen, all (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a

Dallas based lighting designer for theater and live events. Aaron is thrilled to be a part of this production! Previous collaborations have included: Dallas Theater Center; Dallas Children's Theater; Second Thought Theater (Artistic Associate); Kitchen Dog Theater (Company Member); Theater Three; Circle Theater; Stage West; Uptown Players; Cry Havoc Theater Company; Cara Mía Theatre Co and Sweet Tooth Hotel Art installation. Aaron is the resident lighting director for the Dallas Opera. Follow my work and me on Instagram @Famoustrendywizard. Enjoy the show!

Claudia Jenkins Martinez, she/her (Sound

Designer) is a Sound Designer based in Dallas Texas. Recent works include: The Little Mermaid, Dallas Theatre Center; Pirates of Penzance, T3; Prisontown, Savannah Repertory Theatre; Native Gardens, Stage Door Theatre; Deathtrap, T3; A Tell Tale Heart, Pittsburgh Public Theater; I Wanna F*cking Tear You Apart, Stage West; Steel Magnolias, Pittsburgh Public Theater; Trouble In Mind, Dallas Theater Center, Hamlet, Shakespeare Dallas, Stede Bonnet: A F*cking Pirate Musical, T3. Much love to Austin and Georgia. @claud_jenkinsmartinez

Ryan Matthieu Smith, all (Costume

Designer)stands at a cultural crossroads, carrying the rich legacy of intersecting Indigenous bloodlines rooted deep in the land now called Texas. Ryan is a director, designer, producer, choreographer, and performer working in film, theater, drag, and circus. Ryan is an Artistic Associate with Shakespeare Dallas and will be directing and designing this fall's production of *Taming* of the Shrew. Most recent T3 credits include Debbie Does Dallas and Pirates of *Penzance*. As an Indigenous Two-Spirit, Ryan is very excited to bring his passion home to Texas where he knows visibility and representation are vitally important. Now, more than ever.

Noelle Smith, she/her (Stage Manager)

originally comes to us from a great little city about two hours east, Tyler, TX. She received her MA in Theatre from Louisiana Tech University and has stage managed in theatres across the US in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, right here in the great state of Texas, and more. She has stage managed abroad for an international magic tour as well as on cruise ships. She is thrilled to share her talents for another wonderful show here at T3.

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Lauren LeBlanc, she/her (Kira) is honored to be back at T3, where you may have seen her in God of Carnage, Lizzie, I Love You... Change, and as the titular character in The Manufactured Myth of Eveline Flynn. Locally, she's performed with Casa Mañana, Circle Theatre, Second Thought, Shakespeare in the Bar, and Undermain. She teaches at Booker T Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and serves as Education Program Manager at Broadway Dallas. Lauren studied at Texas State, the University of Louisville, and SUNY-Stony Brook. For the team, always, in all the ways. @laurenkleblanc whatisthepenumbra.com



Max J. Swarner, he/him (Sonny) is thrilled to return to T3 with this joyous production! Past T3 appearances: THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Frederic), PIPPIN (title role), ILYYPNC (2013-2016), DAYLIGHT, BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON, THE ROADS TO HOME, and TALES FROM MT. OLYMPUS. Selected NYC/CT: PHANTOM (title role), JOSEPH...DREAMCOAT (title role), THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Frederic). Selected DFW: 30 years of work on area stages, including: CHAPLIN - THE MUSICAL (title role), KINKY BOOTS (Charlie Price), and HOLIDAY INN (Jim Hardy). He has performed for/alongside many stage/screen legends, including Chita Rivera, EGOT-winning orchestrator Jonathan Tunick, and the legendary Stephen Sondheim, 6 weeks before his passing. Proud AEA member. Thank you for supporting the arts in DFW! <u>www.maxjswarner.com</u>



L. Walter, she/they (Calliope/ Danny/ Zeus) is more than excited to be doing Xanadu with T3. She was last seen as Audrey in Little Shop Of Horrors. Lee has been seen in various productions throughout the Metroplex including When Pigs Fly, Dreamgirls, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Songs For A New World, Caroline Or Change, The Toxic Avenger, and Smokey Joe's Cafe. Some of Lee's stand out roles include: Three in Stage West's production of What To Send Up When It Goes Down, Frank-N-Furter in The Rocky Horror Show & Voice of Marie/Ensemble in Cinderella (both with The Zach Theatre), Carson in WaterTower's production of Hit The Wall, Richie in A Chorus Line, Willie in The View Upstairs, & Miss Texas in Pageant (all with Uptown's Players), Frank-N-Furter & Columbia in The Rocky Horror Show & Frenchie in Cabaret (all with Dallas Theater Center), & Angel in Casa Manana's production of Rent. "Thank you to those who continue to fight and support the arts. We need you now more than ever!!!"



Hannah Arguelles, she/her (Eutrepe and Others, Associate Choreographer) is excited to be making her T3 debut with such an incredible group of people! Hannah works across the metroplex as an actor, choreographer and theatre teaching artist. Some of her recent favorite projects include choreographing *In The Heights*, *Beetlejuice Jr.*, and assistant directing *The Apple Boys* at Bucks County Playhouse. Hannah is proud to be a co-creator of the Teen College Audition Prep program at Stage West Theatre where she continues to pursue her goal of fostering the love of theatre in performers of all ages. Special thanks to all of my sounding boards out there.



Laura Lites, she/her (Melpomene and Others) was last seen on the T3 stage as Helene in Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812. Some other memorable productions have been Pamela in Head Over Heels, Sister Mary Downey in Disaster! The Musical, Kate McGowan in Titanic and Songs For A New World, at Uptown Players, Francesca in Bridges of Madison County and Hedda Hopper in Chaplin at Watertower Theater, Lizzie and Murder Ballad at Imprint Theatreworks and Dallas Theatre Center's Hair and Les Miserables. Much love to Nate and Isla.

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Xanadu, the 1980 movie musical about roller rink-goers in Southern California, was just going to be a fun, low-budget disco flick. Or at least it looks like it might have been, before growing into a larger, more ambitious project: Xanadu starred Olivia Newton-John, fresh off of her success in Grease (1978) and Gene Kelly, making his final appearance for the screen; and it featured a soundtrack by Electric Light Orchestra. All converge on a story about a commercial artist (Michael Beck) opening a roller rink with an aging musician-turned-real-estatedeveloper (Kelly), both having apparently been inspired by Terpsicore, one of the nine Olympian Muses, come to Earth in the form of a hip young woman named Kira (Newton-John).

There is no way around the fact that Xanadu was a failure. The Hollywood Reporter notes that the film grossed just 15% over its budget of \$20 million. Which is to say nothing of its critical performance. The film was panned; Roger Ebert remarked that "the dance numbers in [Xanadu] do not seem to have been conceived for film." Finally, Xanadu, along with Can't Stop the Music (1980), was the impetus for the Golden Raspberry Awards (or "Razzies"). Yet for the forty five years since its release, Xanadu has retained a cult following. Why?

It would not be quite accurate to answer with the film's sheer infamy: critics at the time pointed to Newton-John's performance and to the film's soundtrack as stand-out features. And the soundtrack managed to claim a No.4 spot on the US Billboard 200, even going double platinum. But one performance and one score do not a classic make; something else must have sustained Xanadu over the years.

Playwright Douglas Carter Beane, librettist for the 2007 stage musical Xanadu, put forward his own answer. In an interview with the blog Everything I Know I Learned from Musicals, Beane remarked that Xanadu is "one giant theatrical reference." "The show," he said, "is all about what was there at the beginning of theater, from the first inspiration of theater, to Greek tragedy, to comedy making fun of the gods, and then there's just a big party at the end."

Beane is of course speaking of his own book, as distinct from Richard Christian Danus and Marc Reid Rubel's screenplay. But it can hardly be denied that Xanadu, even in its original cinematic form, lends itself to performance: venues would, and still do, host sing-along screenings of the film. Nor is it unheard-of to watch a live performance of the film's script - it was in fact one such performance, according to New York Magazine, that inspired stage producer Robert Ahrens to secure the rights to the film (so as to produce the 2007 musical).



Xanadu, the musical, began its life cycle in 2006, with a workshop reading which starred Jane Krakowski, Tony Roberts, and Cheyenne Jackson. Krakowski, citing shooting demands for the NBC sitcom 30 Rock, soon departed from the production; Kerry Butler would then assume the role of Kira (who, in the musical, is the earthly form not of Terpsicore but Clio). Xanadu then made its Broadway debut at the Helen Hayes Theatre in the summer of 2007; the production ran until September of the following year, closing after over 500 performances. In the years since, Xanadu has boasted a U.S. tour and a global audience, with productions in Australia, the Philippines, and South Korea. The musical was also a critical darling, with nominations in 2008 for both the Tonys and the Drama Desk Awards, and a win for Douglas Carter Beane in the latter case (Outstanding Book of a Musical).

The musical undoubtedly received warmer reception than the film, with a story that, save a few differences, is largely similar. It might be said, therefore, that Xanadu needed to find its proper medium and its proper audience. We might even say that Xanadu, a story in part about nostalgia, could not properly be appreciated until it was itself nostalgic. Indeed, Christopher Ashley, who directed the 2007 production, told New York Magazine that "you're serving two audiences: an audience that's never seen the movie and the cult. That's a tricky balance."

Perhaps the lesson of Xanadu is that inspiration - the Muse - is a fickle thing. The artist must see the value in the entire life cycle of the work, and in sticking by it until the end. One need look no further than the musical's namesake to see the cost otherwise. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the English poet, began his poem "Kubla Khan" with the lines

> In Xanadu did Kubla Khan A stately pleasure-dome decree: Where Alph, the sacred river, ran Through caverns measureless to man Down to a sunless sea.

Coleridge began writing the poem after waking up from a dream; upon briefly stepping away from his desk to attend to a personal matter, he found that he had forever lost the thread of the poem. But just as the artist must commit to being at the right place at the right time, so must the audience; perhaps the works of art that move us most are those which come to us at just the right time, in our lives and their own.