



ADA AND THE ENGINE BY LAUREN (JUNDERSON)

FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 1, 2020 |

THURS, FRI, SAT @ 7:30P; SUN @ 2:00P



















OUR MISSION

DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh), an ensemble theatre company, works with professional artists to pursue impactful, live performance in our community of New Prague, Minnesota and the surrounding region.

OUR VISION

Our purpose is to decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota by increasing engagement and opportunity in New Prague and the surrounding area. It is our dream that New Prague will be a known destination for quality performing arts and arts education.

OUR STORY

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota.

New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experienced in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders.

"Daleko" — a Czech word meaning "far away" — reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



DalekoArts is a member of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



DalekoArts is a proud member of the Minnesota Theater Alliance.



Friends.

Augusta Ada Byron was born on December 10th, 1815 in London, the daughter of Lady Anabella Milbanke and Lord George Byron. (Yep--that Lord Byron...the free-spirited and rakish poet who was considered among the great literary geniuses of his age.) Ada would grow up a mathematician and a scientist, and she would create the path to modern computer coding through her work with engineer Charles Babbage and his Analytical Engine. In doing so, she would also pave the way for a future she couldn't possibly have imagined. Ada died of what we now know is uterine cancer, at the age of 36. Not much time to shape the future.

And yet.

I struggled with what to tell you about our journey with Ada, or to distill the poignancy of this script into a paragraph or two. I finally decided to let writer Lauren Gunderson tell you in her own words--she is, after all, our nation's most produced playwright. She must have some way with words. Here's how Act I, Scene I opens in the script:

"Augusta Ada Byron stands in a lushly appointed room of her and her mother's house in London. She is 18, perpetually curious, slightly odd, and in an hour will be attending one of her first society events...

...And while other girls would be primping, she works on her mathematics. But how she works on her maths is...musical. She hums as she works.

Then she sneaks a slim book of poems out from a hiding place.

She reads a poem that she knows by heart, but she still likes to see it on the page. Perhaps she touches it like a friend...like it's family.

The words become a simple song...

She softly taps the rhythm of the poem, its heartbeat, against her chest."

Ada Byron Lovelace heard music in mathematics. She knew that the possibilities for Charles Babbage's computational Engine were endless. She wrote that the Engine "might act upon other things besides numbers... the Engine might compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent".

Ada says in Act I Scene 3, of Babbage's plan for his engineering feat, "Once you've seen the future it's born." Around here, we believe that's how the creative process works, too. We hope you enjoy going on Ada's gorgeous trip into the future with us.

Thanks for being here,

She walks in beauty, like the night Of cloudless climes and starry skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her aspect and her eyes; Thus mellowed to that tender light Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less, Had half impaired the nameless grace Which waves in every raven tress, Or softly lightens o'er her face; Where thoughts serenely sweet express, How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

-Lord Byron, 1813

THE RAINBOW

Bow down in hope, in thanks, all ye who mourn;—
Where'in that peerless arche of radiant hues
Surpassing earthly tints,—the storm subdues!
Of nature's strife and tears 'tis heaven-born,
To soothe the sad, the sinning, and forlorn;
A lovely loving token to infuse
The hope, the faith, that pow'r divine endures
With latent good the woes by which we're torn.—
'Tis like a sweet repentance of the skies,
To beckon all by sense of sin opprest,—
Revealing harmony from tears and sighs!
A pledge:—that deep implanted in the breast
A hidden light may burn that never dies,
But bursts thro' clouds in purest hues exprest!

-Ada Byron Lovelace, 1850

EVA GEMLO

Ada Byron Lovelace

Eva is a Twin Cities actor, returned to the ancestral homeland of Saint Paul after getting her undergraduate degree from Luther College in Iowa. She was most recently seen as Margot Frank in The Diary of Anne Frank at Park Square Theatre. Some favorite past roles include Olivia in Twelfth Night (Stillwater Zephyr Theatre), Ishmael in Moby Dick (Theatre Coup d'Etat), Judith in Equivocation (Walking Shadow Theatre Company), Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Bianca in Women Beware Women (both with Classical Actors Ensemble). Eva also freelances as an intimacy choreographer, currently working with the History Theatre. She was last seen at Daleko as Molly in Peter and the Starcatcher.

KIRBY BENNETT

Lady Anabella Byron

Kirby is delighted to return to DalekoArts; she previously appeared as The Librarian in Middletown. She has been seen regionally at numerous theaters including Zephyr Theatre, Frank Theatre, Old Log Theatre, The Jungle Theater, Park Square Theatre, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Commonweal Theatre Company, History Theatre, and many others. Recent performances include The Comedy of Errors with Zephyr Theatre and The Visit with Frank Theatre. Kirby is the Artistic Director of Girl Friday Productions, for which she produced and performed in their acclaimed productions of The Skin of Our Teeth, Idiot's Delight, and The Matchmaker. Upcoming: Holmes and Watson at Park Square Theatre.

MICHAEL LEE

Charles Babbage

Michael is thrilled to be back on the boards at Daleko! DalekoArts: Ada and the Engine, Peter and the Starcatcher, Rancho Mirage; Mixed Blood Theatre: Safe at Home; Yellow Tree Theatre: The Pavilion, Dancing at Lughnasa, On Golden Pond, A Hunting Shack Christmas; Artistry: Blithe Spirit, A Few Good Men; Old Log Theatre: Leaving Iowa; Jungle Theatre: Macbeth; Children's Theatre Company: The Diviners, Once Upon a Forest, Grimm Tales, Lyle the Crocodile, Alice in Wonderland;

Guthrie Theater: As You Like It; Theatre de la Jeune Lune: The Kitchen; Park Square Theatre: St. Joan, Equus, Fashion; Peter Peter Pumpkin Theatre: Edward II; Paul Bunyan Playhouse: The Underpants, Boeing Boeing, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Full Monty, Guys and Dolls, The Rainmaker; Brave New Workshop: Flanagan's Wake; Actors Theatre: Guys on Ice, Tony n' Tina's Wedding, We Gotta Bingo!; Minnesota Shakespeare Company: Romeo and Juliet, Merry Wives of Windsor; Pioneer Place Theatre: Arsenic and Old Lace, The Foreigner, Dogg's Hamlet/ Cahoot's Macbeth; Urban Samurai Theatre: Slasher; Joking Apart Theatre: Bobby Gould in Hell; Mystery Café: Let's Kill the Boss, I'll Be Homicidal for Christmas, Death Throws a Curveball. Thanks for your support in keeping the arts a vital part of your community.

DILLON BAXENDELL

Lord Lovelace

Dillon is returning to DalekoArts after stage managing The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) in Season 6. He recently graduated with his Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre through a partnership program with Normandale Community College and Southwest Minnesota State University with focus on stage management and performing. He would like to thank Jonathon, Paran, and his mentors for supporting him throughout his learnings.

SHANAN CUSTER

Mary Sommerville

Shanan is so happy to be back at DalekoArts after directing The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged). She is one half of 2 Sugars Show (with Carolyn Pool): 2 Sugars, Room for Cream (Ivey Award; Best Ensemble 2013) and Sometimes There's Wine (Park Square Theatre 2018-2019 season) with Bad Things, Good Whiskey, coming soon. Other original work includes: Mick Sterling Presents: At Christmas and MN Fringe favorite Not Fair, My Lady (with Colleen Somerville Leeman and Anita Ruth). Shanan has also performed with the Brave New Workshop, History Theatre, Frank Theater, Theatre Pro Rata, Comedy Suitcase, Mu Performing Arts as well as directed productions at Theatre in the Round, and Artistry and

Edina High School. Shanan is part of the Mysterious Old Radio Listening Society and is a regular contributor to Sue Scott's monthly live show and podcast The Island of Discarded Women. Shanan will be back at DalekoArts this spring when she directs 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!

JONATHAN FELD

Lord Byron

Jonathan is tickled as a pickle to be performing in his second Dale-koArts show (formerly played Ted in Peter and the Starcatcher). An lowa native, he graduated from Simpson College with a theatre degree and migrated north because of a marriage arrangement. In his free time Jonathan enjoys cooking, camping, hiking, and being outdoors (and onstage!) as much as humanly possible.

AMANDA WHITE

Director

In addition to being a founding Artistic Director of DalekoArts, Amanda has directed Peter and the Starcatcher, Godspell, Our Town, Little Shop of Horrors, Barefoot in the Park, and The Odd Couple. She has also been privileged to join the companies of Ghost Tour, Middletown, The Rink, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), The Philadelphia Story, Rancho Mirage, and Proof. Amanda has served on the Major Gifts and Strategy teams at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, as Associate Artistic Director for the William Inge Center for the Arts, in Play Development for The Araca Group, and most recently, as the Managing Director at Mixed Blood Theatre. She is in her third year as a member of the Theatre Department faculty at Normandale Community College. Amanda is a graduate of Columbia University's MA Program in Arts Administration, MSU Mankato's MFA in Theatre Performance, Truman State University's Theatre Arts program, and the School at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago.

ALYSSA EHLEN

Assistant Director

Alyssa is very grateful to be a part of this wonderful production, and is even more grateful that she gets to have this experience as her college internship! Past production credits include: ASM at Normandale Community College: Hedda Gabbler, She Kills Monsters, and Colossal. Backstage Crew at NCC: Circle Mirror Transformation. Even though her passion is acting, she will always love to be a part of the theatre roll no matter the role. She will have her BA in theatre from SMSU this spring and is excited to start her theatre career!

MARK TIETZ

Stage Manager

Mark got his first big break as a stage manager with DalekoArts during their first season. Some of the shows Mark stage managed at DalekoArts include Little Shop of Horrors, Proof, Almost Maine, Forever Plaid and The Odd Couple. While working in the Twin Cities he has had the opportunity to work with many amazing companies including Yellow Tree Theatre, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Mixed Blood Theatre, Old Log Theatre and The Jungle Theatre.

ROBIN MCINTYRE

Scenic Designer/ Painter/Carpenter

Robin graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Theatre Design and Stage Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since 1991 Robin has designed for a variety of local theatres including Lakeshore Players, Mounds View Community Theatre, Park Square Theatre, The History Theatre, Actor's Theatre, The Flying Foot Forum, North Star Opera, The Phipps Center for the Arts, local colleges, and many local high schools. For 10 seasons Robin created hundreds of sets for both main stage musicals and Black Box theatre productions at Bloomington Civic Theatre and Art Center. He is currently freelance designing in the Twin Cities and working with The University of Northwestern in St. Paul, Benilde St. Margaret, Jefferson, and Lakeville North High School theatres.

COURTNEY SCHMITZ

Lighting Designer

Courtney earned her MFA in lighting design from the University of Iowa in 2009. Since relocating to Minneapolis in 2012, she has designed locally with Yellow Tree Theatre, Collective Unconscious Performance,

Workhaus Collective, nimbus theatre, SPARK theatre + dance, 20% Theatre Company, and Bucket Brigade Theatre, among others. Previous designs with DelakoArts include Wait Until Dark, Stones In His Pockets, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), She Loves Me, Godspell, City Council Christmas, Constellations, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Adventures in Mating: Holiday Edition. www.cargocollective.com/schmitzlighting

CINDY FORSGREN

Costume Designer

With a background in education, art, and historical clothing design & construction, Cindy has been designing & costuming shows for over 25 years including 13 years with Bloomington Civic Theatre/Artistry as designer for the Black Box Theatre, and assisting with productions in the Schneider Theater. She also designed for Mounds View Community Theater including Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. Joseph's coat was a finalist in the Fine Arts Competition at the Minnesota State Fair. Cindy costumed The Flying Foot Forum and was nominated for a SAGE Award for Dance for Design for Alice in Wonderland at the Orpheum Flint Hills Children's Theatre Festival. She has been designing for University of Northwestern. Eden Prairie Plavers and Chain Reaction Theatre. Cindy's excited to work with DalekoArts and this wonderful production of Ada and the Engine.

GLENN GUILIANO

Sound Designer

Glenn (They/Them) garnered theatre experience juggling a variety of hats whether it be writing, producing, directing, sound design, pro wrestling, or whatever else a show needed. They have provided audio for many shows across many genres from sketch comedy to scifi to melodrama to surreal nightmares and the list goes on. Glenn has trained with Second City, The Neo-Futurists, 500 Clown, SAFD, Intimacy Directors International, and many others. Most recently they have been a teaching artist with Uprising Theatre Company, a creep with the Haunted Basement, and a playwright for Gadfly Theartre. Originally cutting their teeth in Chicago, Glenn has recently relocated to the Twin Cities after hosting a radio show and working with theatre companies throughout North Carolina. This is their first time working with Daleko and they couldn't be happier to be here. They are utterly shameless about trying to find more paying work so please track them down if you are interested.

SARAH SALISBURY

Props Designer

Sarah's past Daleko credits include Stones in His Pockets, The Rink, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), Middletown, She Loves Me, Godspell, Constellations, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Ghost Tour. She is also a stage manager for such companies as Jagged Moves, Rhythmically Speaking, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Alternative Motion Project, as well as being an Assistant Stage Manager at Ted Mann Concert Hall. On top of all of that, Sarah is the Production Manager for The Haunted Basement.

CALLIE MEINERS

Intimacy Director

Callie is a theatre artist based out of Saint Paul MN. Callie is thrilled to be working with DalekoArts again after working on Adventures in Mating: Holiday Edition (Intimacy Director), Constellations (Intimacy Director), and The Rink (Stage Manager). She has worked with Walking Shadow Theater Company, Lyric Arts, Jezebel Theatre, Devious Mechanics and Freshwater Theatre. Christmas is Callie's favorite time of year and she is that person who decorates on November 1st. Enjoy the show!

KEELY WOLTER

Dialect Consultant

Keely holds an MA in Voice Studies from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She has served as a voice and accent coach with HBO, the Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theater, Jungle Theater, Children's Theater Company, Theater Latte Da, Artistry, the University of Minnesota/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program, St. Olaf College, and many others. Keely was named a 2018 Best Vocal Dialogue Coach by Lavender Magazine for her work on Artistry's Awake and Sing. This is her fifth production working with DalekoArts (Stones in His Pockets, The Rink, Constellations, and Peter and the Starcatcher).

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BY WILLIAM FINN & RACHEL SHEINKIN

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