

Gunston Arts Center
Theater II
March 2-26, 2022

Avant Bard Theatre Presents

Ada and the Engine

Written by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Megan Behm



*A Central Works Method Play
Commissioned and Premiered by Central Works
At the Berkeley City Club on October 17, 2016*

This production was made possible through the support of Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, that delivers public activities and programs as *Arlington Arts*.

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**AVANT
BARD
THEATRE**

Cast

Ada Lovelace.....	Dina Soltan
Charles Babbage	Matthew Pauli
Lady Byron/Mary Somerville	Jessica Lefkow
Lord Lovelace/Lord Byron	Jon Reynolds

Production Team

Director.....	Megan Behm
Production Manager.....	Keta Newborn
Set Designer.....	David Ghatan
Set Design Asst.....	Benjamin Sullivan
Lighting Designer.....	Ian Claar
Costume, Makeup, Wig Designer.....	Alison Samantha Johnson
Props Designer.....	Liz Long
Sound Designer.....	Neil McFadden
Production Stage Manager	Sam Rollin
Rehearsal Stage Manager	Tsaitami Duchicela
Photography.....	DJ Corey Photography

Technical Team

Technical Director.....	Jarrold DiGiorgi
Master Electrician.....	Kat Darnell
Carpenters, Scenic Chargers, Electricians: Nadir Bey, Holden Gunster, Christian Jones, Cornelius Miller, Long Nguyen, Matthew Reid	

Avant Bard Producing Partners

Sara Barker, Alyssa Sanders, DeMone Seraphin,
Avant Bard Producing Partners Emeriti: Megan Behm, Dina Soltan

Avant Bard Staff

Brian Ash, Sean McCarthy, Natalie Valentine

2021-22 Season, Gunston Arts Center Theatre Two

How I Learned What I Learned

Dec 1 - Dec 19, 2021

Ada and The Engine

Mar 2 - Mar 26, 2022

Suddenly Last Summer

May 25 - June 18, 2022

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Who's Who in Ada and the Engine

Ada Byron Lovelace: our protagonist and considered by many to be the first example of a computer programmer, a century before the invention of what we think of as computers. She was famous in her time for being a mathematical genius—and infamous for being the only legitimate daughter of the Romantic poet Lord Byron.

Lady Anabella Byron: Ada's highly educated and devout mother. She had a disastrous marriage to Lord Byron, and left him shortly after Ada was born.

Lord Byron: English poet and leading figure of the Romantic movement, although he was equally famous for his scandals and rock star persona. His most famous poems include "She Walks in Beauty," "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," and "Don Juan."

Charles Babbage: a well-respected mathematician, philosopher, inventor, and engineer who invented the first mechanical computer.

Mary Somerville : one of Ada's many tutors, and a mathematical and scientific genius in her own right. Dubbed "the Queen of Science" by Victorian newspapers.

Lord Lovelace: Ada's husband.

Cast

Dina Soltan (Ada Lovelace) (she/her/hers) is an Egyptian/British/American actor who is a graduate from The Theatre Lab's Honors Acting Conservatory and is thrilled to be back to her role as Ada in ***Ada and the Engine*** since it's unfortunate shut down due to covid two years ago. She recently appeared in Mosaic Theater's theatrical/film production of ***Keffiyeh/Made in China***. Her credits include ***Dhana, and The Rosebuds*** (Ally Theater) - Helen Hayes recommended, ***Or,*** (Theatre Prometheus), ***Reykjavik*** (Rorschach Theatre Company) – Helen Hayes recommended, ***A Woman of No Importance*** (Scene Theatre), The Vagrant Trilogy (Mosaic Theater Company of DC) – Helen Hayes nominated for outstanding new play, ***Soldier Poet*** (Theatre Prometheus), ***Neverwhere*** (Rorschach Theatre Company), ***The Blind*** (The Wheel Theatre Company), ***Witness for the Prosecution*** (Sterling Playmakers), ***The Island of Dr. Moreau*** (The Theatre Lab), ***The Game's Afoot*** (McLean Community Players) – Best Featured Actress in a play – DC Metro Theatre Art Awards, ***Jack, or The Submission*** (American University in Cairo).

Matthew Pauli (Charles Babbage) (he/him/his) is an actor, clown, and puppeteer. In the DC area, he has performed with Faction of Fools, Constellation Theatre, Imagination Stage, The Folger Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington National Opera, and Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, among others. He toured for six seasons with Big Apple Circus and is a Red Nose Doc for Healthy Humor Inc, performing clown rounds at Johns Hopkins Hospital and National Children's Medical Center. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, as well as the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Clown College, and has an MFA from the Shakespeare Theatre Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University.

Cast (cont.)

Jessica Lefkow (Lady Byron/Mary Somerville) (she/her/hers) is a performer, director and teacher currently living in Washington, DC. This is her first show with Avant Bard Theatre. Other local credits include performances at Olney Theater Center, 1st Stage, Keegan Theatre, Taffety Punk Theatre Company, Her Majesty & Sons, We Happy Few DC, Brave Spirits Theatre Company, dog&ponydc. Regional and touring credits include appearances at Gulfshore Playhouse, American Shakespeare Center. Jessica is a Part-time Lecturing Professor at Montgomery County Community College in Rockville, MD. She holds a BFA Degree in Acting from The Catholic University of America and an MFA Degree in Classical Acting from George Washington University. Jessica is an Equity Member Candidate, a member of AFTRA, and is Mom to DJE. Other projects and credits can be found on her website; www.jessicalefkow.com

Jon Reynolds (Lord Lovelace, Byron) (he/him) is an actor, deviser, and designer from Washington DC. While away from the stage these past two years, he has stayed busy performing in a variety of audio projects. You can hear him as the narrator in Edgar Allen Poe's ***The Tell Tale Heart***, also as Sherlock Holmes in ***The Adventure of the Dancing Men*** and ***The Norwood Builder***, and as several characters in the ***Loveday Brooke*** audio play detective series for We Happy Few. He also voices characters in the episode ***Rumpelstiltskin: A Retelling*** for the podcast ***Feminist Fairytales***. On stage you may have seen him in ***Visions of Love*** (Pointless Theatre Co.), ***Pericles*** and ***Dracula*** (We Happy Few), and ***Mnemonic*** (Theater Alliance). Other DC area stage credits include: ***Beertown, A Killing Game, Courage, and Toast*** (dog & pony dc), ***Perfect Arrangement*** (Source Festival), ***The Winter's Tale, As You Like It***, and ***The Second Shepherds' Play*** (Folger Theatre), ***Scenes From The Big Picture*** (Solas Nua), and ***Romeo & Juliet*** (The Shakespeare Theatre Company).

Director

Megan Behm (Director) (she/her/hers) previously directed the hit comedy ***A Misanthrope*** for Avant Bard and served as a Producing Partner. Other selected directing credits include ***Pride and Prejudice*** and ***45 Plays for 45 Presidents*** (NextStop Theatre Company), ***Cymbeline*** (Virginia Shakespeare Festival), ***To Tell My Story*** (The Welders), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and ***According to Shakespeare*** (InterAct Story Theater), ***The Comedy of Errors*** (Lean & Hungry Theater), ***The Campsite Rule*** (The Washington Rogues).

www.megan-behm.com

Keta Newborn (Production Manager) (she/her), is making her debut with Avant Bard Theatre as their production manager. After being a Freelance Stage Manager for over 13 years, Keta decided in November 2021 to step away from Stage Managing and focus on Production Management. Previously, Keta has stage managed several Avant Bard Productions ***Topdog/Underdog***, ***The Gospel at Colonus (remount)***, ***King Lear***, and ***The Gospel at Colonus***. Keta is grateful for the opportunity to once again work with Avant Bard and would like to thank her Father above for being used as one of HIS vessels, working to bring HIS work of art into the hearts of many.

David C. Ghatan (Scenic Designer) is returning to Avant Bard having previously designed ***Les Justes*** and ***Much Ado About Nothing***, among others. He is a Board Chair and a company member with Rorschach Theatre and was nominated for a Helen Hayes in Scenic Design for ***Voices Under Water*** (Rorschach Theatre). He holds a BA in Design from The George Washington University (BA '00). He runs CM Kling + Associates Architectural Lighting Design and is a partner at Pixelumen Lab, an interactive design company based in Alexandria. (pronouns: he, him, his)

Production Team

Ian Claar (Lighting Design) (he/they) is a lighting designer and staged violence/intimacy choreographer and has been involved in theatre and the performing arts for over 15 years. He has a degree in Design and Technical Theatre from Christopher Newport University, is an Actor/Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and is the Managing Director of the Noble Blades, stage combat troupe. Designs include **Cinderella** (Synetic), **Matilda** (Levine Music Theatre), **Overtures** (Signature Theatre), **Grand Concourse** (Prologue Theatre), **My Father's Dragon** (Synetic), **Topographies** (Human Landscape/Space Time Dance), and **Anon(ymous)** (Theatre Prometheus). Website: LightsAndFights.com

Alison Samantha Johnson (Costume, Makeup, Wig Design) (she/her/hers) This is Alison's second production with Avant Bard, first was **A Misanthrope**. Other DC area designs include: Signature: **Rent** (Asst. Costume Design), **Escaped Alone**, **Heisenberg**, **Simply Sondheim** (digital) (Hair and Makeup), **Assassins** (Wig Design) and **Blackbeard** (Asst. Wig Design.) Synetic: **Cyrano De Bergerac** (HH nominated,) **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**. Keegan*: **Legally Blonde**, **Bridges of Madison County**, **Chicago**, **Top Girls**. (*Company member.) Prologue: **Recent Tragic Events**. Factory 449: **Agnes of God**. Anacostia Playhouse: **Black Nativity** and **A Nite at the Dew Drop Inn**. Creative Cauldron: **On Air** and **Kaleidoscope**. CUA: **Next to Normal**. Instagram @alisonsamantha. Web: alisonsamantha.com

Liz Long (Properties Designer) (she/her) returns to Avant Bard Theatre having previously worked her magic for **How I Learned What I Learned**, **Ada and the Engine** (2020), **Suddenly Last Summer** (2020), **A Misanthrope**, **Topdog/Underdog**, and **Illyria, or What You Will**. Other designs include **Puffs**, **Coraline**, and **1776** (Landless Theatre Company); **The Man Who**, **The River**, and **Happy Hour** (Spooky Action Theater); and **Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche** (Monumental Theatre).

Production Team (cont.)

Neil McFadden (Sound Design) Neil's sound and lighting designs have been heard (or seen) in many area theatres, including Arena Stage, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Olney Theatre, Adventure Theatre, Rep Stage, Longacre Lea, Everyman Theatre, Flying V (where he is a company member), Venus Theatre, and Round House Theatre (where he was the Resident Sound Designer and Sound Master for eleven years). An eleven-time nominee, Neil received the Helen Hayes Award for his design of Round House's ***Heathen Valley***. He has designed several national tours and Off-Broadway productions. Neil is also a musician and composer: he has played in many area shows; he also performs with several rock/blues bands, and as a solo acoustic performer. Love to Elizabeth.

Sam Rollin (Production Stage Manager) (they/them) is a freelance stage manager that works across the DMV region. They are thrilled to work with Avant Bard for the first time! Their most recent projects were ***Fully Committed*** (NextStop Theatre) and ***Time Is On Our Side*** (Perisphere Theater). Previous credits include ***Pride and Prejudice*** (NextStop Theatre), ***As You Like It*** (Brave Spirits Theatre), ***A Civil War Christmas*** (1st Stage), ***Blight*** (Pinky Swear Productions), ***How's That Workin' Out For Ya?*** (Capital Fringe Festival 2018), and ***Perfect Arrangement*** (Source Festival 2017).

Tsaitami Duchicela (Rehearsal Stage Manager) (they/them; elle) is a freelance Stage Manager and was the Stage Manager for Avant Bard Theatre's 2020 ***Ada and the Engine***. Tsaitami is a Nonbinary, Trans, Neurodivergent, Afro-Indigenous, Migrant, Two-Spirit, Multidisciplinary Artist, Curator, and Advocate from so-called Ecuador and Panamá. Stage Management with DC-area companies includes GALA Hispanic Theatre's 'GALita,' Convergence Theatre, Avant Bard, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Adventure Theatre. They hold a BS in Business and Entertainment, specialized in Multidisciplinary Arts & Management from American University, and an AA in Business from Montgomery College. Tsaitami wishes to express their gratitude to everybody currently and previously a part of the Avant Bard family, for the supportive and nurturing environment they have upheld and for the support of Tsaitami's family throughout this production.

Avant Bard Producing Partners

Sara Barker (she/her) is a DC-area stage actor whose Avant Bard credits include ***Suddenly Last Summer, King Lear, Emilie, Orlando, Othello, A Misanthrope, Mary Stuart.*** Other DC-area credits: ***Pankrac '45*** (Expats) ***A Maze, This Storm is What We Call Progress*** (Rorschach), ***4.48 Psychosis*** (Factory 449), ***The Importance of Being Earnest, A Woman of No Importance*** (Scena), and ***The Cherry Orchard*** (Faction of Fools). New York credits include Lear DeBessonnet's ***Death Might Be Your Santa Claus.*** In addition to her work with Avant Bard, Sara is a company member with Rorschach Theatre and Factory 449.
www.sarabarker.com

Alyssa Sanders (she/her) is a DC-area stage actor whose Avant Bard credits include ***King Lear, The Tempest,*** and ***Othello.*** Other DC-area credits include NextStop Theatre Company's production of ***Pride and Prejudice*** (Kate Hamill Adaptation). In addition to Avant Bard, Alyssa has worked with various DC-area theatres including Quotidian Theatre Company (Company Member), Peter's Alley, Lean & Hungry Theater (Company Member), Venus Theatre, Studio Theatre, Adventure Theatre. www.alyssasanders.com

DeMone Seraphin (he/his) is a Helen Hayes Award nominee for his direction of ***Topdog/Underdog*** (Avant Bard Theatre) and most recently directed August Wilson's ***How I Learned What I Learned*** for Avant Bard. Other directing credits include the Off-Broadway revivals of ***Split Second*** and ***The Exonerated,*** the world premiere musical ***Once Uponzi Time: A Tale of An American Scheme*** at the McCarter Theatre, Off-Broadway premieres of ***Yours Truly, Ella! A Celebration of The Ella Fitzgerald Songbook*** and ***THE KING; THE FINAL HOURS The New Elvis Presley Musical.*** International productions include the German premiere of August Wilson's ***Jitney, Barnum,*** and the musical ***Runaways.*** As an actor, DeMone has appeared on Broadway, nationally, and internationally in ***Miss Saigon, Rent, Ragtime, Jesus Christ Superstar, Ain't Misbehavin',*** and ***Man of La Mancha.*** DeMone is an Avant Bard Producing Partner and was the Founding Artistic Director of The New American Theatre Company, NY.

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