

LIVE ARTS THEATER

Summer Teen Musical | July 12-28, 2024



THE LIGHTNING THIEF

THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL

BOOK BY
JOE TRACZ

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
ROB ROKICKI

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK THE LIGHTNING THIEF BY RICK RIORDAN

WELCOME TO LIVE ARTS!

Check Us Out



/LiveArts



@livearts



/LiveArtsTheater

Live Arts is honored to welcome you to our theater, which sits on the unceded homeland of the Monacan and Manahoac Nations. We recognize them as the original stewards of this land and offer our respect to their elders—past, present, and emerging.

WHILE YOU'RE HERE ...

Concessions are located on the 3rd floor. Enjoy snacks and drinks during a 15-minute intermission.

Restrooms are on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors. Single stall, gender-neutral restrooms and changing table are on the 4th floor.

Silence your cell phone and refrain from texting during the show. **Photography or video recording are prohibited.**

NEW TO OUR THEATER?

Get involved! There are hundreds of ways to make theater with us.

Take a few minutes to fill out our **Volunteer Engagement Form**. We will reach out to you with more information about current volunteer opportunities.

Learn more at livearts.org. We can't wait to get to know you!



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Find current volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved at
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A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL, our summer teen show!

I have a confession to make. I haven't read Rick Riordan's wildly popular novels (or seen the film or the new series). I believe the books were just coming out mid-way through the *Harry Potter* craze, and I made my way through five of those six books. But my nieces and nephews (age ranging from 16 to 28) are huge Percy Jackson fans, and after reading this script and watching these amazing talented young artists performing, I am all on board.

The adventures are thrilling, the characters quirky and real, and it certainly doesn't hurt to throw in all that epic Greek mythology with a few fabulous monsters. The biggest takeaway from my neophyte perspective is the story of friendships and making your own family. Percy and his comrades' life struggles are supremely relatable, whether you're 16 or 60. I love the way these demi-gods learn to navigate their circumstances, confront their enemies, survive trials, and emerge better humans in the end, ready to face the challenges together.

As Percy's mother tells him, "The things that make you different are the very things that make you strong." Wise advice. Thank you for joining us on Percy's truly remarkable quest.

SUSAN E. EVANS

Artistic Director | Live Arts

READ THE STUDY GUIDE



Explore world of THE LIGHTNING THIEF:
THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL!

Scan here or go to livearts.org to read.



JOIN US FOR A POST-SHOW AUDIENCE TALKBACK

Thursday, July 25, 9:30pm, following the show.

Take a peek behind the curtain with the director, cast and crew of THE LIGHTNING THIEF led by Education Director Ti Ames.

All are welcome! You do not need to see the show to attend.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As a child I read *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and remembered loving how similar but also different it was to *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings*, and all my other favorite fantasy novels that I would read instead of doing homework. As an adult revisiting this story, I still loved the adventure, but I found myself struck by how quietly sad this story is. My heart broke for these young characters who were begging for some sign of affection from a parent who was entirely too busy to deal with or even notice them.

In our discussions as a cast and a design team, the themes of family, rejection, and acceptance began to emerge more and more. This is a show full of monsters, adventure, cool swords, and ridiculously difficult musical numbers. It is also a story of young people seeking their place and finding the validation for their existence within themselves and from their peers.

I hope you enjoy this show and the immense work these comically talented young people have put into making this world come alive.

DANIEL KUNKEL

Director | THE LIGHTNING THIEF



THE LIGHTNING THIEF

THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL

Book by
Joe Tracz

Music & Lyrics by
Rob Rokicki

Adapted from the book *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.

JULY 12-28, 2024

Directed by
Daniel Kunkel

Music Direction by
Abby Smith

Choreography by
Sophie Clayton

Thank you to a special donor for supporting THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Act I is approximately 1 hour. Act II is approximately 45 minutes.
There will be one 15-minute intermission.

CONTENT ADVISORY:

This play contains simulated violence and mild language. flashing and moving lights and strobe effects.

Pay-What-You-Can tickets sponsored by **Ting**.

THE LIGHTNING THIEF is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Originally commissioned, created, and produced Off Broadway by TheaterWorksUSA.

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SETTING

2010, across the United States.

ACT I MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Prologue/The Day I Got Expelled</i>	COMPANY
<i>Strong</i>	PERCY, SALLY
<i>The Minotaur!/The Weirdest Dream</i>	PERCY, ENSEMBLE
<i>Another Terrible Day</i>	MR. D
<i>Their Sign</i>	CHIRON, PERCY, LUKE
<i>Put You in Your Place</i>	CLARISSE, ANNABETH, GROVER, PERCY, LUKE, SILENA, ENSEMBLE
<i>The Campfire Song</i>	LUKE, ANNABETH, KATIE, GROVER, CHIRON, SILENA, PERCY, ENSEMBLE
<i>The Oracle</i>	ORACLE, ENSEMBLE
<i>Good Kid</i>	PERCY, ENSEMBLE
<i>Killer Quest!</i>	PERCY, ANNABETH, GROVER, ENSEMBLE

ACT II MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Lost!</i>	ANNABETH, GROVER, PERCY
<i>My Grand Plan</i>	ANNABETH
<i>Drive</i>	GROVER, ANNABETH, PERCY, ARES, ENSEMBLE
<i>The Weirdest Dream (Reprise)</i>	PERCY
<i>The Tree on the Hill</i>	GROVER, ENSEMBLE
<i>D.O.A.</i>	CHARON, ENSEMBLE
<i>Son of Poseidon</i>	PERCY, SALLY, ANNABETH, GROVER, ARES, ENSEMBLE
<i>The Last Day of Summer</i>	PERCY, LUKE, ENSEMBLE
<i>Bring On the Monsters</i>	COMPANY

CAST

PERCY JACKSON	Connor Michael
ANNABETH CHASE	Veronica Schoenster
GROVER UNDERWOOD	Ben Lohr
LUKE/FARMER/KRONOS/ KURT COBAIN	Lucy Strandquist
CLARISSE/MRS. DODDS/ HADES/ THALIA	Julie Minor
SILENA/MEGAERA/ ORACLE/SQUIRREL/ JANIS JOPLIN/US CHIRON	Audrey Scialla
MR. D/TRAIN CONDUCTOR/ GREYHOUND PASSENGER/MOZART/ US HADES/ US CHARON/MUSIC CAPTAIN	Jacob Walton
MR. BRUNNER/CHIRON/POSEIDON/ ARES/GABE/BUS DRIVER	Ila Cooper
SALLY/TISPHONE/AUNT EM/ NEWSCASTER/VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR/ US CLARISSE	Sylvia Moses
KATIE/CHARON/GREYHOUND PASSENGER/ECHIDNA/BIANCA/ MUSIC CAPTAIN/US MRS. DODDS	Maddie Krause
ENSEMBLE/US PERCY/ US MR. D/FIGHT CAPTAIN	Gian Serrano
ENSEMBLE/VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR/US GROVER/US LUKE	Morgan Geissman
ENSEMBLE/MINOTAUR/VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR/US ANNABETH/US SALLY/DANCE CAPTAIN/FIGHT CAPTAIN	Korinne Brier

The understudy ("US") performance will take place July 20, 7:30pm.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Fight Choreographer	Daniel Kunkel
Music Director	Abby Smith
Choreographer	Sophie Clayton
Assistant Director	Eliza Banaszak
Producer	Mandy Shuker
Stage Management Mentor	Alyssa Samuelson
Production Stage Manager	Isabel Tusing
Assistant Stage Manager	Sophia Saunier
Scenic Designer	Alan Box Levine
Costume Designer	Kaylei Kipper
Props Designer/Set Dressing	Maggie Rogers
Lighting Designer	Rachel Pfundstein
Sound Engineer/Designer	Daniel Angell
Puppet Designer	Annie Temmink
Intimacy Choreographer	Ti Ames
Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager	Mix Rudolph
Assistant Fight Choreographers	Abby Messina and Joshua Reid
Light Board Operators	Sabrina Springer and Mix Rudolph
Sound Board Operators	Will Kelly and Mandy Shuker

MEET THE CREATORS



JOE TRACZ | Playwright

Joe Tracz is a writer whose work has been seen on Broadway in *Be More Chill* (with Joe Iconis) and *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (with Rob Rokicki; Drama Desk nominee for Outstanding Book). Other credits include the musical *Poster Boy* (with Craig Carnelia, Williamstown Theatre Festival). TV credits include Netflix's *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* (Peabody Award recipient; Emmy,

Humanitas Prize, and WGA Award nominee) and *Dash & Lily*, which premiered on Netflix in 2020. Joe is an alumnus of the Ars Nova Play Group and a former Playwrights Realm writing fellow. He earned his BA from Kalamazoo College in Michigan and his MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



ROB ROKICKI | Music & Lyrics

Rob Rokicki is a composer and lyricist whose work has been recognized worldwide and nominated for Drama Desk, Lortel and Off-Broadway Alliance awards. Rokicki is best known for his music and lyrics in the critically acclaimed Broadway show *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* for Theatreworks USA. Other credits include: *Punk Rock Girl!*, a

musical he orchestrated and co-arranged with collaborator and friend Joe Iconis; the graphic novel musical *Monstersongs*; his immersive musical about escaping a cult, *Experience Marianas*; *Uni the Unicorn*, commissioned by Bay Area Children's Theater; and many others. Rokicki's work, which "lives at the perfect intersection of musical theater and radio rock," is regularly featured in cabarets and concerts throughout the world. He is a two-time Larson Award finalist, alum of the BMI writing workshop, and member of the Dramatists Guild.

MEET THE DIRECTORS



DANIEL KUNKEL | Director

Daniel (he/him) wears too many hats as an educator, social worker, director, writer, stage combatant, and podcaster. He has taught theater in person and remotely across the country and he has been producing and developing plays, podcasts, and videos since 2016.

ABBY SMITH | Music Director

Abby is currently the choir director at Western Albemarle High School. She also teaches private instrumental lessons at the Music Education Center. She's been a part of Live Arts for the past five years, including counseling/instructing summer camps, playing in the pit orchestra for CRYBABY, RENT, IN THE HEIGHTS, and music directing HEATHERS THE MUSICAL: TEEN EDITION. Most recently, she music directed Live Arts' production of KINKY BOOTS in 2024.



SOPHIE CLAYTON | Choreographer

Sophie (she/her) is a UVA graduate student, and this is her third Live Arts production! Past Live Arts credits include KINKY BOOTS (co-choreographer) and LIFE SUCKS. She grew up in Houston, TX, where she joined HITS Theatre, a nonprofit children's theater, as an actor, then choreographer, stage manager, and assistant director. She has read the *Percy Jackson* series an unreasonable number of times.



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Korinne
Brier



Ila
Cooper



Morgan
Geissman



Maddie
Krause



Ben
Lohr



Connor
Michael



Julianna
Minor



Sylvia
Moses



Veronica
Schoenster



Audrey
Scialla



Gian
Serrano



Lucy
Strandquist



Jacob
Walton

CAST BIOS

KORINNE BRIER | ***Ensemble/Minotaur/Vienna Boys' Choir/US Annabeth/US Sally/Dance Captain/Fight Captain***
Korinne (she/they) has always loved Live Arts and is so excited to share this wonderful show with you all. She is a rising sophomore at VCU, but her heart always belongs to Charlottesville. Some recent stage roles include Heather Chandler in *HEATHERS* and Jo March in *Little Women*. Enjoy the show!

ILA COOPER | ***Mr. Brunner/Chiron/Poseidon/Ares/Gabe/Bus Driver***
Ila is thrilled to be in her first production here at Live Arts! Some of her past roles include Frankie in *Spring Break* and ensemble in *Elf the Musical* at Four County Players. In her spare time Ila loves to bake, paint, make jewelry and teach at her family's dance studio, Studio Chassé.

MORGAN GEISSMAN | ***Ensemble/Vienna Boys' Choir/US Grover/US Luke***
Morgan (she/they) is a rising junior at Albemarle High School and they are so happy to be working with Live Arts again and everyone in this stunning cast on the teen production. You might have seen them in last year's Live Arts teen production, *HEATHERS*, as Kurt Kelly!

MADDIE KRAUSE | ***Katie/Charon/Greyhound Passenger/Echidna/Bianca/Music Captain/US Mrs. Dodds***
Maddie (she/her) is thrilled to be performing in *THE LIGHTING THIEF* here at Live Arts! She is so grateful to the Live Arts staff for all their hard work during this show. Maddie will be attending The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York for musical theater in the fall. You may have also seen her in *The Addams Family*, *Little Women*, *Horse Girls*, or *Mamma Mia* at Western Albemarle High School!

BENJAMIN LOHR | ***Grover Underwood***
Ben (he/they) grew up in Charlottesville, performing in Live Arts summer camps and with TheatreCHS. He plans to travel to VCU to pursue an education in theater. Recent stage credits include Baldwin Blandish in *Crybaby* (TheatreCHS), and Kurt's Dad in *HEATHERS*.

CONNOR MICHAEL | ***Percy Jackson***
Connor (he/him) is about to enter his sophomore year at Louisa County High School (LCHS). He was selected for All-State Chorus in 2022 and 2023. Recent stage credits include Dance Ensemble in *Chicago* at LCHS and Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Louisa Arts Center.

CAST BIOS (CONTINUED)

JULIANNA MINOR | *Clarisse/Mrs. Dodds/Hades/Thalia*

Julie (she/her) is practicing performing arts in Louisa, VA. She's currently a high school student with an interest in music. She is 16 and making her first musical theater appearance in *THE LIGHTNING THIEF*.

SYLVIA MOSES | *Sally/Tisphone/Aunt Em/Newscaster/Vienna Boys' Choir/US Clarisse*

Sylvia is a rising sophomore at Monticello High School and is honored to be a part of this show! You might have seen her previously as Regina George in DMR's *Mean Girls* and Maria Rainer in DMR's *The Sound Of Music*. She'd like to thank her parents for their unending love and support.

VERONICA SCHOENSTER | *Annabeth Chase*

Veronica (she/her) is excited to have this opportunity to play Annabeth Chase! Previous credits include *Chicago* as Velma Kelly, *Mean Girls* as Regina, *Peter Pan* as Tinker Bell, *Anything Goes* as a featured dancer, *Elf* as ensemble, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* as Lucy. Veronica participated in several projects at ACANY and TRAIN Pre-Pro theater program. She's trained in ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary and modern dance, and acrobatics.

AUDREY SCIALLA | *Silena/Megaera/Oracle/Squirrel/Janis Joplin/US Chiron*

Audrey (she/her) is very excited to be performing in her first Live Arts production. She is a rising senior at Western Albemarle High School, where she has performed in countless productions. Her former credits include *The Addams Family* (Alice), *Matilda* (Miss Trunchbull), *Trap* (Angela), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena). Outside of theater, Audrey loves to paint, sing, and read.

GIAN SERRANO | *Ensemble/US Percy/US Mr. D/Fight Captain*

Gian (they/she/he) has always been a bit of a performer, participating in improv competitions in elementary and middle school. However, it wasn't until high school when they truly fell in love with theater, especially during their first musical in their junior year! Some of their favorite roles include Earthworm in *James and The Giant Peach* and Dupree W. Dupree in *Crybaby*.

CAST BIOS (CONTINUED)

LUCY STRANDQUIST | *Luke/Farmer/Kronos/Kurt Cobain*

Lucy (she/they) is a performer from Staunton. This is her second Live Arts performance! Recent stage credits include Annabeth in *The Lightning Thief*, Paulette in *Legally Blonde*, Ensemble in *HEATHERS*, and Wadsworth in *Clue*. She heads to Vassar College in the fall to follow an independent major in musical theater.

JACOB WALTON | *Mr. D/Train Conductor/Greyhound Passenger/Mozart/US Charon/US Hades/Music Captain*

Jacob (he/they) is so excited to be performing in *THE LIGHTING THIEF* this summer along with being a camp counselor at Live Arts! He is so thankful to the wonderful Live Arts staff and community. Jacob will be attending James Madison University in the Fall for theater education! You may have seen him in *KINKY BOOTS*, *UNCLE VANYA*, and *HEATHERS*, at Live Arts, or in *The Addams Family* at Western Albemarle High School!

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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

DANIEL ANGELL | **Sound Engineer/Designer**

Daniel (he/him) has been working sound for the Live Arts summer musicals for three years now. Both INTO THE WOODS (2022) and HEATHERS (2023) were tremendous, and he is looking forward to another great show this year with THE LIGHTNING THIEF!

ELIZA BANASZAK | **Assistant Director**

Eliza's (they/them) previous credits include: INTO THE WOODS, LOVE AND INFORMATION, HEATHERS: TEEN EDITION, YOU DON'T KNOW JACKSH*T ABOUT THE MOTHMAN, WATERWORKS 2024 (Live Arts); *Spring Break*, *Cinderella* (Four County Players); *13 Ways to Ruin Your College Interview*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Piedmont Virginia Community College); *Class* (GOTO GOTO Studios); and *Godspell* (Albemarle High School).

KAYLEI KIPPER | **Costume Designer**

Kaylei is a multifaceted artist who would describe herself as a designer, director, performer, and teacher. She received her BA in theater with a concentration in education from James Madison University. Her recent credits include director of *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* and costume designer for *Small Mouth Sounds*.

ALAN BOX LEVINE | **Scenic Designer**

Alan is a regional artist, sculptor, and craftsman who is an active member of the McGuffey Art Center where his art studio is located. He's a family-man who loves wood restoration, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, the Emergency Food Network, and Live Arts!

ABBY MESSINA | **Assistant Fight Choreographer**

Abby (she/they) is a professional actor, fight choreographer, and teacher from NYC. She has taught youth theater for over half a decade, focusing on movement and physicality. Her main goal is to help young actors feel comfortable in their bodies and feel confident taking up space, both with their physical expression and their own unique voice.

RACHEL PFUNDSTEIN | ***Lighting Designer***

Rachel (she/her) is excited to be back at Live Arts. She has previously worked as master electrician at NextStop Theatre and Porthouse Theatre. Recent credits include *Matilda*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY*, and *Beehive*. After a long hiatus from theater, she is happy to be back illuminating the stage once again.

JOSHUA REID | ***Assistant Fight Choreographer***

Joshua graduated from VCU with a BFA in theater, with a concentration in lighting design and stage production. Some of his other expertise includes armor for film and the stage. His previous Live Arts lighting design credits include *PIPELINE*, *THE CHILDREN*, *LOVE AND INFORMATION*, *YOU DON'T KNOW JACKSH*T ABOUT THE MOTHMAN*, and *HEATHERS*.

MAGGIE ROGERS | ***Props Designer/Set Dressing***

Maggie (she/her) Maggie is a local designer and fabricator. Her first role at Live Arts was opening cans of tuna backstage for *THE CHILDREN*. Her recent credits include playing with puppets for *LIFE SUCKS*. and writing Cyrillic gibberish for *UNCLE VANYA*.

MIX RUDOLPH | ***Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager/ Light Board Operator***

Mix (they/them) is a recent UVA graduate. They received a degree in studio art with minors in drama and architecture. Recent credits include technical director for Spectrum Theatre's *Alice by Heart*, lighting designer for Virginia Players Lab Series *Passage*, and sound designer for Spectrum Theatre's *Fun Home*.

ALYSSA SAMUELSON | ***Stage Management Mentor***

Alyssa (she/her) resides in NYC as a freelance company manager. She has previously worked with Baseline Theatrical, DR Theatrical Management, KGM Theatrical, and White Cherry Entertainment. This is her first time working with Live Arts!

SOPHIA SAUNIER | **Assistant Stage Manager**


Sophia is a rising junior at Albemarle High School. THE LIGHTNING THIEF is her first production at Live Arts. Recent credits include running crew in *Clue! On Stage*. During the summer, she surfs at Virginia Beach. Sophia is excited to be getting involved in Live Arts!

MANDY SHUKER | **Producer**

Mandy (she/her) is thrilled to be working with this wonderful, talented cast and crew! You may know her as a stage manager from HEATHERS THE MUSICAL: TEEN EDITION and VIOLET, or you may have even seen her onstage during the 2024 WATERWORKS festival as Elizabeth in PERSUASION, Carmel Fairlawn in NEEDVILLE, and Claire in LUCID.

ISABEL TUSING | **Production Stage Manager**

Isabel discovered a love of theater during her senior year in high school. Now a rising sophomore computer science major at The College of William and Mary, she has enjoyed working on a variety of incredible productions. Some favorites include: INTO THE WOODS (Live Arts), *Bright Star* (William and Mary), and *Trap* (OCHS).



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SETS & LIGHTS

Aafreen Aamir	Carson Harter	Jo Rell
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Becca Budrock	Eamon Hyland	Sophia Saunier
Denny Barberio	Rowan Isaacson	Veronica Schoenster
Tom Bloom	June Jones	Kazuo Shinozaki
Maria Borga	J. Kent	Yuji Shinozaki
Korine Brier	Chris Lin	Stella Shoemaker
Hayes Buppert	Benjamin Lohr	Marcus Southerland
Kate Chewy	Connor Michael	Tanya Stanciu
Will Conrad	Charlotte Moore	Emma Trist
Carrie Contreras	Israel Nixon	Alex Tuszynohi
Ila Cooper	Jim O'Connor	Alyssa Vetrova
Rana Dabek	Jamaica Pleasant	Misty Vredenburg
Etta Feigert	Melanie Polania	Maddie Wayland
Lita Flowers	Josh Reid	Greg Wood
Morgan Geissman	Micah Reid	Tony Walker

FRONT OF HOUSE

Maria Adolphs	Meg Hoover	Stephen Smith
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Amy Goffman	Kathi Minton	Roger Tolle
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Brian Hamshar	Tom Raney	Diane Zimet
Tracy Hardley	Julia Robertson	Karen Zimet
Jacob Hodell	Mandy Shuker	Melina Zimet
Tara Hodell	Sofia Smith	Zach Zimet

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