

Anastasia

The Musical - Youth Edition

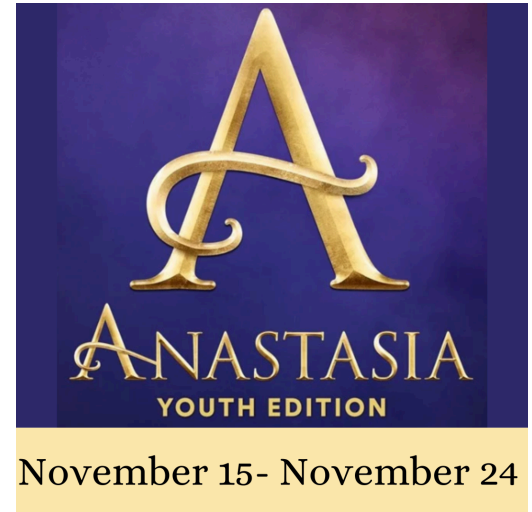
November 15-24, 2024

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage

**Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street**



From Tony winners Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, creators of such Broadway classics as *Ragtime* and *Once On This Island*, this dazzling show transports its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love and family.

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.



Character Quiz

Read the following information about the characters in *Anastasia the Musical - Youth Edition*. Then use the information you have learned to answer the questions.

- The character of Anastasia/Anya is based on two people. The Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia was the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II, the last imperial ruler of Russia before the Russian Revolution. After her family was murdered during the Revolution, rumors of Anastasia's survival began to spread. As a result, many people began to claim that they were the real Anastasia, including Anna Anderson, a troubled young woman who convinced many people (including those who knew the royal family personally) that she was actually Anastasia. However, later DNA evidence showed that Anna was not Anastasia after all, and was actually a Polish factory worker named Franziska Schanzkowska.



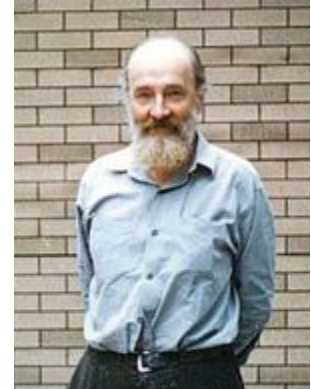
- The character of Anastasia's grandmother, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, was based on the actual Dowager Empress of the same name. She was the wife of Emperor Alexander III and ruled with him as Empress of Russia from 1881-1894. Her son, Nicholas II, was the last emperor of Russia.



- The character of Gleb Vaganov is a general for the Bolsheviks, the new ruling party that has control of Russia following the Russian Revolution in 1905. Gleb is based on a mashup of several of the Bolshevik generals, and though he is supposed to be on opposite sides of the revolution from the royal family, he develops a soft spot for Anya/Anastasia.



- The characters Dmitry and Vlad are based on a combination of people who believed that Anna Anderson was the real Anastasia, including the composer Sergei Rachmaninoff and Gleb Botkin, the son of a Russian physician to the Russian Royal family. Dmitry met the real Anastasia briefly as a child. Though he was forced to grow up on the streets of Russia after the Revolution, Dmitry has a heart of gold in reality. At first, Vlad and Dmitry are simply looking for a girl that resembles Anastasia so they can convince her grandmother, the Dowager Empress Maria, that Anastasia has amnesia. However, after traveling to Paris to meet the Dowager Empress Maria, Dmitry, Vlad, and Maria herself begin to truly believe that Anya is Anastasia.



The Romanov Royal Family (left to right): Olga, Maria, Nicholas II, Alexandra Fyodorovna, Anastasia, Alexei, and Tatiana. 1913.

Questions

Answer each question by noting if it is true or false. Then, explain your answer by giving evidence from the information you read above.

1. **True or False** - The real-life Anna Anderson was revealed to be Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Rationale: Explain how you know this is to be true or false.



2. **True or False** - In *Anastasia - The Musical - Youth Edition*, the fictional character Anya is revealed to be Anastasia.

Rationale: Explain how you know this is to be true or false.



3. **True or False** - The character of Anastasia's grandmother is based on the real-life Dowager Empress Maria.

Rationale: Explain how you know this is to be true or false.

4. **True or False** - The characters of Dmitry and Vlad are based on a combination of people who did not believe that Anna was the real Anastasia.

Rationale: Explain how you know this is to be true or false.



5. **True or False** - The character of Gleb is based on a specific Russian general.

Rationale: Explain how you know this is to be true or false.



Narrative Response

Write a few sentences below explaining the main difference between the character Anastasia/Anya in *Anastasia - The Musical - Youth Edition* and what actually happened to Anastasia in real life. Remember to consider the differences between the fictional Anastasia/Anya versus the real life Anastasia and the woman known as Anna Anderson who claimed to be her.

Art Activity

Use the coloring sheet below to imagine how Anastasia might have felt being reunited with her grandmother and having her legacy restored.

