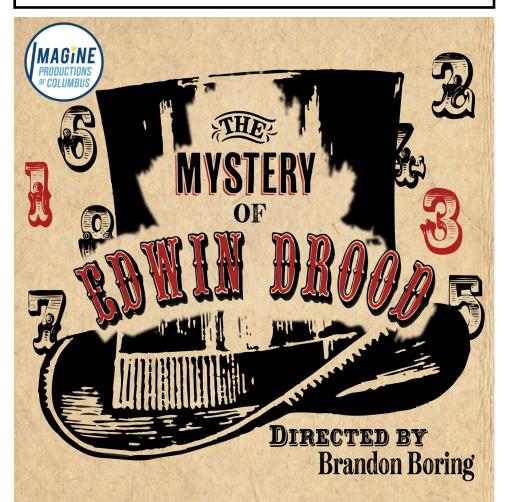
# PLAYBILL



VAN FLEET THEATRE • NOVEMBER 10-19, 2023



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## **Imagine Productions**

**Presents** 

# THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

#### A musical by Rupert Holmes

The New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer

#### Featuring:

Bart Smith, Eva Scherrer, Laura Overby, Chris Rusen, Lexi Vestey, J'Von Jones, Nadia Marshall, Scott Landis-Wilson, Mitch Kahn, Thor Collard, Sarina Hyland, Garrett Koesters, Karen Cook Sahlin, Alexa Rybinski, Isabella Audia, Nicholas Lindsey, Kam McCleur, Anita McFarren, Mae Messersmith, Jered Shaffer

#### **Directed by Brandon Boring**

**Music Directed by Brian Horne** 

**Choreographed by Jenny Small** 

Originally Produced on Broadway by The New York Shakespeare Festival Joseph Papp, Producer

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD IS PRESENTED by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.

www.concordtheatricals.com

#### --The Cast-

The east	
Chairman/Mr. William Cartwright	Bart Smith
Edwin Drood/Miss Alice Nutting	Eva Scherrer
Rosa Bud/Miss Deirdre Peregrine	Laura Overby
John Jasper/Mr. Clive Paget	Chris Rusen
Princess Puffer/Miss Angela Prysock	Lexi Vestey
Neville Landless./Mr. Victor Grinstead	J'Von Jones
Helena Landless/Miss Janet Conover	Nadia Marshall
Reverend Crisparkle/Mr. Cedric Moncrieffe	Scott Landis-Wilson
Bazzard/Mr. Phillip Bax	Mitch Kahn
Durdles/Mr.Nick Cricker	Thor Collard
Deputy/Master Nick Cricker	Sarina Hyland
Mr. James Throttle	Garrett Koesters
Wendy/Miss Christine Lyon	Karen Cook Sahlin
Beatrice./Miss Gwendelon Pynn	Alexa Rybinski
Miss Violet Balfour	Isabella Audia
Ensemble	Nicholas P. Lindsey
Ensemble	Kam McCleur
Flo/Miss Florence Gill	Anita McFarren
Ensemble	Mae Messersmith
Ensemble	Jered Shaffer
Brandon Boring	Director
Brian Horne	
Jenny Small	
Emily English	
Matthew Phillips	_
Kurt Mueller	0 0 0
Alexa Rybinski	
D.C. Simpson	
Noelle Lansford	
Assistant Choreographer	
Additional Choreography	
Dialect Coach	
Fight Choreographer	Leo Santucci

Content Warning: The Mystery of Edwin Drood is first and foremost a silly show and handles its dark topics with a light touch. However, it does include depictions of imperialism, drug use, sexual harassment, and murder.

#### - Musical Numbers —

### DROOD WILL RUN ABOUT 2 AND A HALF HOURS INCLUDING A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

#### ACT 1

There You Are	Chairman & Company
Two Kinsmen	Drood & Jasper
Moonfall	Rosa
The Wages of Sin	Puffer
Jasper's Vision	Ballet
A British SubjectHelena, Neville	e, Drood, Rosa, Crisparkle, with Ensemble
Both Sides of the Coin	Jasper & Chairman, with Ensemble
Perfect Strangers	Drood & Rosa
No Good Can Come from Bad	Neville, Rosa, Helena, Drood,
	Crisparkle, Jasper, & Bazzard
Never the Luck	Bazzard with Ensemble
Off to the RacesChar	iman, Durdles, & Deputy, with Company
· ·	ACT 2
England Reigns	Chairman & Ensemble
England Reigns	· · · ·
England ReignsA Private Investigation	Chairman & Ensemble
England ReignsA Private InvestigationThe Name of Love & Moonfall [Repris	Datchery & Puffer with Ensemble
England ReignsA Private Investigation The Name of Love & Moonfall [Repris Don't Quit While You're Ahead	Datchery & Puffer with Ensemble e]Rosa & Jasper with Company
England Reigns  A Private Investigation  The Name of Love & Moonfall [Repris Don't Quit While You're Ahead  The Garden Path to Hell	Datchery & Puffer with Ensemble e]Rosa & Jasper with Company Puffer & Company
England Reigns	Datchery & Puffer with Ensemble e]Rosa & Jasper with Company Puffer & Company Puffer
England Reigns  A Private Investigation  The Name of Love & Moonfall [Repris Don't Quit While You're Ahead  The Garden Path to Hell  Puffer's Revelation  Out on a Limerick	Chairman & EnsembleDatchery & Puffer with Ensemble e]Rosa & Jasper with CompanyPuffer & CompanyPufferPuffer
England Reigns	Datchery & Puffer with Ensemble e]Rosa & Jasper with CompanyPuffer & CompanyPufferPuffer

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#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is a show that, as soon as I saw it, lodged itself in my brain and refused to leave. The first time I saw it performed was by Off the Lake Productions at OSU in 2012. I loved the energy and the multiple choice ending so much that I saw that production three separate times. And I shamelessly bullied the audience around me to get the outcomes I wanted on my final viewing. I would apologize, but I got the votes I wanted so it was totally worth it. (Feel free to lobby your fellow audience members during our show today!)

This is a show that is not as widely known, (despite winning the Tony Award for Best Musical) but the people who know this show tend to love it. I had the occasion to tell Betsy Wolfe that I loved her performance as Rosa Bud in the most recent Broadway revival, and she immediately lit up and proceeded to have a whole conversation about the show with me. I find it has infectious energy, delightful music, and the audience's choice of one of 411 unique endings is unlike anything a major musical has done before or since.

While there are some touching and genuine moments, and it does satirize serious topics, this is a musical that is first and foremost about fun. It has been a blast watching this cast come together and make their own version of this show. It had wormed its way into my head before, but thanks to this cast and crew, it will forever hold a place in my heart. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. And don't forget, you can always come see us again and find out what other endings there could be!

Brandon Boring
Director



Isabella Audia—she/her (Ensemble/Miss Violet Balfour) is so excited to taking part in her first show with Imagine! Some past credits include Ms. Fleming (Heathers, Off the Lake Productions), Tiblyn (Firebringer, Cyclodrama), and Ms. Meyers (Freaky Friday, Off the Lake Productions). By day, Isabella works as a traffic/transportation engineer. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support!



**Brandon Boring**—he/him (Director) is excited to return to helm his sixth show with Imagine. Previous works with Imagine include Assassins and Brian Horne's Second to Sherlock. He also directed Something Rotten earlier this year with Gallery Players. You can see him performing with TBD: the Improvised Musical. Thanks and love to the cast and crew for their amazing work!



Thor Collard—he/him (Durdles/Mr. Nick Cricker) is all enthuzimuzzy to be back with Imagine, after last appearing 7 times around as Erronius in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. He is quite a-tingle to be playing the nanty-narking role of Durdles. What's the scuttlebutt? Well he has been in a plethora of shows around Central Ohio in the past dozen years or so. He hopes watching Drood will make you all a-gigglemug! All my love and thanks to my wife Annie for her support!



Karen Cook Sahlin—she/her (Wendy/Miss Christine Lyon) is thrilled to make her Imagine debut! Recent appearances include Pirates of Penzance (Mabel), The Sound of Music (Elsa Schrader), The Secret Garden (Claire), and The Music Man (Marian). When not on stage, Karen loves reading, traveling, and being with her family. Much love and thanks to Trent, Everett, and Leah for their unending support!



Emily English - she/her (Stage Manager) is excited to return once again Imagine for The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Other local theatre credits include Grease (ASM), Rumors (ASM), Godspell (SM), First Date (SM), Assassins (SM), and Disaster! The Musical (SM). She has also been involved in productions of The Rimers of Eldritch, I Didn't Know That, and Rebel Without a Cause. By day (and sometimes by night), she is a marketing coordinator at BHDP Architecture in downtown Columbus and shares her heart and home with her hot-mess of a pup, Ziga.



Brian Horne—he/him (Mr. Thomas Purcell, Music Director) is thrilled as always to be working with Imagine and with Brandon, especially on what has been one of his favorite musicals ever since he played Throttle's Assistant during his freshman year of high school. Previous Imagine credits include PIPPIN (Music Director), ASSASSINS (Hinckley), SWEENEY TODD (Pirelli), and, of course, writing and composing SECOND TO SHERLOCK (original cast album now available on Bandcamp!) Shoutout to the immensely talented (and constantly hilarious) cast and crew for making this as fun and amazing as he hoped it would be! Purcell raises a glass of heavy liquor to you!



Sarina Hyland - she/her (Deputy/Master Nick Cricker) is excited to be back with Imagine! Most recently you may have seen her in 35MM (Voice 2), Assassins (ensemble), Cabaret (Sally Bowles), and Ride the Cyclone (Jane Doe). She studied at Ohio State University and currently works for Cardinal Health. She is a silly little guy. She would like to thank her family, friends, and her boyfriend Mitch for their love and support, it means the world.

Mitch Kahn—he/him (Bazzard/Mr. Phillip Bax) is back on stage for his fourth show with Imagine! His previous credits include Lewis (Pippin), Juror #7 (Assassins), and Herr Schultz (Cabaret). When not on stage, you can find Mitch firing cannons for the Columbus Blue Jackets! Mitch would like to thank his friends, family, and his girl-friend Sarina for their love and support.

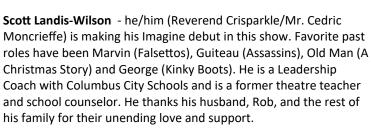
J'Von Jones—he/him (Neville Landless) J'Von Jones is a 21 year old actor and musician born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. The Mystery of Edwin Drood is the first show he has done with Imagine. J'Von has most recently been credited as a supernumerary in Carmen with Opera Columbus and looks forward to working with the Contemporary Theater in 2024. In addition to his passion for music and theatre, J'Von loves to cook, watch movies and meet new people. He would like to thank God for his grace, mercy, and his love.



Garrett Koesters—he/him (Mr. James Throttle/Ensemble) Haunting the stage once again, Garrett is proud to be performing the role of Mr. James Throttle, Stage Manager for this fine English Music Hall. A 2016 Graduate of Capital University, he would like to take this moment to say thank you to all the wonderful teachers and mentors who have supported him over the years. In particular, he would like to dedicate this performance to his grandparents. You are both dearly missed. This one is for you.



**Noelle Lansford**—she/her (Assistant Stage Manager) is looking forward to supporting this incredible cast behind the scenes. She is excited for everyone to see the show and all the hard work of the team.





Nicholas P. Lindsey—he/him (Ensemble) is so excited to be back with Imagine for another exciting show! Recent credits include ensemble member in Disaster! and choreographer for Pippin! as well as Robin in Something Rotten with Gallery Players. He'd like to thank Brandon and the entire production team, the Imagine board members and my family, friends and partner for their never-ending support. IFDA



Nadia Marshall—she/her (Helena Landless/Miss Janet Conover) is excited to for her first production with Imagine! Her recent credits include Mrs. Lovett (Sweeney Todd), Elsa Schraeder (The Sound of Music), and Lily (The Secret Garden). Off stage, Nadia works as a voice actor and soprano in her own business, Voices by Nadia. She would like to thank her family, friends, coaches and mentors, and this great cast for their support!



Kam McCluer—she/they (Ensemble) is thrilled to return to the Imagine stage! She was recently seen as the Velociraptor of Innocence (Triassic Parq), Linda (Evil Dead), and Jemilla (Firebringer). When she is not onstage, Kam is a 3rd grade teacher at the Ohio State School for the Blind. She would like to thank her friends, family, and especially her partner Angel for taking care of their swarm of cats while she is away at rehearsal. Enjoy the show!



Anita McFarren—she/her (Flo/Miss Florence Gill) is so excited to return to Imagine! Anita received her BA in Musical Theater from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Some of Anita's favorite roles include Red Herring's These Shining Lives (Charlotte) [Jebby Award Winner]; Tipping Point's Into the Breeches! (Maggie Dalton); Shadowbox Live's Chicago (Hunyak) and American Idiot (Heather); MadLab's Kitezh (Lily); Imagine Productions' The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Doatsey Mae); and CATCO's Life Sucks. (Ella). She also acts in local films and dabbles in runway modeling. By day, she is a Finance and Administration Specialist at Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits.



Mae Messersmith—she/her (Ensemble) is excited to be back on stage for the second time with Imagine! Her first show after moving to Ohio was Second to Sherlock, playing the role of revolutionary prostitute Judith. Outside of theater Mae runs an escape room in Polaris (Escape Artists) and spends time with her three fur baby's at home. She is excited for her Dad and Cousin to come from out of town to see the show!



**Kurt Mueller**—he/him (Lighting Designer) Kurt has been a lighting and sound designer in Columbus for several years and has worked with many companies in the area. His passion for theatre ignited when he returned to college in 2014 and took a theatre class at Columbus State Community College for a gen ed credit. He received his bachelor's degree in Theatre from The Ohio State University in 2018. Some of his most notable shows include Assassins (Imagine Productions,) Vincent (Red Herring Theater Co,) Into the Woods (Imagine Productions,) The Legend of Georgia McBride (Red Herring Theater Co,) and Something Rotten (Gallery Players.) Kurt won Theatre Roundtable awards for light design in 2016 (The Diviners Theater Columbus State) and 2020 (Newsies Gallery Players.) When he's not designing lights and sound Kurt DJs corporate events and weddings with his company D and M DJ Entertainment.

**Jess Ohler**—(Assistant Choreographer) is making her Imagine debut. She has choreographed for other community theatres throughout the Columbus community.



Laura Overby—she/her (Rosa Bud/Miss Deirdre Peregrin) is so excited to be part of her first show with Imagine! some of her past work include Sarah (Ragtime - CCT), Regina George (Mean Girls - OMTI), And Anastasia (Anastasia - LHS). She enjoys being crafty during her free time. Thank you to all of the family and friends who have supported in her theatre journey!



Matthew Phillips—he/him (Set Designer) is thrilled to work with the Drood team. Prior credits include Emcee (Cabaret), Carrie (Ensemble), Second to Sherlock (Ripper, Ensemble), Sondheim on Sondheim (Ensemble), Something Rotten (Nigel), and Shrek the Musical (Pinocchio). As always, he is grateful for the many irreplaceable relationships and lifelong memories he has formed through Columbus theatre. The support of his friends and family means a great deal.



Chris Rusen— he/him (John Jasper/Mr. Clive Paget) is thrilled to return for his third annual fall Imagine/Brandon show, following Assassins (Balladeer) and Second to Sherlock (Daniel Calloway). A Theatre Roundtable, BroadwayWorld, and Jebby Award winner, he's been seen in lots of shows at lots of theatres over the last lots of years. Hopefully you enjoyed them. Big thanks to Brandon, Emily, Brian, Jenny, and all the members of the production team for their hard work behind the scenes, and to his lovely wife, Kristen, who can be seen in CCT's Mr. Scrooge.



Alexa Rybninski—she/her (Beatrice/Miss Gwendolen Pynn, Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working again with Imagine! Previous Imagine shows: First Date (Casey), A Funny Thing Happened... (Philia), The Wild Party (Kate), Spring Awakening (Wendla), and Xanadu (Polyhymnia). Other favorite roles include: Shrek (Fiona), Mary Poppins (Mary), Cabaret (Sally Bowles), Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Cinderella), Seussical (Gertrude), Into the Woods (Baker's Wife), and Hairspray (Penny). She has helped costume several shows including 9-5, Second to Sherlock, and Assassins with Imagine, and has played viola in the pit for CATCO, CCT, HAC, LTOB, and SNS.

**Leo Santucci**—(Fight Choreographer) is excited to work on Drood. He has been seen at Actors Theatre as Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet, and MadLab as Howard Hughes in When Hedy Met Howie. He is an actor-combatant with the SAFD, and semi-competitive swordsperson.



**Eva Scherrer**—she/they (Edwin Drood/Miss Alice Nutting) is so excited to be returning to Imagine! She is a recent graduate of OSU with a degree in history and political science. Her previous credits include Marianne Dashwood (Sense and Sensibility), Veronica Sawyer (Heathers), and Carrie White (Carrie). She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!!!



Jered Shaffer—he/him (Ensemble) is thrilled to be working with Imagine again! Maybe you've seen him in other productions this year including Sweeney Todd (Company - Curtain Players), Disaster! (Scott - Imagine) and The SpongeBob Musical (Old Man Jenkins - Columbus Children's Theater). He also performs regularly with the Columbus Gay Mens Chorus and Vox. Jered hopes those reading this enjoy the show (but also those that don't read this too) and sends a "Break a leg" to the cast and crew! @jeredshaffer



Jenny Small—she/her (Choreographer) has enjoyed working on her third production with Imagine! Her most recent choreography has been seen in Beauty and the Beast and Guys and Dolls with Pickerington Community Theatre and Little Shop of Horrors with Wagnalls Community Theatre. She was most recently seen on stage in the Foreigner with Pickerington Community Theatre. Jenny cannot wait for this talented group to be in front of an audience!

Bart Smith—he/him (The Chairman/Mr. William Cartwright) is over-the-moon excited to be premiering with Imagine Productions as your Chairman! Bart has been singing for central Ohio theatre and opera audiences for nearly 40 years. Favorite roles have included Judge Turpin (Sweeney Todd), Dr. Craven (Secret Garden), Gaston (Beauty and the Beast), and King Arthur (Spamalot!). Bart is unapologetically passionate about his family, his friends, and all things nerdy.



Madhavi Sudhir—(Additional Choreography) hails from Southern part of India, a city called Bengaluru, Karnataka. She moved to America almost two decades ago with her husband. She is the Founder/ Director of Natyapriya dance school in Columbus, Ohio. Holding a Diploma in dance she is well versed in both Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi Classical dance forms from India. Along with her students she has presented multiple Theatrical Dance productions in both Indian mythological and modern themes. She has conceptualized, Choreographed and performed for individual classical pieces, Indian folk, and Bollywood songs. In Music she has learnt Carnatic Indian classical singing and did theater acting at her school plays. Apart from English language she is fluent in different languages from India such as Hindi, Telugu, Kannada and Tamil. She has worked in the IT sector as a Software Quality assurance. An undergraduate in Bachelors of Business Management, she loves to work with different artistic Folks on projects which can utilize her potential to enhance each other's work.



Lexi Vestey—she/they (Princess Puffer/Miss Angela Prysock) is thrilled to be back for her sixth show with Imagine Productions! She was most recently in 'Assassins' (Charles Guiteau), and was in 'Second to Sherlock' as Moriarty, for which she won a Jebby Award for Supporting Actress in a Musical. By reading this, you are agreeing to vote for her for one of the audience choices in this performance. Too late, sorry. It's binding now. You should've stopped reading when you had the chance. Break this pact at your own peril. Enjoy the show!



Colton Weiss—he/they (Dialect Coach) is an actor, teacher, scholar, and dialect coach based in Columbus, Ohio. During the day, he works at The Ohio State University as an Academic Advisor and Lecturer. Outside of OSU, he offers private coaching and training through his business (CW Coaching). Colton has worked on and off stage in productions ranging from Broadway level musical theater and classic opera to outdoor Shakespeare. Favorite credits include: Actors' Theatre of Columbus (Robin Hood, Sense and Sensibility, et. al 23' Season), Opera Columbus (Verdi's Rigoletto with the Columbus Symphony), Worthington Community Theatre (Matilda), and A.R.T.@Oberon (Violet the Musical - Dir. Sammi Cannold). Colton's creative interests include dialect coaching for musical theater and mental health advocacy for the performing arts (Mental Health First Aid and Theatrical Intimacy Education). He is a proud graduate of Ohio State and A.R.T./Harvard University and member of MTEA and VASTA. Coltonweiss.com.

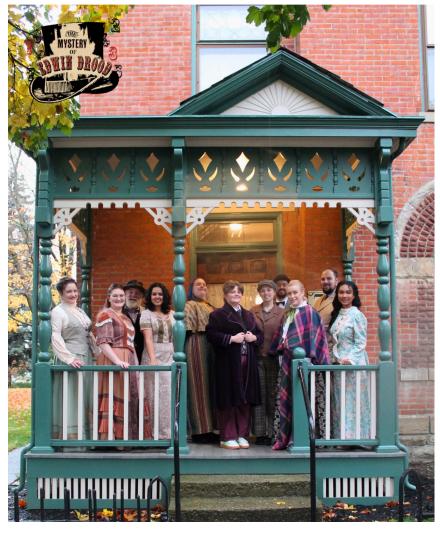




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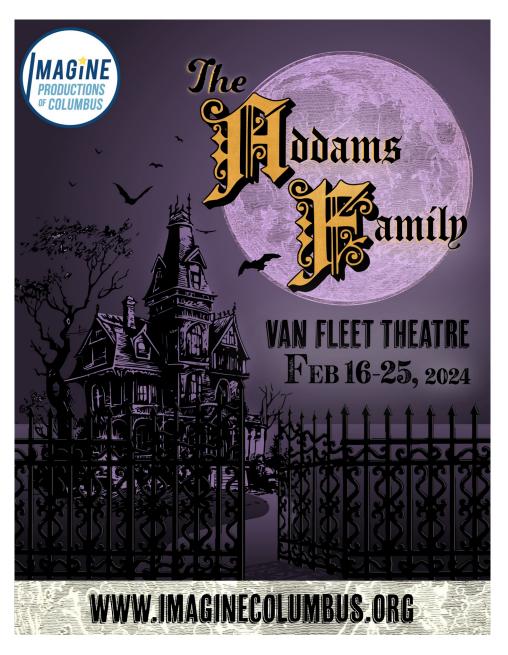


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