MARIE ANTINETTE

BY DAVID ADJMI
DIRECTED BY LAILA SAHIR

CFA-JEWEL THEATER
REGULAR ADMISSION - $10
FREE WITH LUTHER ID.

THURSDAY, MAY 3 - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 5 - 1:30 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 11 - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 12 - 7:30 PM

“Marie Antoinette” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH INC.
MARIE ANTOINETTE
By David Adjmi

MARIE ANTOINETTE was commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre James Bundy, Artistic Director, Victoria Nolan, Managing Director and received its first public performance on September 1, 2012. MARIE ANTOINETTE had its New York Premiere at Soho Rep. Sarah Benson, Artistic Director Cynthia Flowers, Executive Director

"Marie Antoinette" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH INC.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR’S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.SAMUELFRENCH.COM/WHITEPAPER
## CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marie Antoinette</td>
<td>Morgan Fanning ‘20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolande de Polignac</td>
<td>Emma Withers ‘18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therese de Lamballe</td>
<td>Adrienne Lee ‘19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servant, Royalist, Guard</td>
<td>Emma Brashean ‘18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servant, Mrs. Sauce</td>
<td>Christen Foster ‘18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Understudy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servant, Revolutionary,</td>
<td>Andrew Kane ‘19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sauce, Male Understudy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis XVI</td>
<td>Jonathan Kuehner ‘20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axel Fersen</td>
<td>Parker Fretheim ‘19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph, Marie Understudy</td>
<td>Mikaela Hanrahan ‘21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Sheep</td>
<td>Nathan Sunde ‘21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dauphin</td>
<td>Ezra Wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRODUCTION TEAM

Director          Laila Sahir ‘18
Directing Mentor  Dr. Bobby Vrtis
Stage Manager     Meghan Gaffney ‘18
Understudy ASM    Mitchell Gage ‘19
Technical Director/Sound Design Tom Berger
Scenic/Lighting Design Jeff Dintaman
Costume Design    Lisa Lantz
Assistant Costume Design Emma Brashear ‘18
Composition       John Kuntz ‘19
Marketing and Publicity Coordinator Morgan Fanning ‘20
Graphic Design    Patrick Finnegan ‘18
Video Designer    Joschua Seitawan ‘18
Production Manager Laila Sahir ‘18
Web Content Liaison Grace Huber ‘20
House Manager     Alex Schlesinger ‘21

CREW LIST

Light Board Operator Barbara Stier ‘18
Sound Board Operator Ashleigh Bunkofske ‘18
Projections         Samson Masanga ‘19
Wardrobe            Mikayel Simonyan ‘19
                       Claire Twedt ‘21

There will be one 15-minute intermission. There will be a talkback following the matinee performance on May 5th. The production contains mature content; viewer discretion is advised.
Emma Brashear is a senior theatre major with a math minor. Some of her favorite past roles at Luther include Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, the Amanuensis in *The Illusion*, and Vertumnus in *Metamorphoses*. She can also be seen in Top Banana. Emma would like to thank her mom for putting up with all of the ridiculous people she has thanked in the past, and for always supporting her dreams.

Morgan Fanning Morgan is a sophomore theatre and music double major. Recently, she co-assistant directed the 1440 musical, performed in *Martin Luther: Monk of Funk* as Martin Luther, and played a variety of characters in *The Life of Galileo*. Morgan is in Cathedral Choir and plays viola in LCSO. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support.

Christen Foster is a senior elementary education major and is thrilled to be a part of this cast and performance. Christen has been in the 1440 Minute Musical as well as *The Most Massive Woman Wins* during her time at Luther. She would love to thank all of those who helped her succeed during this time - including her mom for answering the late-night phone calls.

Parker Fretheim is a junior music and theatre double major. In the past, he has participated in various musicals, both at Luther and around the area, such as *RENT!, The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Spamalot!* This is actually the first full-length play that Parker has ever participated in, and he is quite excited!
Mikaela Hanrahan is a first year majoring in music and theatre with a minor in German. She is involved in Aurora, Vocal Jazz, and SPIN Theatre. She has previously been seen in the VPA’s production of RENT! Mikaela would like thank her wonderful family and friends for always being so supportive, as well as all of the cast members for making this show such an incredible experience.

Andrew Kane is a sophomore neuroscience major minoring in theater. Previously, Andrew has been seen in Luther College’s productions of Life and Information, The Nether, and The Life of Galileo. Andrew would like to thank his fantastic cast mates and give a huge shoutout to each and every one of his twenty eight ducks for their tireless emotional support.

Jonathan Kuehner is a sophomore neuroscience major minoring in theater and English writing. Theater has been a regular part of his life since the grade school, and continues to be a part of life here at Luther, where he has been seen on stage in Twelfth Night, SPIN Theatre’s Circle Mirror Transformation, and backstage in a number of theater and dance productions.

Adrienne Lee is a junior majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Mathematics. This will be her ninth production at Luther! Some of her favorite shows were Twelfth Night and RENT. You can also see her perform in Top Banana! She would like to thank all of her friends and family for their constant love and support, despite her awkward sense of humor.
Nathan Sunde is a freshman here at Luther College double majoring in theatre and English with a minor in secondary education. He plans on teaching English in the high school setting and looks forward to directing theatre productions in that school. Nathan currently has performed in a total of 20 other plays and musicals over the years and looks forward for many more to come.

Emma Withers is a senior studying art education, elementary education, and theatre. You may have previously seen her in *Metamorphoses, Sunday in the Park with George, The Illusion, Twelfth Night, The Nether, or RENT!* During the rehearsal process for this show, Emma has been working on walking less like an elephant and, instead, floating more like a hummingbird. If you know her...this has been a fun challenge.

Ezra Wood is ten years old and his hobbies are: playing with dogs, rapping, skateboarding, playing baseball and dancing. You may have seen him in *Les Miserables* and *A Touch of Gingerbread*. By the end of the play he hopes someone will have fed him and let him go pee.

Meghan Gaffney is a senior and this is her final show at Luther. Previously involved with *RENT!, The Illusion*, and many other productions she enjoys being an over-involved history major. She would like to thank Muzz, Mom, and Laila for being wonderful guides and examples of strong intelligent women.
John Kuntz is a Junior Music Composition Major studying with Dr. Brooke Joyce. He has participated in and has had works performed at numerous concerts, recitals, workshops, and masterclasses both inside and outside of Luther. John thoroughly enjoys composing for theater and finds collaboration with the production team and cast to be a very rewarding process.
COSTUME STORAGE COORDINATORS
Jennifer Anderson            Mitchell Gage
Roselie Munroe

SPECIAL THANKS
Garret Baumler             Samantha Bratland
Nam Nguyen                 Gracie Griffiths
Alison Mizerski Hanks      Brittany Todd
American Players Theatre   Richard Merritt
Lindsey Row Heyveld       Paul Rude
Anna Peterson

COSTUME CREW
Alexis Olson                Linnea Lee-Brown
Annika Peterson            Mikaela Hanrahan
Elizabeth Bolthouse        Mikayel Simonyan
Emma Brashear              Morgan Notch
Emma Kmoch                 Roselie Monroe
Genevieve Heimer-Lang      Sophia Nystrom
Mitchell Gage              Roselie Munroe
Jennifer Anderson

SET CONSTRUCTION CREW
Nathan Baldwin             Noah Manke
Jorge Chavez               Samson Masanga
Meghan Gaffney             Jenna Reimann
Cleo Garza                 Elliot Rickert
Winter Hawley-Bourcier     Emma Schlabach
Tanner Huppert             Barbara Stier
Isabella Jenkinson         Daniel Suhr
Jonathan Kuehner           Andrew Tiede
Isaac Logeman              Noah Tiegs

Luther College Theatre & Dance 2017-2018
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

It’s not hard to see how a play set during the French Revolution fits into this season’s theme of Revolution and Reformation. But beyond this superficial connection the question becomes: Why this story? Why now?

The historical Marie Antoinette faced significant challenges in her journey toward becoming the queen of France. Because her betrothal to the soon-to-be Louis XVI came as a surprise to many, Marie’s education was lackadaisical, and her behavior often went unchecked. In nearly every respect, she was thoroughly underqualified to inherit a throne that was anything but stable.

Beyond this, she grew up exclusively in the Austrian court, a very different social environment than that she found among the French elite. Marie’s upbringing led her to behave in ways that many found to be at best unseemly and at worst treasonous. A lack of cultural awareness and understanding led to disastrous conflicts between Marie and the French people.

By the time that Marie was put on trial and sentenced to death, the people truly did hate her. And the story we often believe today is that she deserved it. In a time of extreme political and economic unrest, she was selfish, frivolous, and ignorant, and for these reasons she deserved her fate. Death to the monarchy, and freedom for the people.

I’ve started to wonder if this is necessarily true. In hindsight, we know that beheading Louis and Marie didn’t actually fix the societal problems that were plaguing the French people. Something that the cast and I have talked a lot about is that anger directed at a problem in society can feel futile; recast that anger upon a person, however, and suddenly you have a much more satisfying target for blame. But who gets to decide who’s to blame? And is this really what matters?

And yet, something would be amiss if we were to say that Marie was merely a victim of her circumstances; the fact is, she did make choices, and sometimes they were bad ones. To say that she had no agency reduces her role in this story to that of a passive figurehead, which is an equally
inaccurate and dangerous reduction as saying she was entirely to blame for the crises of the time. Important to remember, I think, is that the mistakes she made were no bigger or smaller, better or worse than anyone else might have made in her circumstances.

The same can be said for any of the characters in this show. In any given moment, no one acts in a way that seems unreasonable or out of place, yet things quickly escalate until they are out of anyone’s control. Revolutions can lead to great social strides, and often they are necessary to gain forward momentum, but someone always bears the consequences of the change.

-Laila Sahir
Luther Theatre and Dance
2017-2018

RENT
By Jonathan Larson
November 10-19, 2017

Marie Antoinette
By David Adjmi
May 3-12, 2018

Soil Turning
Choreographed by Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
May 4-12, 2018

Faculty and Staff
Tom Berger
Lisa Lantz
Jeff Dintaman
Jane Hawley
Andre Vazquez-Aguirre
Robert J. Larson
Dr. Bobby Vrtis
Eunice Biel