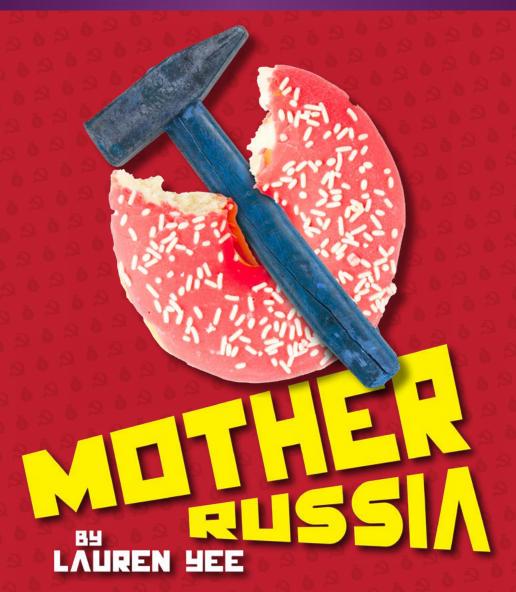
## PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY





Let's Do the Time Warp Again!

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

are you shivering with **Antici...pation?** 



June 12 - July 13 at the historic Bangor Opera House

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge Penobscot Theatre Company's presence on the unceded ancestral lands of the Penobscot people. The land from which we benefit continues to be a place of foremost importance to the Penobscot Nation and all descendants of the Wabanaki Confederacy. We recognize that the Wabanaki people continue to seek resolution on issues concerning water, territorial rights, and threats to sacred sites.

The Penobscots have inhabited Maine and the surrounding areas for over 11,000 years. Their ancestral territory included many rivers that flow into the Gulf of Maine, including all the watersheds from the Machias River in the east to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. The Penobscot Nation is one of the oldest, continuously operating governments in the world. The Penobscot Nation is part of the Wabanaki Confederacy, which also includes the Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet.

PTC resolves to be an anti-racist institution. We are proud to be members of the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition and are committed to living our values by promoting the history and cultures of the Wabanaki Peoples and sustaining an ongoing relationship which supports the art, resources, and values of indigenous peoples and tribes.



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#### Your 51st Season

Birthday Candles Sept 19 - Oct 6

**A Christmas Carol** 

Nov 29 - Dec 22

Dial M for Murder Jan 30 - Feb 23

Matinicus: A Lighthouse Play

Mar 20 - Apr 6

Mother Russia May 1 - 18

**The Rocky Horror Show** 

Jun 12 - Jul 13

#### **Audience Services**

**Box Office Hours** 

→ Tuesday - Friday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

The Box Office is open three hours before show time on performance Saturdays & Sundays and through intermission at all performances.

#### Restrooms

- → 2 all-gender welcoming restrooms are located downstairs from the lobby level.
- → Single-stall restrooms can be found in the 1st floor lobby and in The Stage Door.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve your experience: HouseManager@penobscottheatre.org

#### Accessibility

 Hearing Loop system available for patrons with T-Coil hearing aids, earbuds, or PTC headset.

→ See Box Office for more info or www.PenobscotTheatre.org/loop

→ Large print & digital playbills available.

→Accessible seating is available.

→Accessible bathroom is located in the lobby.

#### **PTC Staff**

#### Administrative Staff

Artistic Director **Jonathan Berry**Executive Director **Jen Shepard**Business Manager **Andrew Speed**Operations Administrator **Amanda Neitz**Director of Marketing **John Siedenberg II** 

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The Stage Door Bar Manager Frank Bachman

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DA Education Director Nellie Kelly

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#### **Production Staff**

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Props Supervisor Thomas Demers
House Electrician Tony Gerow
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## Our Wish List

#### For the Company:

Gift cards to local restaurants/grocery stores Meals for Actors, Crew & Staff Company Car or Truck Miter Saw Sewing Machine

#### For Guest Artist Housing:

2 large commercial trashcans

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#### PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY

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#### A Letter from Jonathan Berry, Artistic Director

Hello and welcome to our production of Mother Russia-

What is it that makes us who we are? Is it nature or nurture? Are there parts of our persona that are set from birth, or is our psychology all a response to influences experienced as part of our growing up? How do we form an identity and, ultimately, what control do we have over the people we become?

I was in high school in 1992, when the play is set. For most of my childhood, I'd heard of the USSR as "the evil empire" and was indoctrinated by the blockbuster movies from the 80's that all seemed to feature some kind of Russian as the primary villain. And then, in 1989 the Berlin Wall crumbled and soon after the Iron Curtain fell and, in the span of a few short years, this "towering enemy" was no more. Muscovites stood in line for McDonalds while Russian Premier Gorbachev appeared in a Pizza Hut commercial and suddenly, this unfathomable enemy became a collection of humans that were more like us than we ever could have known.

For the citizenry of the Soviet Union, their national identity which had previously been based, entirely, on the principles and virtues of Communism was replaced overnight, with the principles of both capitalism and democracy.

Playwright Lauren Yee asks us to imagine what it must have been like for three young people, whose lives were entirely defined by Communism, to adjust to that abrupt shift into free market and free will. Who are you when you are no longer told who to be, but get to choose? And how might the pressure of that incredible choice prove both a blessing and challenge? And when you are a citizen under the influence of a system of power, is there really any choice at all?

From 1989 to 1995, an exchange between Bangor and St Petersburg brought everyday citizens here, and sent members of our community there, and through this exchange of individuals, (and at least one vodka drinking contest) a connection was formed and the previous divide between "Russian" and "American" was made more complicated, more personal, and ultimately more human.

An exchange like that, and art like this asks us to build these bridges of humanity, questioning our assumptions when compared with our direct experience. In particularly contentious moments when I struggle with my own empathy, when all I'm seeing are the differences, I'm grateful for anything that can help remind me that, when considering our fellow travelers, our most important identifying trait is that we are all human.

Thanks for being here –

Jonathan Berry
Artistic Director | Penobscot Theatre Company

**Our Mission** 

Penobscot Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatrical experiences that engage and inspire our community, fostering a better quality of life in the heart of Maine.

PTC's primary work involves a full season of professional, subscription series, & add-on productions, handcrafted stagings of plays and musicals, new and classic. In addition, our diverse educational programming serves thousands of Maine youths through school-based workshops, student matinees, and summer and after-school programs.

Our History

The company has its roots in the Acadia Repertory Theatre, founded in Bangor in 1973 by George Vafiadis and Lou Collier. Acadia Rep presented 97 productions in Bangor before Penobscot Theatre Company was incorporated in 1983. Acadia Rep still operates on Mount Desert Island as a separate entity, while Penobscot Theatre Company is the nation's Northeastern-most year-round professional regional theatre in Northern Maine. Over its long history, the company has earned a national reputation for quality and innovation as its offerings have expanded and audiences have grown.

**Our Partners** 

Even with solid attendance, the company's income from subscriptions, ticket sales, and program registration comprises only 60% of our total operating budget. As a non-profit charity, we rely on support from private foundations, local businesses and individuals like you, who recognize the importance of theatre to a vibrant culture and robust economy. The generosity of our community-based partners makes our work possible, and we operate always with a strong spirit of collaboration. Help solidify the theatre's place in the heart of Maine, and please consider a gift today.





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## MOTHER RUSSIA

by Lauren Yee

#### May 1 - 18, 2025

Scenic Design Chelsea M. Warrena

Costume Design Kevin Jacob Koski

Lighting Design SeifAllah Salotto-Cristobala

Sound Design Charlotte Laffely

Props Design Thomas Demers

Fight Director Angela Bonacasa

Production Stage Management Jenna Gripshover\*

> Directed by Jonathan Berry^

C	re	w
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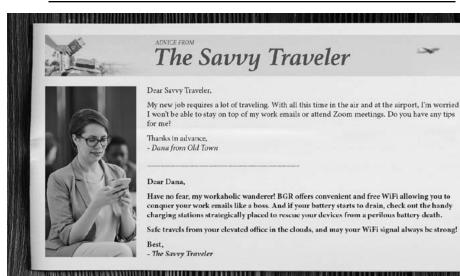




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#### THE CAST









Stephanie Colavito\*

Irene Dennis

Martin Guarnieri

Daniel Skinner

Katya	Stephanie Colavito*
Mother Russia	Irene Dennis
Evgeny	Martin Guarnieri
	Daniel Skinner

**UNDERSTUDIES** 

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless addressed For Evgeny-THOMAS DEMERS, For Katya-LAUREN BILLINGS, For Dmitri-JOSH WORSTER

#### **TIME & PLACE**

1992, St. Petersburg

The USSR dissolved in December, 1991 with Premiere Gorbachev stepping down and ceding power to Boris Yeltsin, the first popularly elected president. With his election came an embrace of capitalism and an influx of western development and enterprise that lasted nearly a decade until the election of Vladimir Putin in 1999.

This Play is presented without an Intermission

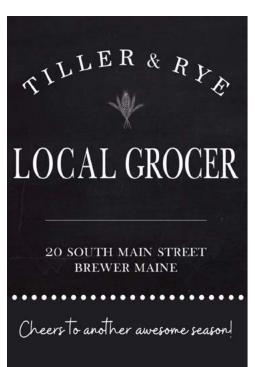
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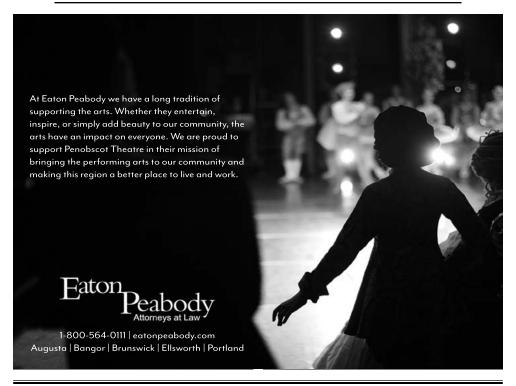


Open before the curtain rises, after the final bow and every Thursday-Saturday from 5 to 9!

Page | 15 The Cast







Stephanie Colavito\* (Katya) a multidisciplinary artist from Maine, currently based in NYC, is thrilled to return to PTC this season and work with this incredible team! Select regional credits include: ONCE (Savannah Rep), BIRTHDAY CANDLES (PTC), NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GEAT COMET OF 1812 (SCAD GradLab), CRIMES OF THE HEART (PTC). Stephanie holds an MFA in Acting from SCAD and a BFA in Musical Theatre with an emphasis in Songwriting from The Boston Conservatory. @stephanie.colavito (She/Her)

**Irene Dennis** (Mother Russia) is thrilled to be back onstage at the Opera House! PTC Credits: CALENDAR GIRLS (Marie) OUR TOWN (Mrs. Gibbs),
ONE BLUE TARP (Gale Pritchard) SUGAR BEAN
SISTERS (Willie Mae), STEEL MAGNOLIAS (Truvy).
Other favorite roles: DIARY OF ANNE FRANK (Mrs. Van Daan, Ten Bucks) and FUNNY GIRL (Mrs. Brice, Northport Music Theatre). Irene is also a director, and has helmed many productions for Bangor Community Theatre in recent years including ENCHANTED APRIL & MOON OVER BUFFALO. Since 2011, Irene has also facilitated the Play Reading Group at the Bangor Public Library. She trained in musical theatre at The Boston Conservatory. Sending love to all the mothers & grandmothers who inspire us! (She/Her)

**Martin Guarnieri** (*Evgeny*) recently graduated from the University of Maine with a major in computer engineering and a minor in theater. He appeared in several productions while there including NO EXIT (Garcin). He also has appeared in the last three TenBucksTheatre outdoor summer Shakespeare shows ROMEO & JULIET (Romeo), MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Claudio), and Henry V (Exeter). He was an understudy for PTC's CHRISTMAS CAROL earlier this year and is thrilled to now make his PTC debut. He would like to thank his always supportive family and friends. (He/Him)

**Daniel Skinner** (*Dmitri*) is an actor, improviser, and stage combatant based out of NYC, and is honored to be returning to PTC after previously appearing as Billy/John in BIRTHDAY CANDLES this past fall as BillyJorn in BirthDAY CANDLES this past fall and Jake in CLARKSTON in 2022. Credits include: HAMLET (Hamlet), HORN IN THE WEST (Jack Stuart), ARCADIA (Valentine), MOMENT (Fin). Unending gratitude to Catherine and his family, both kith and kin. BFA in Acting, Elon University. @danieljskinner (He/Him)

Jonathan Berry (Director) is PTC's Artistic Director where his directing credits include A CHRISTMAS CAROL, MR. BURNS..., DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, and IRONBOUND. Previously from Chicago, he was an artistic producer at Steppenwolf, where his directing credits include: THE CHILDREN, YOU GOT OLDER, CONSTELLATIONS, & THE CRUCIBLE. Other work includes: Steep Theatre (Company Member): PARIS, RED REX, THE KNOWLEDGE, FESTEN, MOMENT, and THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI. Griffin (Company Member): THE HARVEST, BALMIN GILEAD, GOLDEN BOY, SPRING AWAKENING, PUNK ROCK, COMPANY, & PICNIC. Roundabout Theater: SUICIDE, INCORPORATED. Gift Theatre: the world premieres of DIRTY and SUICIDE, INCORPORATED. Goodman Theatre: THE SOLID SÄND BELOW & THE WORLD OF EXTREME HAPPINESS for New Stages. Assistant Director Broadway productions of OF MICE AND MEN & THIS IS OUR YOUTH. (He/Him)



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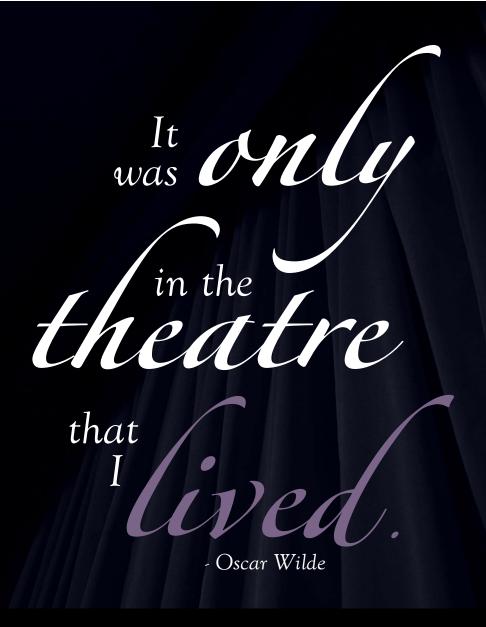














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The Bangor Branch: 23 Water Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bangor, ME 04401 (207) 561-2000 https://advisor.morganstanley.com/bangor-branch Jenna Gripshover\* (Production Stage Manager) A recent graduate from Kentucky's Centre College, she is excited to help bring the joy of theatre to the Bangor community! Previous credits: THE WOLVES, GREEK TRAGEDY, MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, and JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (Centre College). She'd like to thank her family, especially her niece Harper & nephew Hunter. (She/They)

Jazlynne Williams (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working backstage on this one while sporting her Adidas with a lovely supply of filet-o-fish, donuts, and banana bread to snack on-what's better than that!? PTC Credits: MATINICUS (PSM), DIAL M FOR MURDER (ASM), A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PSM) & BIRTHDAY CANDLES (PSM). Prior to arriving in Maine she traveled the US & Canada while working regionally & on tour. Jazlynne gives love & thanks to her mom & dad who unconditionally support her & always come to see the amazing work we do at PTC! jazlynnewilliams. com @jazlynne\_williams(She/Her)

Angela Bonacasa (Fight *Director*) is PTC's Resident Fight/Intimacy Director. Previous PTC credits: BIRTHDAY CANDLES, MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, IRONBOUND, QUEEN, TRAPPED!, & CLARKSTON. As an actor, she has appeared on the PTC stage in MARY POPPINS (Bird Woman) and A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Christmas Past). She is the Artistic Director of the Orono-based True North Theatre, where she has directed multiple productions, including THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, SILENT SKY, THE ODD COUPLE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, HOUSE OF YES, & THE LION IN WINTER. (She/Her)

Chelsea M. Warren (Scenic Design) is a multimedia artist with a focus on scenic and puppet design, as well as large scale photography and art installations. Scenic design credits include Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Steep Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Jungle Theater, Victory Gardens Theatre, Studio Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Geva Theatre Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Philadelphia Theatre Company and Steep Theatre. Puppet design credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Jungle Theater, Studio Theatre, Links Hall, Chicago International Puppet Festival and New York State Puppet Festival. She is an ensemble member with Steep Theatre. Chelsea received her MFA from Northwestern University and is an Assistant Professor of Scenic Design at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. chelseamwarren.com. (She/Her)

**Kevin Jacob Koski** (*Costume Design*) is a Maine native & awarded graduate of UMaine's Theatre program. He focused on costume design & construction while also designing multiple productions. With a nearly 10-year tenure at PTC, he has designed many mainstage & DA productions including: WIT, ONE BLUE TARP, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, CALENDAR GIRLS, ROCK OF ACES, THE FULL MONTY, MISERY, UGLY LIES THE BONE, & GASLIGHT. (He/Him)



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SeifAllah Salotto-Cristobala (Lighting Design) is a father, husband, educator, & storyteller who travels across the country designing lighting and digital media for Theatre, Opera, Dance, Concerts, and Live Events. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at the University of Southern Maine where he brings his knowledge and experience to help shape the next generation of holistic storytellers and create a more equitable industry. He is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. www.seif.design (He/Him)

Charlotte Laffely (Sound Design) A junior audio engineering student at Husson University who has been a part of PTC since the DA performance of The Spongebob Musical in the summer of 2023. She is a singer-musician and live sound engineer. Notable credits: The Little Prince, Godspell, Frog and Toad, Newsies, James and the Giant Peach, Wyoming (UMaine), and Seussical Jr (She/Her)

**Thomas Demers** (*Prop Design*) has been a props designer for DA since Summer 2023 and he is very excited to make his mainstage prop designer debut! (He/They)

Lauren Yee (Playwright) Lauren Yee's Cambodian Rock Band premiered at South Coast Repertory, with productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, and Signature Theatre. Her play The Great Leap has been produced at Seattle Rep, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Steppenwolf Theatre, Atlantic Theater Company, and others. Honors: Doris Duke Artist, Whiting, and Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association Awards; Horton Foote and Kesselring Prizes. TV:

"Pachinko" (Apple), "Soundtrack" (Netflix), "Interior Chinatown" (Hulu), "Billions" (Showtime), "Clipped" (FX). B.A. Yale, M.F.A. UCSD. laurenyee.com

**Jen Shepard** (Executive Director) has a deep love for PTC, having been cast in IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A RADIO PLAY in 2015, which marked the start of her steady involvement with the company. Her favorite credits: BECOMING DR. RUTH, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, and A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS. (She/Her)

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^The Director-Choreographer is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers society, a national theatrical labor union



ΔThe designer is a member of the United Scenic Artists of International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, a theatre & film labor union.





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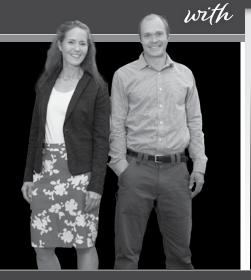
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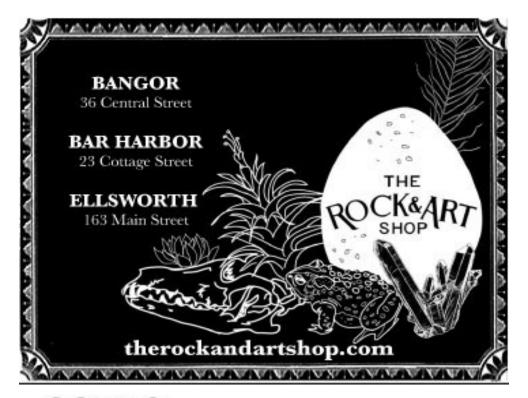


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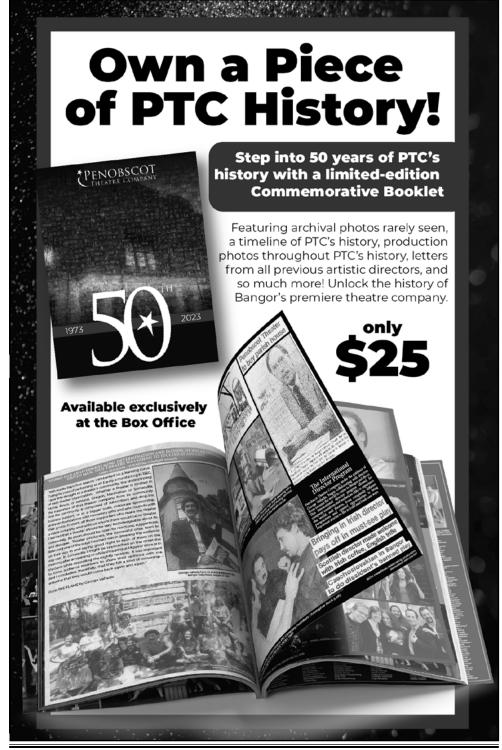


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