

NextStop
theatre company

Presents

RIDE THE CYCLONE

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY JACOB RICHMOND AND BROOKE MAXWELL
MUSIC DIRECTED BY MARIKA COUNTOURIS CHOREOGRAPHED BY DAVID SINGLETON
DIRECTED BY MEGAN BUNN



THE CULT MUSICAL OF A NEW GENERATION!

OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 26, 2023



Presents



RIDE THE CYCLONE

**Books, Music, & Lyrics by
Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell**

Music Directed by Marika Countouris

Choreographed by David Singleton

Directed by Megan Bunn

October 27, 2023 - November 26, 2023

Originally Produced by Kevin McCollum and Morris Berchard

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The Cast

Rachel Cahoon - Jane Doe
Sydney "Sunday" Coleman - Constance
Carter Crosby - Mischa
Bobby Libby - Karnak
Cam Powell - Ricky
Nadja Tomaszewski - Ocean
Jack Wimsatt - Noel
Jessica Barraclough - U/S Jane Doe
Cassie Cope - U/S Ocean, Constance
Ethan Hunt - U/S Ricky, Noel
Walker Vlahos - U/S Karnak

The Band

Lucia Lanave - Keys 1
Michael Barranco - Percussion
Nick Graziano III - Bass
Jefferson Hirshman - Guitar
Sean MacCarthy-Grant - Keys 2

Creative Team

Megan Bunn - Director
David Singleton - Choreographer
Marika Countouris - Music Director/Electronic Music Design
Jack Golden - Scenic Designer
Hailey LaRoe - Lighting Designer
Johnna Presby - Costume Designer
Ivy Martinez - Props Designer
Zackary Tomney - Sound Designer
Connor James Reilly - Associate Choreographer
Lucia Lanave - Associate Music Director
Sarah Strunk - Stage Manager
Shannon Sauliner - Rehearsal Stage Manager/Deck Chief
Mikaela Phillips - Assistant Stage Manager
Elli Ransom - Audio Mixer
Jack Wilson - Technical Director
Sarah Usary - Scenic Artist
Gabriella Trevino-Bandy - Scenic Artist

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Audience Advisories

This production contains the following:

Auditory and Visual Effects: Loud sounds (roller coaster crash, whistle, mechanical sounds), flashing lights, fog and haze

Mature Content: Sexual innuendo, discussions of death

Ride the Cyclone is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.



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Next Up at NextStop!



A Steampunk Christmas Carol, Or, Ebenezer Scrooge's Phantasmagorical Holiday Adventure! - A new twist on a holiday classic! Ebenezer Scrooge is a hard-hearted old miser, who hates Christmas! But when he is visited by the ghost of his long dead business partner and three phantasmagorical spirits, even he can not deny the power of the holiday season. NextStop Theatre celebrates a ten year tradition of "By-Kids-For-Kids" holiday productions, shows suitable for the whole family! Join us for a wildly original and imaginative retelling of the most beloved holiday story of all time!

December 2 - December 17, 2023



Nunsense A-Men! - When a cooking catastrophe kills off most of the Little Sisters of Hoboken convent, the five remaining sisters put on an outrageous variety show to fund the burial of their deceased loved ones. With zany personalities, eye-catching costumes, and extreme hilarity, Nunsense is a heavenly musical full of devilish comedy! Did we mention that all five nuns are in Drag? You won't want to miss this incredible performance, because sometimes you just need a good laugh and to be reminded that gender is a construct and Drag is an art form!

January 12 - February 11, 2023



School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play - Paulina, the reigning queen bee at Ghana's most exclusive boarding school, has her sights set on the Miss Global Universe pageant. But the arrival of Ericka, a new student with undeniable talent and beauty, captures the attention of the pageant recruiter—and Paulina's hive-minded friends. This buoyant and biting comedy explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls across the globe.

March 8 - April 7, 2023



Reefer Madness - A tongue-in-cheek, musical comedy satire, based on the 1936 film of the same name. Reefer Madness tells the cautionary tale of Jimmy Harper and Mary Lane, a wholesome pair of all-American teenager sweethearts, who fall victim to the dangers of the drug menace...MARIJUANA!!! The musical chronicles their downward spiral, filled with evil jazz music, sex, and violence!

May 3 - June 2, 2023

The Cast



Jessica Barraclough (Understudy: Jane Doe) is thrilled to be joining the NextStop family with the cast of *Ride the Cyclone*. Some of her credits include: Workhouse Arts Center, *Xanadu* (Kira - Helen Hayes Nominee), Toby's Dinner Theatre, *A Chorus Line* (Sheila - Upcoming), and George Mason University, *Rags* (Rebecca). She obtained her BFA in Musical Theatre from George Mason University in 2021 and attended the Signature Overtures Intensive in 2019. Jessica studies voice with Jim Van Slyke. @jess.barraclough



Rachel Cahoon (Jane Doe) is so thrilled to be making her NextStop debut with this beautiful and strange show. Rachel is a proud NOVA native and has a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Point Park University. Most recently, she has been seen in *Bonnie and Clyde* at the Media Theatre, *Gypsy* at Gretna Theatre, and performing as a lead vocalist onboard *Serenade of the Seas* with Royal Caribbean. Much love to her friends and the Cahoon family for their endless support. She also wants to give a huge shout out to the amazing cast and crew of RTC, who she could not imagine doing this show without. Rachel is represented by Fire Starter Entertainment. It's just a ride! @rachelcahoon



Sydney "Sunday" Coleman (Constance) is a junior BFA musical theater major at Howard University from Seattle, Washington. Recently, Sunday performed in *Heathers* at Howard and was a participant in Signature Theater's 2023 Overtures Program. I am very excited to have this production be my first professional venture! I'd like to thank my professors, close friends, and family for their continued support!



Cassie Cope (Understudy: Constance/Ocean) is thrilled to be back in the DMV for her first show post grad! DC AREA: *Parade* (Mary Phagan) Keegan Theatre; *Hairspray* (Shelley) Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical* (Anne Shirley), *West Side Story* (Anybods), *Grey Gardens* (Jaqueline Bouvier) Little Theater of Alexandria; *Blueberries for Sal* (Swing) Adventure Theatre; Sheila and Moby (Courtney) Flying V Theatre. OTHER: ...*Great Comet of 1812* (Ensemble/Dance Captain) Tantrum Theatre; *Summer and Smoke* (Nellie Ewell) Ohio University SOT. EDUCATION: BFA in Musical Theatre from Ohio University. Thanks to Mom for the endless support.



Carter Crosby (Mischa) is a Virginia-born actor, writer, musician, and oldest brother to four incredible siblings. A 2022 Musical Theatre and Creative Writing graduate from James Madison University, he is thrilled to be working *Ride the Cyclone*— his first show with NextStop Theatre Company! Some of his other favorite credits include: Carl Perkins (*Million Dollar Quartet*); Guy (*Once*); and Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Now... let's get this party started! Cartercrosby.com



Ethan Hart (Understudy: Noel/Ricky) Ethan Hart is a junior BFA Musical Theatre Major at Howard University from Katy, TX. This is his first professional theatrical production and his NextStop Theatre debut. He is very excited and grateful for this opportunity. He would like to thank all of his friends and family at home and at Howard who have encouraged him to never give up on his passion.



Bobby Libby (Karnak) is honored to have been a part of NextStop's first ten years. *Ride the Cyclone* is his 10th appearance in a NextStop production, which have included *Nat Turner in Jerusalem*, *Ordinary Days*, *Godspell* (Judas), [title of show], *Assassins* (Booth), and *City of Angels* (Stine.) DC AREA: *Ichabod*, *Into the Woods* at Creative Cauldron, *Jumanji* and *Caps for Sale* at Adventure Theatre, and *Urinetown* at Constellation Theatre. BALTIMORE: *Nevermore*, *Grey Gardens*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Hair* at StillPointe Theatre. EDUCATION: Towson University. Special thanks to Abbie and all his friends and family for their support. And thank YOU for supporting live theatre!



Cam Powell (Ricky) (he/they) is insanely excited to be returning to NextStop Theatre for *Ride the Cyclone*. Recent roles include Jack (*Into The Woods*, TAP), Ensemble (*In The Heights*, NextStop), and Tiny Tom (*Urinetown*, Lorton Workhouse). I'm very grateful to share this unique experience with audiences. This story is quirky and zany and wild and wonderful and we hope you enjoy the ride with us. Insta: @atcampowell



Nadja Tomaszewski (Ocean) is thrilled to be making her NextStop Theatre Company debut! Nadja is currently a senior at The Catholic University of America studying to get her B.M. in Musical Theatre. Recent theatre credits include Monumental Theatre Company's *Spring Awakening* (Thea/Ilse & Adult Female u/s), Catholic University's *Carrie* (Margaret White), and CUA Centerstage's *Island Song* (Jordan). Nadja would love to thank her family, friends, and mentors, as well as the entire cast and creative team for their continued love and support.



Walker Valhos (Understudy: Mischa/Karnak) is thrilled to be making his NextStop debut! DC AREA: Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Something Rotten!*, *Grease*; GMU: *Footloose* (Willard), *The Boy Detective Fails* (Fenton), *Runaways*, *Rags* (Hamlet), *The Mason Cabaret*; COMMUNITY: *Spring Awakening* (Melchior). EDUCATION: George Mason University, BFA Musical Theater '23. @walkervlahos



Jack Wimsatt



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Creative Team

Megan Bunn (Director) is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist in the DC area. She is the Associate Artistic Director & Casting Director at Monumental Theatre Company, where she has directed several productions including: *Spring Awakening*, *Songs for a New World*, *Be More Chill*, and *Dress Up Day*. Other directing credits include: *Godspell* (Great Lakes Performing Arts Center), *25th Annual...Spelling Bee*, *Urinetown*, *A Little Night Music* (Catholic University), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (Kennedy Center Page to Stage). Megan is a teaching artist across the DMV, and a founder, manager and teacher at Bethesda Dance Center. She holds a BM in Musical Theatre from Catholic University, where she currently works as the Assistant Production Manager

Marika Countouris (Music Director / Electronic Music Design) (she/her) is a musician, educator, and performer in the DC area. She holds a BM in Musical Theatre from The Catholic University of America and serves as Vocal Instructor & Area Accompanist for Howard University's BFA Musical Theatre Program. Some of her credits include: WOOLY MAMMOTH: *A Strange Loop* (pre - Broadway run); SIGNATURE: *Passing Strange*, *The Color Purple*; ARENA STAGE: *Ride the Cyclone*; FORD'S THEATRE: *Grace*; OLNEY: *AD16*; CONSTELLATION: *The Last Five Years*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Aida*; FLYING V: *We're Gonna Die*; NEXTSTOP: *Beehive*; MONUMENTAL: *Spring Awakening*, *tick, tick...BOOM!*, *Songs for a New World*, *Head Over Heels*, *Be More Chill*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *Brooklyn*; REGIONAL: Great Lakes Center for the Arts: *Godspell*. AWARDS: Helen Hayes Nominee for Outstanding Music Direction. UPCOMING: *Private Jones* at Goodspeed. | @marikanne

Jack Golden (Scenic Designer) is a young, award winning, designer based out of Manhattan. Jack is delighted to be returning to Nextstop after having been a staff member and having designed over ten productions! Favorite Nextstop designs include: *Beehive*, *Urinetown*, *Bad Jews*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. Recent designs include: *Powerhouse* (Off-Broadway), *Winnie the Pooh* (Takeover, Chicago, Off-Broadway, Tour), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Bristol Valley Theatre), *End of the Rainbow* (Curtain Call Theatre), *Archies Weird Parody Musical* (Off-Broadway), *Life's Work* (Vivid Stage), and *The Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help* (Curtain Call). Assistant/Associate: *Fat Ham* (Upcoming Huntington/Alliance), *Sesame Street* (Off-Broadway), *On Your Feet* (National Tour), *Macbeth* (Merrimack Rep), *Art of Burning* (Huntington/Hartford Stage). Currently teaching at University of the Arts in Philadelphia and Ramapo College in New Jersey. MFA University of Maryland, College Park. www.jackcgolden.com.

Hailey LaRoe (Lighting Designer) is so excited to be back at Next Stop working on this spectacular show! Hailey is a Lighting Designer and Projection Designer, based in the DC area since 2018. Her recent Lighting credits include; *Monstress* (Flying V), *Exit Pursued by a Bear* (HCC), *The 39 Steps* (NestStop Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *Bloom* (Synetic theatre), *Hurricane Diane*, & *Julius Cesar* (Avant Bard). Her recent projection design credits include; *Bathing in Moonlight*, and *Kumanana* (Gala Theatre), *Monsters of the American Cinema* (Prologue Theatre), *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea* (Rorschach Theatre). Enjoy the show! Haileylaroedesigns.com.

Ivy Martinez (Props Designer) Ivy is excited to be joining the team on their second NextStop production, the first being *The 39 Steps*. They are a semi-recent graduate of Shenandoah University with an interdisciplinary focus (technical theatre, gender studies, and ethnic studies). Outside of the theatre they are a science and arts secondary school teacher.

Mikaela Phillips (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working with NextStop Theater Co on *Ride the Cyclone*. She previously Assistant Stage managed *SWEAT* at the Keegan Theater, and various productions at College of Charleston, SC.

Johnna Presby (Costume Designer) is so excited to return to NextStop for *Ride the Cyclone* after making her designing debut at NextStop Theatre Company with *The 39 Steps*! A newcomer to the DC area, she is a Kenan Design Fellow at the Kennedy Center and is gracious to have been welcomed into the DMV theatre scene. Recent credits include *La Salpetriere* (Taffety Punk Theatre Company), *Sweat* (Keegan Theatre), *Monsters of the American Cinema* (Prologue Theatre), *Billy Elliot: The Musical* (Hangar Theatre), *Nate the Great* (Imagination Stage), *Sweat* (Santa Fe

Playhouse), *The Wilting Point* (Keegan Theatre), *Sunday at Sodom/A Parsifal* (Hangar Theatre), *Down in the Face of God* (UNC School of the Arts) and *Heathers: The Musical* (UNC School of the Arts). Johnna graduated from UNC School of the Arts with a BFA in Costume Design. Instagram: @johnna.presby.design Much love to her friends, family, and this lovely cast and crew!

Eliana Ransom (Audio Mixer) (she/her), a graduate of Old Dominion University, is very eager to be mixing *Ride the Cyclone* as A1 having previously worked at Signature Theatre: *Which Way to The Stage*, *Selling Kabul*, *Passing Strange*.

Connor James Reilly (Associate Choreographer) Associate: *Sweet Charity*, *The Wild Party* (Forbes Center). Choreographer: *Dogfight*, *Baked Goods* (JMU Studio Theatre). Performer: *Kinky Boots*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Cabaret*, *Matilda*, *Elf*, *On the Town* (Olney Theatre Center), *Candide*, *Children of Eden*, *West Side Story* (Olney Applause Series), *Mamma Mia!* (Barter Theatre), *Turn: Washington Spies* (AMC). For Gus. @connorjreilly

Shannon Saulnier (Rehearsal Stage Manager / Deck Chief) Shannon Saulnier is thrilled to be working on her first production with NextStop Theatre Company! After spending some time away from DC working at Bill Hanney's Theatre by the Sea and Rhode Island Youth Theatre, she is overjoyed to be back in the DMV. Shannon would like to thank her parents Kelly and Larry, four siblings, boyfriend, friends, the North Family, Chelsea Cook, and Thom Warren for their unwavering love and support.

David Singleton (Choreographer) (he/him) is a Montgomery College alumni and Maryland based performer, choreographer, and teaching artist. Throughout his career he has had the pleasure of working throughout the DMV with a wide array of phenomenal artists. Some of his favorite onstage credits include Angel in *RENT*, *Newsies*, and *Kinky Boots*. Choreography credits include; (Upcoming)Nextstop Theatre Company: *Ride the Cyclone* (Choreographer). Monumental Theatre Company: *Tick Tick Boom* (Choreographer) (Helen Hayes Award Nomination Best Choreography) and *Songs For A New World* (Choreographer). Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Spongebob the Musical* (Choreographer)(Helen Hayes Award Nomination Best Choreography) and *Kinky Boots* (Co Choreographer). Artscentric: *La Cage Aux Folles* (Choreographer). Catch him this winter as Bobby in *A Chorus Line* at Toby's Dinner Theatre.

Sarah Strunk (Stage Manager) (she/her) is a recent graduate of George Mason University. Her love of stage managing has led her to many opportunities around the DMV including NextStop's *Turn of the Screw* and *Lucky Stiff*. Sarah would like to thank you all for supporting the arts and for riding the Cyclone!

Zackary Tomney (Sound Designer) is a recent George Mason Graduate who studied Audio Engineering under Dr. Robert Gillam and Billy Kessinger. This is his Fourth production with NextStop and is thrilled to be continuing working with such an amazing theater! His previous shows with NextStop include, *In The Heights*, *Super Senior Prom* and *The 39 Steps*. He would like to thank his mentors, family and friends, as well as Evan, Vicki, and the cast of *Ride the Cyclone* for a wonderful production! Zack will be working with NextStop for the upcoming 2023-2024 season!

Jack Wilson (Technical Director) is a fine artist with vast experience as a carpenter who began working with NextStop Theatre in the fall of 2022 on productions including *Frankenstein*, *46 Plays for America's First Ladies*, and *In The Heights*. He is excited to join the NextStop team as their Technical Director and looks forward to wow-ing NextStop patrons with future builds this season!



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