



THE  
**THEATRE  
SCHOOL**

AT DePaul University

# FEFU AND HER FRIENDS

by  
**MARÍA IRENE FORNÉS**

directed by  
**MALLORY METOXEN**

**FEBRUARY 11- 20, 2022**  
(previews 2/9 & 2/10)

in the **WATTS THEATRE**

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THEATRE SCHOOL DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
The Theatre School at DePaul University (TSDU) educates, trains, and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse, and that stresses the highest level of professional skill and ability. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances at a high repertoire of plays—classic, contemporary, and/or great—that challenge, entertain, and stimulate the imagination. We seek to enhance a intellectual and cultural life, serving community, our city, and our profession.



### Mission Statement

The Theatre School at DePaul University (TSDU) educates, trains, and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse, and that stresses the highest level of professional skill and ability. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances at a high repertoire of plays—classic, contemporary, and/or great—that challenge, entertain, and stimulate the imagination. We seek to enhance a intellectual and cultural life, serving community, our city, and our profession.

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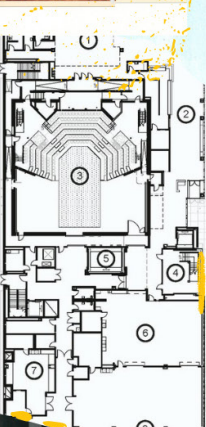


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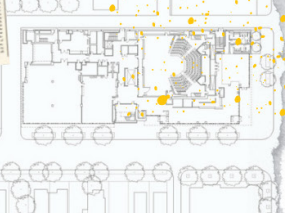


The Theatre School  
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The Theatre School at DePaul University presents

# FEFU AND HER FRIENDS

by María Irene Fornés

Director - Mallory Metoxen  
Scenic Designer - Caitlyn Girten  
Costume Designer - Mia Thomas  
Lighting Designer - Karen Wallace  
Sound Designer - Genevieve Blauvelt  
Technical Director - Ethan Craig  
Dramaturgs - Leah Geisler & Ross Milstead  
Production Stage Manager - Rachel Silver  
Stage Manager - Kate Petralia

**February 11 - 20, 2022**

The Theatre School at DePaul University  
The Dr. John R. and Joyce L. Watts Theatre  
2350 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, IL 60614



[theatre.depaul.edu](http://theatre.depaul.edu)

Originally produced by the New York Theater Strategy.

CAST

Christina .....	Emilie Maureen Hanson
Cindy .....	Jamie Herb
Sue .....	Adelaide Leonard
Fefu .....	Neysha Mendoza
Paula .....	Taylor Santos
Julia .....	Lauren Skelton
Cecelia .....	Fiona Rae Warburton
Emma .....	Savannah Youngblood

*Fefu and Her Friends* is produced  
by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC.  
[www.broadwayplaypub.com](http://www.broadwayplaypub.com)

PRODUCTION STAFF

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Assistant Director .....	Cali Katzenberger, Nikolette Olson Anaïs Ortiz Villacorta San Juan
Assistant Lighting Designer .....	Ellie Fey
Assistant Props Director .....	Justin Nielson
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Casey Fort, Leiny Vega
Assistant Technical Director .....	Noah Abrams, John Harren
Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor .....	Joefferry Wenderlich
Associate Sound Designer .....	Florence Borowski
Carpenter .....	Kirsten Krieman, Anthony Roselli
Disability Consultant .....	Ben Raanan
Fight Choreographer .....	Nick Sandys
First Hand .....	Teagan Anderson
Lead Carpenter .....	Ashley Hutchison
Movement Consultant .....	Patrice Egleston
Production Electrician .....	Aidan McLeod
Props Artisan .....	Shokie Tseumah
Props Director .....	Camille Toshiko
Scenic Charge .....	Abby West
Stitcher .....	Nora Dellifield
Sound Technician .....	Felix Schauz
Wig/Makeup Coordinator .....	Madison Blevins-Harrison
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Sound Crew .....	Bryan Abad, Lea Fleck, Evan Ozer
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Wig/Makeup Crew .....	Lily Boyle, Stephanie Heinz

# UNDERSTUDIES

Christina .....	Asha Houston
Paula .....	Asha Houston
Fefu .....	Cali Katzenberger
Cecelia .....	Cali Katzenberger/Nikollette Olson
Sue .....	Cali Katzenberger/Nikollette Olson
Emma .....	Veronique Le
Julia .....	Adelaide Leonard
Cindy .....	Nikollette Olson

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# DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Did you know, that when you recall an event or dream, you are remembering the last time you remembered those events? When you continue to recall these memories, pieces of them become more specific while others fade into darkness.

From my recollection of the first time I read *Fefu and Her Friends* by María Irene Fornés, I was stunned. I was left with a whole bunch of questions – but the women in this play ran through my head and my heart for weeks.

Why?

In an interview, Fornes said, “I felt as I wrote the play that I was surrounded by friends. I felt very happy to have such good and interesting friends.”

This play brings you into a world where women are broad and whole. Where relationships are built like icebergs, only hinting at a small piece of the life beyond. Where some moments shine brightly, while others are lost in a fog – like a memory?

The opportunity to tackle this beautiful play has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my graduate career. I hope you enjoy *Fefu and Her Friends* as much as we did bringing this magnificent play to life.

- Mallory Metoxen, MFA Directing ‘22

# SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to Tyler Guynes, Lisa Portes, Damon Kiely, Ben Raanan, Melanie Queponds, Stephanie LeBolt, Rebecca Willingham, Emil Thomas, Christine Freije, and Aurelia Clunie.



## DRAMATURGY NOTE

"They handed, with loud shouts, the women to the raceground, and encouraged them by liberal promises to exert themselves. When the signal was given for them to set off, the poor creatures, feeble and frightened, ran against each other: and, neither of them able to support the shock, they both fell to the ground." -Frances Burney, *Evelina*

Eight women assemble in a room together. The premise is simple, but it's enough to launch a deep dive into questions of power, worth, status, sexuality, and belonging. We see them smile and bare their teeth, laugh, and lament, we see their mess and their meaningful relationships alike. What was just described is both *Fefu and Her Friends*, and the franchise of *The Real Housewives*. Peeling back the layers of this play, we found ourselves circling back to the wide gulf between the simplicity of the premise and the complexity of the play. What about 'eight women in a house together' is so rich with potential conflict? Why does 'eight people in a house together' sound like there's a missing piece of context, but 'eight women in a house together' brings to mind an international, drama-filled, reality TV show franchise that has spawned 21 different iterations? Is it so unfathomable that women could spend time together without chaos ensuing?

Like *Housewives*, *Fefu and Her Friends* is often described as plotless, not because there is no plot, but because the circumstances of the women gathering are quickly swallowed by the enormity of the women themselves and their more pertinent, permanent circumstances of living in a patriarchy. Instead of writing products of circumstance, Fornés wrote eight women with character like her own---witty, joyful, bold, contradictory women. Instead of writing men that are physically present, Fornes depicts the rigid binary system that encompasses their and our world. The patriarchy hangs over them as a constant looming presence, invisible yet pervasive and forceful, driving them to rebel through self-destruction and even take part in their own oppression. Among eight women in a house together arises a collision between identity and circumstance and countless questions to which there are no easy answers, but a great deal of possibilities: enjoyment, community, friendship, and liberation.

- Leah Geisler & Ross Milstead, Dramaturgs

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Emilie Maureen Hanson** [she/her] (*Christina*) BFA4/ Acting. Emilie is an actor, musician, and poet from Tacoma, Washington. Beginning her career in Seattle, Emilie found a love for ensemble-centered theatre and carries this passion in her education at DePaul University. She finds purpose collaborating in devised plays and new works (*American Teenager*, *V.I.P.*) and enjoys investigating experimentation in her artistic projects, her most recent artistic endeavor being a collaborative EP written by her band Court the Muse. She is excited to bring this experimentation in her next project portraying Beatrice in the Theatre School's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

**Jamie Herb** (*Cindy*) MFA3/ Acting. Jamie was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, where she stuck around to complete her undergrad degrees in English Literature and Theatre at UW-Madison. Jamie feels incredibly lucky to be a part of this lovely cast and crew, especially working on this incredible play. Recent Theatre School credits include *The Seagull* (Nina) and *As You Like It* (Touchstone).

**Adelaide Leonard** [she/her] (*Sue*) BFA4/ Acting.

"Woman is: 1-A mystery. 2-Another species. 3-As yet undefined. 4-Unpredictable..." - Maria Irene Fornés. Upcoming: *Top Girls* at The Theatre School.

**Neysha Mendoza** [she/her] (*Fefu*) MFA3/ Acting. Neysha is a Puerto Rican actress, model, singer and journalist. She's worked both in film and on stage in and outside of the US. Mendoza's credits include work by Stephen Adly Guirgis, Federico García Lorca, Shakespeare, and various short films for festivals. She loves everything double chocolate.

**Taylor Santos** [she/her] (*Paula*) MFA2/ Acting. Taylor is an actor, director, and writer from Bakersfield, California. She is excited to make her Theatre School debut after a year off from school. Her favorite project in the past couple of years was working with the Prague Shakespeare Company for a summer abroad. On her off time she enjoys baking and cuddling her cat.

**Lauren Skelton** [she/her] (*Julia*) MFA3/ Acting. Lauren is an Ohio-born, Seattle-cultivated, Chicago-based multidisciplinary artist who loves hyphens. Favorite credits include *Everybody*

# BIOGRAPHIES

(Death), *Come Back Little Sheba* (Lola), *Independence* (Jo), The Burlesque Hall of Fame Weekender in Las Vegas, and *The SheSpot Goes to Camp!* at the Seattle Festival of Improv Theater. When she's not at The Theatre School, Lauren may be found storyboarding her next short film and/or eating a burrito.

**Fiona Rae Warburton** [she/her] (*Cecelia*) BFA4/ Acting. Fiona, originally from Oakland, California, is so happy to be portraying the titular role of "friend" in *Fefu and her Friends*. Other Theatre School credits include small rooms, *The Moors* (Huldy), and *As You Like It* (Phebe/ Audrey). She would like to thank her family, Anna, and Principal Figgins (RIP). Finally, what does a cat say after a joke? Just kitten!

**Savannah Youngblood** [she/her] (*Emma*) BFA4/ Acting. Savannah is originally from Dallas, Texas, but has loved getting to experience and be a part of the theatre community in Chicago. Her favorite roles at The Theatre School include *As You Like It* (Jacques), *Rumors* (Claire), and *The Moors* (Marjory). You can see her next as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Outside of acting, she enjoys writing music and poetry, learning about astrology, and walking around the city.

**Asha Houston** [she/her] (*Christina/Paula Understudy*) BFA3/ Acting. Asha is an artist from Philadelphia. Her Theatre School credits include *Everybody* (Somebody 2) and she can be seen next in the Spring as *Ife* in *Tall Enough*. She is a 2021-2022 Itkin/ Healy Scholar Recipient.

**Veronique Le** [she/they] (*Emma Understudy*) BFA3/ Acting. Veronique is from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Their Theatre School credits include *Peerless* (L) and *Stupid F\*\*king Bird* (Mash) Veronique is the current President of 4A (Asian American Artists Alliance). They are super excited to be a part of this production!

**Mallory Metoxen** [she/her] (*Director*) MFA3/ Directing. Mallory is a director, dedicated to working with playwrights, developing new works, and demolishing the gender parity gap in the theater industry. She founded Br!NK - a new play festival for Midwestern woman playwrights with Renaissance Theaterworks and is an Artistic Associate for the Seven Devils New Play Foundry. Theatre School directing credits: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Underbelly*, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, *Ring Round the Moon*, and *The How and the Why*.

**Caitlyn Girtten** (*Scenic Designer*) BFA3/ Scene Design. Caitlyn is ecstatic to make her theatrical debut as a scenic designer after spending myriad of years as a fine artist. Her upcoming Theatre School credits include *Tall Enough* (Painter) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Props Artisan).

**Mia Thomas** [she/her] (*Costume Designer*) BFA4/ Costume Design. Mia is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, where she discovered her passion for period costume design as well as wig and makeup. Mia's past credits include Mess Fest Comedy Festival's *Miss Intergalactic 1967* (Director/ Writer/ Wig and Makeup Designer), and *The Rover* (Asst. Costume Designer). Mia's upcoming credits include *Top Girls* (Costume Designer), as well as plans to stay in the Chicago theatre scene post-graduation.

**Karen Wallace** [she/they] (*Lighting Designer*) BFA4/ Lighting Design. Karen is from the Skokie, Illinois. Her Theatre School credits include *Ring Round the Moon* and *The Seagull* (Lighting Designer). To supplement her theatrical education, Karen enjoys studying concert and architectural lighting as well as various rendering mediums.

**Genevieve Blauvelt** [she/her] (*Sound Designer*) BFA4/ Sound Design. Genevieve is from San Luis Obispo, California. Her recent Theatre School Credits include *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Asst. Sound Designer), *Fur* (Sound Designer) and *Hunter Gatherers* (Sound Designer). She is currently the Audio Editor Intern for the podcast, *Frugal Living*.

**Ethan Craig** [he/him] (*Technical Director*) BFA4/ Theatre Technology. Ethan is Erie, Pennsylvania. His recent Theatre School credits include *Everybody* (Asst. Technical Director), *Brooklyn Bridge* (Carpenter), and *Polaroid Stories* (Lead Carpenter).

**Leah Geisler** [they/she] (*Dramaturg*) BFA3/ Dramaturgy & Criticism. Leah is a dramaturg, archivist, and artist from Dallas, Texas. Previous dramaturgy credits include *Dance Nation* and *715 Pearl Street*. Leah will also be the dramaturg for The Theatre School productions of *Tall Enough* and *Past Life* this year, in addition to being the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Grappler*.

**Ross Milstead** (*Dramaturg*) BFA4/ Dramaturgy. Ross is from Atlanta, Georgia. His most recent Theatre School credits include *Blood Wedding*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Xylene*. This past summer, Ross taught dramaturgy at French Woods

# BIOGRAPHIES

Festival of the Performing Arts in Hancock, New York.

**Kate Petralia** [she/her] (*Stage Manager*) BFA4/Stage Management. Kate is from Portland, Oregon. Her Theatre School credits include *Dance Nation* (Stage Manager), *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Stage Manager), and *Our Lady of Kibebo* (Asst. Stage Manager). She has also worked with a variety of local theaters in both Chicago and Portland.

**Rachel Silver** [she/they] (*Production Stage Manager*) BFA3/Stage Management. Rachel is from West Hartford, Connecticut, but is now a registered Georgia voter. Previous Theatre School credits include *Everybody* (Asst. Stage Manager), *Sunset Baby* (Stage Manager) and *The Rover* (Asst. Stage Manager). Next quarter, you can catch her back on a team with Kate and Casey on *Tall Enough!*

**Cali Katzenberger** [they/she] (*Asst. Director*) BFA3/Theatre Arts. Cali is from South Bend, Indiana. Recently they performed in *Miss Intergalactic 1967* (Dina) for the *Mess Fest Comedy Festival* at The Theatre School. They are excited to be back in the room and working with others again.

**Nikolette Olson** [she/her] (*Asst. Director*) BFA3/Theatre Arts. Nikolette is a director, actor and playwright from Chicago, Illinois. She is a member of the Theatre School's Prototypes Committee, and has directed, devised, and produced several student productions during her time at The Theatre School. She is proud to be a part of *Fefu and Her Friend*.

**Casey Fort** [he/him] (*Asst. Stage Manager*) BFA2/Stage Management. Casey is from Anaheim, California, and is ecstatic to be a part of his fourth production at The Theatre School. His recent credits include *Peerless* (Asst. Stage Manager) at The Theatre School, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stage Manager) at his community theater back home. Casey has enjoyed working in the scene shop this year and assisting in the building this set. He would like to show his appreciation to his advisor, Chris Freeburg, and director, Mallory Metoxen, to be able to be a part of this powerful production.

**Leiny Vega** [she/her] (*Asst. Stage Manager*) BFA3/Stage Management. Leiny is from Chicago, Illinois. Her Theatre School credits include *Brooklyn Bridge* (Asst. Stage Manager), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*

(Asst. Stage Manager), *Exit the King* (Stage Manager), and *Peerless* (Stage Manager). This past quarter, Leiny was a floor manager for *Collaboration* in the Austin and Englewood neighborhoods.

**Kirsten Krieman** [she/her] (*Carpenter*) BFA2/Theatre Technology. Kirsten is from Wilmette, Illinois. She is very excited to bring the world of *Fefu and Her Friends* to life! Previous Theatre School credits include *Mess Fest Comedy Festival* (Carpenter). Upcoming: *Meeting Points* (Asst. Technical Director).

**Nick Sandys** [he/him] (*Combat Advisor*) Adjunct Faculty. Nick is a Certified Teacher and Fight Director with The Society of American Fight Directors and has taught Stage Combat at The Theatre School for over 25 years, and for more than 75 productions. He is a Resident Fight Director at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and his Jeff-Award-winning choreography has been seen at the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Northlight, and many other theatres across Chicagoland.

**Patrice Egleston** [she/her] (*Movement Consultant*) Associate Professor. As head of undergraduate and graduate movement, Patrice is fortunate to work with all of The Theatre School's student actors. This play is full of talented, kind, and beautiful people.

**Aidan McLeod** [he/him] (*Production Electrician*) BFA2/Lighting Design. Aidan is from Middleton, Wisconsin. He enjoys the unique challenges and experiences that have come with being the Production Electrician for *Fefu and Her Friends*. Aidan also enjoys working in the Electrics Shop at The Theatre School. Recent Theatre School credits include *Peerless* (Lighting Designer). He looks forward to being the Production Electrician for *Tall Enough* this spring at the Merle Reskin Theatre.

**Camille Toshiko** [they/them] (*Props Director*) BFA4/Theatre Arts. Camille is a props artisan and aspiring educator from Appleton, Wisconsin. When not in class, they spend most of their time in the Prop Shop at The Theatre School. One of their favorite Theatre School projects to date is *Escape TTS: Newsbreak*, a two-person escape room created during the Covid-19 pandemic as a student project. Camille is also the Fall 2021 Sam Wanamaker Scholar.

**Abby West** [she/her] (*Scenic Charge*) BFA3/Scene Design. Abby is originally from Nashville,



## BIOGRAPHIES

Tennessee. She started out as a performer before switching over to the tech and design world. Her recent and upcoming credits include *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* (Asst. Designer) and *Tall Enough* (Scenic Designer).

**Nora Dellifield** [she/her] (*Stitcher*) BFA2/ Costume Technology. Nora is very excited to be stitching this year at The Theatre School! Past credits include *Everybody*.

**Felix Schauz** [he/him] (*Sound Technician*) BFA4/ Sound Design. Originally hailing from Munich, Germany, Felix entered the world of sound design while growing up in Los Angeles,

California. Prior Theatre School credits include *Blood Wedding* (Sound Designer), *Ring Round the Moon* (Sound Designer), and *One Flea Spare* (Sound Designer). Felix will be designing *Tall Enough* at the Merle Reskin Theatre this spring.

**Madison Blevins-Harrison** [she/her] (*Wig and Makeup Coordinator*) BFA2/ Wig & Makeup Design and Technology. Madison is an artist from Tacoma, Washington. Her recent Theatre school credits include *Mess Fest Comedy Festival* (Wig Technician). This will be her first show at the Theatre School fulfilling the role of Wig and Makeup Coordinator.

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Lorraine M. Evanoff .....	Linda Sieracki
Whitney A. Lasky .....	Richard Sieracki
Tamara L. Meyer .....	Monsignor Kenneth Vello
Irene Michaels .....	Tomer Yogev

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

Paula Cale Lisbe .....	Criss Henderson
Glenn Davis .....	Paul Konrad
Scott L. Ellis .....	Amy Pietz
Samantha Falbe .....	John C. Reilly
Scott Falbe .....	Charlayne Woodward
Zach Helm .....	Dennis Zacek

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Merle Reskin
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## Vision Statement

The Theatre School  
Provides the Best  
Theatre Training  
in the Country



# OUR 2021-2022 SEASON

IN THE WATTS THEATRE

## **MessFest Comedy Festival**

directed by Liz Joynt Sandberg  
October 29-November 7, 2021

## **Fefu and Her Friends**

by Maria Irene Fornes  
directed by Mallory Metoxen  
February 11-20, 2022  
(Previews 2/9 & 2/10)

## **Meeting Points**

by McLennan  
directed by Megan Carney  
May 20-29, 2022  
(previews 5/18 & 5/19)

IN THE HEALY THEATRE

## **Everybody**

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins  
directed by Christine Freije  
October 15-24, 2021  
(previews 10/13 & 10/14)

## **Detroit '67**

by Dominique Morisseau  
directed by Phyllis E. Griffin  
January 28-February 6, 2022  
(Previews 1/26 & 1/27)

## **Much Ado About Nothing**

by William Shakespeare  
directed by Rebecca Willingham  
May 6-15, 2022  
(previews 5/4 & 5/5)

CHICAGO PLAYWORKS FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG AUDIENCES

## **Squirrel Girl Goes to College: A Squirrel Girl Play**

by Karen Zacarías  
based on the Marvel Comics by Will Murray & Steve Ditko  
directed by Michelle Lopez-Rios  
January 18-February 19, 2022

## **Tall Enough**

by Gloria Bond Clunie  
directed by Chris Anthony  
April 19-May 21, 2022

THE  
**THEATRE  
SCHOOL**  
AT DePaul University