



COMPASS ROSE THEATER

Pride & Prejudice

by Jane Austen

Adapted by Emma Whipday



Directed by Madeline Austin

November 14 – December 14, 2025

Our Mission

Executive Director Barbara Webber leads Compass Rose Theater, along with Artistic Director Madeline Austin. Established in 2011 by Lucinda Merry-Browne, Compass Rose is a critically acclaimed professional theater and nonprofit teaching organization in Annapolis. It is rooted in the belief that theater education creates performance excellence. Our theater's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest artistic and educational standards is at the heart of every presentation, whether it's a play, musical, reading, workshop, or class.

Compass Rose Theater has produced more than 50 shows, garnering eight Helen Hayes Award nominations and numerous Helen Hayes Award Recommendations.

We believe that diversity and inclusion enrich our creativity and broaden our world. At our core is our devotion and unwavering commitment to producing plays of superb quality and richness, and hiring accomplished professional artists and talented students for our productions.

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From Our Executive Director

It's been a wonderful year for Compass Rose, with Helen Hayes Award Recommendations for all our 2025 shows so far! We have to wait until 2026 to hear if we've been nominated (as we were with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). Our Compass Rose Theater team is proud to create critically acclaimed performances that entertain, educate, and uplift audience members of all ages.

We are dedicated to sparking creativity, learning, and connection through intimate, immersive theater. On behalf of our staff, board, volunteers, and artists, welcome to our exciting 2025–26 season!

Today, you will enjoy a fresh new look at *Pride & Prejudice* by U.K.-based Emma Whipday. It's a witty, fast-paced take on Jane Austen's classic romance - just in time for Jane Austen's 250th birthday.

In February, we bring you a bold new production of *Rent* to be presented in association with Anne Arundel Community College (while Maryland Hall undergoes renovation). Among the many talented *Rent* cast members is a former contestant from *The Voice* (John Legend's team). The music and story are sure to touch your heart.

We close the season with *Compass Rose Cabaret*, celebrating 15 years of Compass Rose favorites, hosted at Unity by the Bay in Annapolis. April 10th (opening night), we plan a pre-show mini-gala. We'll take the opportunity to recognize our founder, Lucinda Merry Browne, for bringing a professional teaching theater with an educational mission to the heart of Annapolis.

Whether you attend a show, enjoy a class, volunteer, or donate, you are a vital part of what makes Compass Rose shine, and we appreciate you! Thank you for being with us. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

With Gratitude,



Please help us continue offering award-winning shows and exceptional educational programming by making a tax-deductible donation to Compass Rose Theater, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, since 2011.

Compass Rose Theater Presents

Pride & Prejudice

Based on the Book by Jane Austen

Adaptated by Emma Whipday

Director

Madeline Austin

Musical Director

Jack Benedict

Cast

Mr. Wickham	Matthew Beagan
Mrs. Bennet/Lady Catherine	Katie Rey Bogdan
Caroline Bingley/Housekeeper	Lilly Burchfield
Mr. Bennet/Sir Lucas	Matthew Crawford
Elizabeth Bennet	Caleigh Riordan Davis
Mr. Darcy	Gaven Heglar
Mr. Bingley	Joshua Ikotun
Mr. Collins	Elvis Karageya
Kitty Bennet/Charlotte Lucas	Emma Magner
Jane Bennet	Molly Marsh
Lydia Bennet	Leah Senseney
Mary Bennet/Mrs. Gardiner	Peri Walker

Production/Creative Team

Producer	Barbara Webber
Director	Madeline Austin
Stage Manager	Kaela A.C. Wilson
Lighting Designer	Marianne Meadows
Set Designer	August Henney
Costume Designer	Ilana Mongilio
Assistant Costume Designer	Ali Saffell
Prop Designer	Kristi Machemer
Sound Designer	Jack Benedict
Photographer	Joshua Hubbell
Construction	Sean Flaherty

Pride & Prejudice is presented through a special arrangement with Emma Whipday, adaptor of the book of the same name by Jane Austen. Originally produced in Staunton, Virginia by the American Shakespeare Center on 1 February 2024.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Jane Austen, Author

Jane Austen (1775–1817) was an English novelist known primarily for her six novels, which implicitly interpret, critique, and comment upon the British landed gentry of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Her novels include the anonymously published *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816), followed by *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1818. Austen began the novel that was eventually titled *Sanditon*, but died before its completion. She also left behind three volumes of early works, the short epistolary novel *Lady Susan*, and the unfinished novel *The Watsons*. Her novels have inspired many films, including *Pride and Prejudice* (1940), *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), and *Love & Friendship* (2016). 2025 marks Austen's 250th birthday, celebrated worldwide.

Adaptor

Emma Whipday is a playwright and Shakespeare scholar. She has adapted three Austen novels for the stage: *Pride and Prejudice* (originally for the American Shakespeare Center, 2024); *Emma* (ASC, 2019); and *Sense and Sensibility* (with Brian McMahon, 2017; revived at the ASC for summer 2025). Other plays include *The Defamation of Cicely Lee*, which won the ASC's Shakespeare's New Contemporaries award 2019, and *Shakespeare's Sister* (Samuel French, 2016), which won the Theatre Royal Haymarket's Masterclass *Pitch Your Play* award and received its international premiere at the ASC; it has been performed at universities, drama schools, and high schools internationally. Emma is Senior Lecturer in Renaissance Literature at Newcastle University, England; her book *Shakespeare's Domestic Tragedies* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) won the Shakespeare's Globe Book Award (2020). Emma also wrote the introduction to the new Oxford World's Classics *Measure for Measure*.

***A special thank you to the
Compass Rose Theater Board of
Directors and Volunteers, who greatly
contribute to our mission!***

Creative Team

Madeline Austin (Director/Artistic Director) recently directed Compass Rose Theater's Helen Hayes recommended hit, *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has directed numerous shows in New York for Ensemble Studio Theatre's Writer Lab, Manhattan Theatre Source, and Polaris North. Locally, she directed *Clue: On Stage*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Twelfth Night* for AACC Theatre. She is an Off-Broadway producer: credits include *Maybe Baby*, *It's You*, *The Invested*, *Stealing Sweets and Punching People*, and *Spin Off*. She is the former Executive Director of The Shakespeare Society and currently an education and creative associate for Creative Women NY. A classically trained actress with a B.A. in Theatre Arts, she teaches acting at AACC. Affiliations: Commercial Theater Institute; Artistic Advisor, Naked Angels NY; SAG-AFTRA, and AEA. www.madelineaustin.com

Jack Benedict (Musical Director) is an actor, musician, director, and composer. His musical credits include Composer/Pianist, *Spin Off*, Off-Off Broadway; Music Director, *Little Shop of Horrors* and the upcoming *Compass Rose Cabaret*; Conductor, *Escape to Margaritaville*, ASGT; 2nd Pianist, *My Fair Lady*, Annapolis Shakespeare Co., and keyboardist for *The Wild Party*, Other Voices Theatre. Jack is a Cappies of Baltimore Critic Award Winner for Orchestra, *School of Rock*, a Critic Award Nominee for *Oklahoma*, and a nominee for Best Male Vocalist in *Mamma Mia* (Sam) at SPHS. Acting roles include *King Lear* (King Lear), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don John), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), MD Shakespeare Players, and the upcoming new musical *Evil Librarian* (Mr. Gabriel), Landless Theatre Company. He holds a B.S. in Economics and a minor in Japanese from the University of Maryland (UMD) and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Applied Economics.

August Henney (Set Designer) has received an M.F.A. in scenic design from the University of Maryland and a B.S. in Human Physiology and Theatre Arts at the University of Oregon. August's previous production roles include scenic designer for *So Late into the Night* and *The Figs* at Rorschach Theatre Company, *Flyin' West* at Prince Georges Community College, *A Game of Love and Chance* at American University, *Metamorphoses* at University of Maryland, *In Pieces* at American University, *Henri IV, Part 1* at American University, *Florencia En El Amazonas* at University of Maryland, *Once* at University of Oregon, assistant to scenic designer Timothy Mackabee for multiple productions including *Natasha*, *Pierre* & *The Great Comet of 1812* at Pittsburgh CLO and *Fosse* at the Minskoff at Vassar. augusthenneydesign.com

Marianne Meadows (Lighting Designer) is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, nominated four times for a Helen Hayes Award. She has a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and an M.F.A. from the University of Washington, with additional training from Lester Polakov's Studio and Forum of State Design NYC.

Ilana Mongilio (Costume Designer) is excited to make her professional design debut. She has previously worked as a costume designer on *The Lightning Thief* (32 Bars), *UMoves* (UMD TDPS), and as an assistant costume designer on *La Calisto* (Peabody Opera Institute), *Metamorphoses* (UMD TDPS), and *Florencio en las Amazonas* (UMD TDPS). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Kaela A.C. Wilson (Stage Manager) is excited to expand her Stage Management career at Compass Rose Theater with *Pride & Prejudice*. Some of the previous productions she's worked on are *The Winter's Tale* (ASC), *Sense & Sensibility* (ASC), *The Stranger* (PPT), and *Mary's Wedding* (PPT). She would like to thank her family for their love and acceptance of her career.

Lindsay Zetter (Choreographer) is the owner and Artistic Director of Academy Ballet School of Annapolis. She has been working as a professional choreographer since 2011. Productions include *Earnest in Love*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Cats*, *Grease*, *The Addams Family*, *Chicago*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Mamma Mia*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Bright Star*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Emma! A Pop Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Into the Woods*, *Mean Girls*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

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Cast



Matthew Beagan (Mr. Wickham) is an Actor/Musician based in Annapolis, MD. He recently graduated from Boston University with a B.F.A. in Acting and a B.A. in Mathematics. In the summers, he owns and operates the local food truck Smash Up Burgers. Check him out on Instagram @matthewbeagan_ @smashupburgers! Thank you to his family, and thank you to Madeline for this opportunity to play WICKHAM :) and everyone at Compass Rose who makes miracles happen in the theatre.



Katie Rey Bogdan (Mrs. Bennet/Lady Catherine) is making her Compass Rose debut. Recent credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Margaret/Dogberry) with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Pickersgill/Businessperson 3) with Chesapeake Shakespeare Factory, and *Spring Awakening* (Anna/u/s Adult Women) at Round House Theatre. She is an acting company member at the Maryland Renaissance Festival and the artistic associate for Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks. She would like to thank her family and friends (especially the Vagabonds and her Lassies) for their love and patience when she nerds out about her period dramas.



Lilly Burchfield (Caroline Bingley/Housekeeper) is so thankful to be a part of this production. Lilly is from Birmingham, AL, where she graduated from Samford University with a B.F.A. in musical theatre. Her previous roles include *Peter Pan* (*Peter Pan*), young Seward (*Macbeth*), Angelo (*Comedy of Errors*), and many characters at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. She is so thankful to her parents for their support throughout her career. Her mother imparted a love for Jane Austen and her heroines. This has been such a dream for Lilly. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Cast



Matthew Crawford (Mr. Bennet/Sir William Lucas) is a DMV actor, teaching artist, and fight director. You will often find him performing and/or stage fighting at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. He last performed at Compass Rose in *The Sneeze*, and Matthew was also recently fight director for *Little Shop of Horrors*, as well as intimacy director for *Proof*. He is the adjunct theatre teacher for PGCP's VPA program, a standardized patient, and teaching artist with several DMV theatres, including Compass Rose. Matthew furthers his training as a certified Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors.



Caleigh Riordan Davis (Lizzie Bennet) is delighted to be making her Compass Rose debut! Select credits include *Evil Dead The Musical* (Linda) with Workhouse Arts Center; *The Pliant Girls* (Arianna) with Theatre Prometheus; *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby) with Stagecoach Theatre Co.; *Lightning Thief* (Annabeth) & *Head Over Heels* (Philoclea) with Wildwood Summer Theatre; and Joan (Ensemble) with Fickle Theatre Co. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her. Education: American University, British American Drama Academy. Instagram: @caleigh_r_davis



Gaven Heglar (Mr. Darcy) is a 2025 Shenandoah Conservatory graduate and is excited to make his Post-College Theatrical Debut as Mr. Darcy in this production! Selected works include: Bright Star Touring Theatre's version of *Alice in Wonderland / The Wizard of Oz*, and as Trígórin in *The Seagull*. He's a small-town kid who was given a shot at his dreams, and he values a hard day's work, aspiring to work alongside like-minded individuals. He thanks God for his guidance, his family, and his loved ones for their support. Hope you enjoy the show! www.gaven.heglar.com. Instagram: @_heg_

Cast



Joshua O. Ikotun (Mr. Bingley) is excited to perform alongside the amazing cast and crew in this production of *Pride & Prejudice*. Joshua can be found on various stages within the Greater Baltimore and Washington, D.C. area. His most recent performances include *A Few Good Men*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Radium Girls*. His first shoutout and thanks go to God. He also wants to thank the continuous support of his close family and friends. Lastly, special appreciation goes to the directors, technicians, stage manager, and the wonderful castmates performing alongside him. Enjoy!



Elvis Karegeya (Mr. Collins) graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Theatre Arts. His previous roles include Theo in *Ceremonies of Dark Old Men* with AmaZing Theatre Company, Spike in *Vanya, Sonia, Marsha, and Spike* with Murfreesboro Little Theatre, and Asagai/Wale in *Beneatha's Place* with Verge Theatre Company. He has also worked as a director for *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* with Perform Murfreesboro. Elvis would like to thank his family and friends for their unending support.



Emma Magner is a recent graduate from the University of Mary Washington with a B.A. in Theatre. Her previous roles include *The Grown-Ups* (Becca) at Peregrine Theatre Company; *John Proctor is the Villain* (Raelynn Nix), *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror 3), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), and others at UMW Theatre. She is also a company member of Peregrine Theatre Company. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support.

Cast



Molly Marsh (Jane Bennet) is so excited to be making her professional performance debut with Compass Rose! She is a graduate of VCUarts Theatre. Previous performance credits include Orsino in *Twelfth Night* with Prague Shakespeare Company and Hamlet in Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre's production of *Hamlet*. Molly also works in the DMV as a director, and some recent productions include *Gutenberg the Musical!* with the City of Fairfax Theatre Company and *Twelfth Night* with STARS Performing Arts. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their love and support <3.



Leah Senseney (Lydia Bennet) is very grateful to be back in her hometown, making her Compass Rose Theatre debut. Favorite regional credits include Patty Simcox in *Grease*, Olive Ostrovsky in *Spelling Bee* (Media Theatre), and Brooke in *Goosebumps* (Walnut Street Theatre). Leah has performed with Candlelight Theatre, South Camden Theatre Co., McCarter Theatre Center, 11th Hour Theatre Co., Ritz Theatre Co., Storybook Musical Theatre, and Broadway Theatre of Pitman, N.J. B.A. in Vocal Performance from St. Mary's College of Maryland. This performance is dedicated to her mother, who was a great lover of books. www.leahsenseney.com



Peri Walker (Mary Bennet/Mrs. Gardiner) is making her Compass Rose Theater debut. Local credits include Charity in *Sweet Charity* (Bmore Broadway Live), Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Hermia in *Ill Met by Moonlight* (The Rude Mechanicals), Buckingham/others in *Henry VIII* (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory), and Persephone in the world premiere production of *Her, Across the River* (Rapid Lemon Productions). Peri also works locally as a stage manager and theatre technician.

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COMPASS ROSE THEATER

2025 - 2026 Season



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