

WILKES UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Offering degrees in:
Theatre Arts, BA
Musical Theatre, BFA
Theatre Design and Technology, BFA

Wilkes University



“Like” us on Facebook and Instagram for up to the minute news about Wilkes University Theatre!



Special Thanks to:

Maryellen Sloat, Lynne Esgro, Wilkes Marketing and Communications, Brad Berry, Carrie Marko, and the Creative & Performing Arts Academy of NEPA

WILKES
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE

2025



VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE

BY
CHRISTOPHER DURANG

*The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
for the Performing Arts*

October 2, 3, 4 at 8PM
October 4, 5 at 2PM

Next up at the “Darte”

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE

a modern day musical love story



I LOVE YOU BECAUSE is a charming, musical reimaging of PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, set against the backdrop of bustling New York City. This witty and heartfelt musical follows an uptight, rule-bound greeting card writer whose world is upended when he meets a free-spirited photographer with a mind of her own. As their unlikely romance unfolds—mirroring the sparks and clashes of Austen’s beloved characters—they navigate love, misunderstandings, and the meddling of their delightfully eccentric friends and siblings.

November 13-16, 2025

About the Playwright **Christopher Durang**

Christopher Durang is the master of irony and especially black satire. Many flock to his plays for their wicked humor that often touches on serious topics such as alcoholism, mental illness, divorce, disease, and religion. Not only are audiences usually guaranteed a laugh, but also a wise and witty insight into the human condition.

When he was eight years old, Durang wrote his own two-page version of an *I Love Lucy* episode, and a teacher at his Catholic grade school let his class perform it one afternoon instead of doing geography. “I got to choose the cast and ‘direct,’” Durang said in a 1987 interview with *BOMB Magazine*. “My fellow eight-year-olds laughed at the play, and I thought, ‘Yes, playwriting is for me!’” Encouragement from teachers continued in prep school. He wrote a musical with his friend at the age of 13, and the drama department put on the full-length show. This kind of support gave Durang a special appreciation for teachers. “I was fortunate with many wonderful teachers,” he has said. “I get so upset when people in the country bad-mouth teachers and seem angry that they want to make a living wage.”

Durang went on to receive a B.A. in English from Harvard and an M.F.A. in playwriting from Yale School of Drama. While at Yale, he had several of his plays presented at the school. His first professional production was *The Idiots Karamazov* in 1974, which was co-written with a fellow student and starred then Yale Drama student Meryl Streep as a nutty, 80-year-old woman.

In 1978, Durang premiered on Broadway with *A History of the American Film*, which earned him a Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical. The playwright had another success the next year with *Das Lusitania Songspiel*, which was co-written and co-performed with Durang’s Yale classmate and friend Sigourney Weaver—who would later go on to star as the aging actress Masha in the original production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. *Das Lusitania Songspiel* was performed as a late-night off-Broadway satirical review and became a cult success. Durang and Weaver were both nominated for Drama Desk Awards for Best performer in a Musical.

Durang continued to have a prominent career both as a playwright and actor. In 1985, he won Obie Awards for writing and acting in one of his most successful plays, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, a black comedy that dissected marriage and family in a scathing yet humorous tone.

In 1987, he served as a staff writer for the ABC special *Carol and Robin and Whoopi and Carl*, which starred comedic heavyweights Carol Burnett, Robin Williams, Whoopi Goldberg and Carl Reiner. That same year, Durang appeared in the film *The Secret Of My Success*, starring Michael J. Fox, playing a put-upon executive named Davis. Durang wrote much of his own dialogue. That year Durang’s hilarious and absurd play *Laughing Wild* premiered on off- Broadway.

Setting

The play is set in the present day in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in a farm house Vanya and his step-sister Sonia have lived in all their lives. They jointly took care of their ailing, doddering parents for many years while their movie star sister Masha was gallivanting around the world, having a life. The play takes place on a weekend when Masha shows up with a new twenty something boy toy named Spike.

Vanya, Masha and Sonia were named after Chekhov characters by their college professor parents. And the play, which is a mix of comedy and drama, takes Chekhovian characters and themes, mixes them up and puts them in a blender.

ACT ONE

Scene 1: morning

Scene 2: that evening

ACT TWO

Scene 1: later that night

Scene 2: the next morning

Scene 3: a short time later

Scene 4: later that afternoon

About the Play

The play was written on commission from the McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey, and then it became a co-production of the McCarter and The Lincoln Center Theater in New York City. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* earned unanimous acclaim in its 2013 Broadway debut; awards included the Tony Award for Best Play, the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best Play, the Drama League Award for Best Production of a Play, the Drama Desk Award for Best Play, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Production and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Play.

This production runs 150 minutes with a ten-minute intermission.



Setting: Modern Day, Bucks County, PA

As a courtesy to our performers and those around you, we ask that you kindly turn off all noise-making and illuminating devices during the performance. And please, no food or beverage is permitted in the theatre.

Enjoy the show!

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Sound Design and Original Music by Mark Bennett

Cast

Vanya.....Alby Lopuhovsky
 Sonia.....Elena DiSciullo
 Cassandra.....Sarah Pugliese
 Masha.....Gabrielle Greffen
 Spike.....Antonio Torres
 Nina.....Charley Cain

Creative Team

Director Jon Liebetrau
Scenic & Lighting Design Debra P. Holmes
Technical Director Lee Corcoran-Michaels
Costume Design Bonnie Hall
Assistant Technical Director Spencer Shotto
Intimacy Director Sean Patrick Gibbons
Scenic Charge Lee Corcoran-Michaels
Production Stage Manager Samantha Gashi
Asst. Stage Manager Gabrielle Howe
Asst. Stage Manager Abby Olander

Production Team

Director Jon Liebetrau
Scenic & Lighting Design Debra P. Holmes
Technical Director Lee Corcoran-Michaels
Costume Design Bonnie Hall
Assistant Technical Director Spencer Shotto
Intimacy Director Sean Patrick Gibbons
Scenic Charge Lee Corcoran-Michaels
Production Stage Manager Sammie Gashi
Asst. Stage Manager Gabbi Howe
Asst. Stage Manager Abby Olander
Intimacy Captain Charley Cain
Light Board Programmer Ryan Starr
Light Board Operator Jacob Cintronelle
Sound Board Operator Evan Cole
Sound A2 Melissa Reyes
Sound FX Operators Isabella Mendez, John Quick
Props Coordinator/Usher Hope Jacobus
Wardrobe LeadCarolynn Jewell
Wardrobe Run Lavender Ibrahim, Cally Williams, Elias Brix, Maddie Meier, Caitlin Barton, Ella Villani, Noah Dixon, Mila Smith
House Manager Caleb Flannery
Ushers Kaiden Harris, Rocco Pugliese, Sarina Rowe, Liv Serkosky
Box Office Assistant Ariana Gardner
Box Office Manager Maryellen Sloat
Marketing/Production Public Relations Jon Liebetrau

Sets/Paint/Lights

John Quick
 Maddie Meier
 Caleb Flannery
 Jacob Cintronelle
 Noah Dixon
 Ella Villani
 Caitlin Barton
 Kaiden Harris
 Samantha Gashi
 Ariana Gardner
 Antonio Torres
 Abby Olander

Sets/Paint/Lights

Lavender Ibrahim
 Rocco Pugliese
 Evan Cole
 Sarah Pugliese
 Albert Lopuhovsky
 Gabrielle Howe
 Gabrielle Greffen
 Nxy Mercado
 Sarina Rowe
 Jacob Cintronelle
 Liv Serkosky
 Isabella Mendez

Sets/Paint/Lights

Ryan Starr
 Melissa Reyes

Sets/Props

Hope Jacobus
 Elena DiSciullo
 Charley Cain

Costumes

Elias Brix
 Mila Smith
 Carolynn Jewell
 Cally Williams