

YOUTH THEATRE TROUPE PRESENTS

# ANASTASIA

MAY 30 & 31, TRINITY PREPARATORY AUDITORIUM

## Meet the Team



*Leah  
Porrata*  
Director,  
Producer

Leah, originally from Columbus, Ohio, discovered her passion for theatre at a very young age and pursued it at Ohio Wesleyan University, earning a Bachelor of Arts and teaching certification in Theatre Education and Directing. Following her studies, Leah completed a prestigious Theatre Education apprenticeship at the Tony Award-winning Cleveland Play House, where she met her husband, Jason. Following her apprenticeship, Leah relocated to Florida as the Director of Education at the regional theatre Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, where she established several theatre education programs that are still successfully running a decade later. Her theatre education experience spans all grade levels in both public and private schools and theatres, emphasizing the transformative power of theatre education.

Charis Watler is an Orlando based director, actor, and producer. She has directed for the Lowndes Shakespeare Center, Orlando Fringe, Playwright's Round Table, and Whiskey Theatre Factory. She has filled multiple roles with CFCArts, including Teaching Artist, Technician, ASM, Assistant Director, and has directed Winnie the Pooh, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr., and Little Women. Charis always looks forward to her next journey with CFCArts and is forever grateful for the delightful community she has found with them!

*Charis  
Watler*  
Assistant  
Director



*Tristan  
Bishop*  
Music  
Director

Tristan is honored to serve as the Music Director for the CFCArts Youth Theatre Troupe musical this season. In the past two years, Tristan has served on the creative teams for student productions of Disney's Aladdin Jr., Anastasia, Chicago, High School Musical, Shrek, Disney's 101 Dalmatians Jr., and Into the Woods. Tristan and his wife Kierstyn have been married for 28 years and have three children. Tristan studied vocal performance for four years at UNC-CH. He then toured for seven years as a recording artist with the House Jacks, opening for R&B legends like James Brown, Ray Charles, the Temptations, and more. Tristan enjoys every facet of musical theatre, from producing to performing.

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*Walter  
May-Allen*  
Choreographer

Walter holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He taught middle and high school English, theatre, and television arts for seven years before taking on the role of costume loft manager at San Diego Junior Theatre, then the role of Executive and Artistic Director for Strauss Youth Academy for the Arts. Upon the birth of his daughter in 2019, he transitioned to a new career as a software developer to spend more time with her, but now that she is exploring the world of the stage, he is excited to return to the theatre and is especially excited to have found a home for him and his family in CFCArts.

Hayley is an Orlando-based actor and fight choreographer. She works as an actor at Universal Studios, and she was most recently seen in Silence at Timucua Arts Foundation (Silence/Fight Director). She is a graduate of UCF with a BFA in Musical Theatre. She worked on Luchadora (Swing/Fight Captain) with Orlando Family Stage, and you may have seen her onstage with New Generation Theatricals in Jesus Origins (Swing/Fight Choreographer) and Spring Awakening (Anna).

*Hayley  
Sanz*  
Fight  
Choreographer



*Erin  
Hernandez*  
Stage  
Manager

Erin started working with CFCArts in the Spring of 2019 as an Education Intern and has loved working with them ever since. She graduated from the University of Central Florida that spring with a degree in Theatre Studies and a double minor in Education and History. Her credits with CFCArts include Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Assistant Teaching Artist, and Summer Camp Coordinator at their main campus. When Erin isn't in rehearsal, she is a middle school Language Arts teacher for Orange County Public Schools. She is so proud of these young performers and has loved watching them grow over the years into kind, passionate, and hardworking young adults.

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*Jason  
Sepick*  
Assistant  
Stage Manager

Born and raised in Florida, Jason has been connected to the arts from a very young age. From starting in theatre at the age of eight to being in concert bands, marching bands, choirs, and helping, he has truly found a home in the performing arts. Jason has previously been a part of the Central Florida Community Arts Youth Theatre Program, and more recently a member of the amazing and ever growing Community Choir, and is excited to expand his role and involvement within the CFCArts family.

Paige is thrilled to be working alongside such a talented cast as the assistant stage manager for this production of Anastasia. Paige is 26 years young, and has a passion for the arts and the stage! Originally from Buffalo, NY Paige is a multi-talented actor, writer, director, and musician who is working towards opening her own performance theater in 16 years. Paige holds an AA in Business Administration/Management and is working on her BA in Theater/Performing Arts Administration at the University of Central Florida. Thank you to Leah and Central Florida Community Arts for the opportunity! Peace, love and happiness always!

*Paige  
Weinsheimer*  
Assistant  
Stage Manager



*Matthew  
Patterson*  
Technical  
Director

Matthew is currently at the University of Central Florida pursuing a BFA in Stage Management. He has worked with Central Florida Community Arts since the end of 2024, working as the Lighting Designer for It's a Wonderful Life and now as the Technical Director for Little Women and Anastasia. Other credits include Orlando Opera: Cendrillon (ALD), UCF Celebrates the Arts (PSM), Sweeney Todd (ASM), Rent (ALD).

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*Taylor  
Falzarano*  
Lighting  
Designer

Taylor (she/they) is a student in the BFA Theatre Design and Technology program at the University of Central Florida. Her work has ranged from intimate plays and large-scale musicals; such as Lighting Programmer for *Metamorphoses* and Dramaturg for Rent. They have also worked at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts through UCF Celebrates the Arts as an Electrician for *Sweeney Todd* and Lighting Programmer for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Also at UCF, she was elected Vice President of the theatre fraternity Alpha Psi Omega, Chi Xi chapter. She has also worked as a lighting designer and technician for new plays and musicals at the Orlando Fringe Festival. Taylor received two Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival nominations for their work as Dramaturg on Rent and as Production Electrician for *Rhinoceros*.

Kate is an award winning sound and set designer and a current junior in the BFA Design and Technology program. She started working with CFCArts in 2024 as the sound designer for *It's a Wonderful Life*. Her other credits include *Rhinoceros* (Sound Designer), *The Cherry Orchard* (Associate Sound Designer), *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (Set Designer), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Assistant Set Designer), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Set Designer).

*Kate  
Deffcott*  
Audio  
Designer



*Demetri  
Rath*  
Audio  
Assistant

Demetri is in his third year at the University of Central Florida studying in the Theatre Design and Technology program. He recently began working with CFCArts in November of 2024 as Audio Assistant on *Annie Jr.* Demetri looks forward to furthering his skills as a live entertainment technician and gaining more experience in the world of youth theatre. Other credits of his include *The Last Firefly* (PE/Programmer), *Sweeney Todd* (A2), and *The Prom* (A2).

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*Christy  
Thompson*  
Scenic  
Coordinator

Christy is ecstatic to join the CFCArts Youth Program! She has a BS in Theatre Arts (Acting and Set Design). She has worked on many shows over the years, some of her favorites include High School Musical (Martha), The Pillowman (Set Designer) and The Little Mermaid (Ariel's Understudy and Aquata.) She has been a member of the CFCArts choir since 2017. Her day job is hanging out with characters at Universal Studios Resort. She is thankful for all the support from the CFCArts team, her husband, parents and friends.

Originally from Richmond, VA, Abby graduated from SCAD with a BFA in Textile Design. With a lifelong passion for costuming, she is dedicated to designing clothing that helps performers fully embody their characters. Abby currently works at Walt Disney World as an Associate Costumer Buyer for Character Costumes. She began her journey with CFCArts in the winter of 2024 as the Assistant Costumer for Annie Jr. and is thrilled to return this year. Abby looks forward to helping young performers embrace their characters through the magic of costumes.

*Abby  
Puryear*  
Costume  
Coordinator



*Vanessa  
Brown*  
Costume  
Assistant

Vanessa is excited to be joining CFCArts for her first show! Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, She developed a passion for sewing at a young age, inspired by and learning from her mother. She began making her own costumes at 17, and her love for the art has only grown since. Vanessa is thrilled to bring her skills and creativity to the stage in this new adventure with CFCArts.