Sense and Sensibility

Adaptation by Kate Hamill
from the Jane Austen novel

Directed by Wes Seals
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from the Jane Austen novel

Directed by Wes Seals*

Nancy Scott, Interim Dean of the School of the Arts
Sharon Ott*, Chair, Department of Theatre

Scenic Designer
Chris Raintree

Costume Designer
Evie King**

Lighting Designer
Sreypech An**

Sound Designer
Samantha Tiller**

Production Stage Manager
Megan Pelaccio**

Technical Director
Doriana Lichter**

Dramaturgs
Raja Benz**
Scott Jones**

Dialect Coach
Erica Hughes

Associate Director
Senior Dramaturg
Katharine Given**

Movement Director
Drewe Goldstein**

Production Supervisor
Bonnie Brady*

**VCUarts Theatre is proud to feature the artistry of our students.
*Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
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### The Cast
(In Alphabetical Order)

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Donna Boyd</td>
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<td>Tevin Davis</td>
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<td>Kat McMahan</td>
<td>Fanny Ferrars Dashwood / Gossip</td>
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<td>Corey T. Norman</td>
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<td>Emma Olson</td>
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<td>Amita Rao</td>
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<td>Liam Storm</td>
<td>Sir John Middleton / Gossip</td>
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<td>Celeste Taica</td>
<td>Margaret Dashwood / Gossip</td>
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**Time:** 1790's  
**Place:** The South of England

*This production uses theatrical haze.*

Running time is approximately 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission.

### Production Note

The title of our play, *Sense and Sensibility*, reflects a hot debate straight from the late eighteenth century in England. When Jane Austen began writing the novel in the late 1790s, she was in direct dialogue with this cultural discourse. Is it better to have sense? Or sensibility? Or is it feasible, as Austen's work seems to suggest, to blend them?

While sense and sensibility can sound as though their meanings should be similar, they in fact serve as two points of a dichotomy. To have sensibility is to fully experience emotionality and to identify those emotions as both a source of strength and a moral yardstick. (This “cult of sensibility” would give rise to English romanticism in the early nineteenth century.) In contrast, to have sense is to firmly govern emotions and rely on perception and logic for insight and decision-making.

Jane Austen’s work is titled *Sense AND Sensibility*, however, not *Sense OR Sensibility*. The story troubles the idea that one must choose between them. It is easy, on a first glance, to identify characters who seem to rely only on emotions (and thus seem flighty and a bit wild), or rely only on logic (and thus seem cold and reserved). But the title of tonight’s play invites us to look past that initial reading. Characters who dive fiercely into their sensibility (Marianne, Willoughby) do not finish the play without encountering some form of sense to temper them. And characters who stand for calm and composed sense (Elinor, Colonel Brandon) possess a great depth of feeling and sensibility, despite the strict control they require of themselves.

*Sense and Sensibility* ultimately proposes that we might feel our emotions strongly, and still moderate them with our good sense. We hope you will find in this production, as we have: a lovely story, memorable characters, and the perfect combination of sense and sensibility.

Katharine Given  
Associate Director
The Cast
(In Alphabetical Order)

Lianne Aarons (Lady Middleton/Gossip) is so excited to be back on the mainstage in *Sense and Sensibility*. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for making this an amazing experience. She would also like to thank her friends and family for the constant support and love. Enjoy. The. Show.

Calie Bain (Gossip) is a junior pursuing her BFA in Theatre Performance. She has enjoyed experiencing just how biting (and feminist!) Jane Austen can be! Some of her credits include *The Wolves* (VCUarts Theatre), and *Graceland/Asleep on the Wind and Orlando* (SALT). Most recently, she got to work on the upcoming Showtime mini-series *The Good Lord Bird*, and she looks forward to working on *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at Dogtown Dance this winter. She especially wants to thank her roommate Alisha, who endured many late-night-post-rehearsal chats in a ridiculous British dialect.

Donna Boyd (Gossip) is an artist who cares about creating work that makes audiences feel accepted and less alone. She was last seen in *God of Carnage* (Veronica) and *The Three Musketeers* (Innkeeper/Abbess). She also recently directed a show called “Enough,” which was a completely devised piece about body positivity that explored the true stories of seven different actors. Donna would like to thank her friends and family for all of their endless support.

Tevin Davis (Edward Ferrars) is a B.F.A. Theatre Performance major here at VCU. He has done a number of shows that you may have seen him in such as *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (VCUarts Theatre), *Blues for Mister Charlie* (UofR), *Little Shop of Horrors* (VCUarts Theatre), *In The Red and Brown Water* (VCUarts Theatre), *Pinocchio* (Va Rep), *The Consoling Mechanism* (Va Rep), and *The Wiz* (Va Rep). Tevin is thankful for yet another opportunity to perform and he hopes you enjoy this production! He would like to thank God, his parents, family, Neil Burch, Whitney Houston, and friends!

Insta: @Tevin.m.davis

Jacob Dodson (John Willoughby/Gossip) is a third year Performing Arts major at VCUarts Theatre. Last semester he appeared in the ensemble for VCUarts Theatre’s *The Three Musketeers* as well as Tom in *These Shining Lives* at SALT. He will be playing Judas in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* this winter at Dogtown Dance. Jacob would like to thank the incredible cast and crew on this show; particularly, Wes Seals, Erica Hughes, and Kate Given for offering their immense inspiration and guidance. He would especially like to thank his mother - her enthusiasm for all things Jane Austen filled him with a sense of great responsibility and overwhelming excitement when approaching this role. Luv ya mom, you da bomb.

Katrina Elliott (Anne Steele/Gossip) is currently a sophomore in the VCUarts Theatre Department. She was previously in the 5th Annual Sadie Hawkins Cabaret and in *As You Like It* with SALT (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre). She is also a proud member of the improv team, Children At Play, here on campus and is the Event Coordinator for the SALT Board. She is extremely excited to be working with such amazing people on this production. She would like to thank her family and friends for the constant love and support.

Rachel Foeller (Mrs. Dashwood/Gossip) is thrilled to be on the mainstage for first time, just a month before she graduates! You may have seen her on the SALT stage in *The Whale, Mad Gravity*, and *These Shining Lives*. She’s had an absolute blast exploring the lives of these women and practicing how to be a British widow (one of her many career goals). Rachel would love to thank her parents, Nancy and Steve, for always pushing her to do what she loves and supporting her every step along the way.
Drewe Goldstein (John Dashwood/Movement Director)
Passionate about creating work for new audiences and all people, Drewe was recently seen at the Weston Playhouse performing nightly in the Act IV Cabaret and teaching during the day at their high school conservatory program. Drewe was recently seen in Warm, A Pop Opera as Hector at Firehouse Theatre; they have also been seen in The Three Musketeers (King Louis) and Little Shop of Horrors (Ensemble, U/S Orin) at VCUarts Theatre, S.A.L.T productions such as Orlando (Archduchess) and 4.48 Psychosis (Performer). Their directing credits include; God of Carnage (Director), I and You (Assistant Director) at the Weston Playhouse, Enough (Choreographer), Romeo and Juliet (Associate Director), Venus in Fur (Assistant Director), and A Doll’s House (Assistant Director) at TheatreLab. Upcoming; The Last Days of Judas Iscariot at Dogtown Dance (Director), and Spring Awakening (Hanschen). www.drewegoldstein.com

Erica Hughes (Mrs. Jennings) is an instructor of Voice & Speech at VCU, as well as a private voice/dialect/text coach and a performer. In Richmond, she has also worked with Virginia Rep, Quill Theatre, RTP, Firehouse Theatre, University of Richmond, CAT, and TheatreLAB. She has also coached for the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, Chicago Pride Films & Plays, Round House Theatre, and the National Speech & Debate Association, among other institutions. Erica has an M.F.A. in Theatre Pedagogy/Stage Voice & Speech from VCU, and received additional training from Carnegie Mellon University, Denison University, the Gaiety School of Acting (Dublin, Ireland), and the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

Lydia Hynes (Lucy Steele/Gossip) is a senior excited to be a part of her final VCU production before graduating with her BFA next month. Recent credits include Dance Nation (TheatreLAB) and God of Carnage (SALT). She was last seen on the mainstage as #8 in The Wolves, and “The Yellow One” in Legally Blonde: The Musical. She is also a proud writer and performer for the sketch comedy group, The Blue Collard Greens (@bcgrva).

Christopher Martin (Colonel Brandon/Gossip) is a senior Performance major and is happy to be back on the mainstage with another power cast of amazing actors. You may have seen Chris in A Time to Kill, Boy Gets Girl and In the Red and Brown Water. He is also heavily involved in SALT; as an actor he was in The Flick and 4.48 Psychosis. He has directed two shows, Marjorie Prime and JOUSKA, while also a sound designer and graphic designer for several other shows. He would like to thank his Family, Friends, Wes, Dorie, Erica and the Cast of S&S for being such a family.

Kat McMahan (Fanny Ferrars Dashwood/Gossip) is a 3rd year student at VCUarts Theatre working on obtaining her BFA in performance! Kat has been seen in past Mainstages like Little Shop of Horrors, and Two Gentlemen of Verona (Lucetta), in the SALT production of Venus In Fur (Vanda Jordan), and in the concert version of Warm: The Pop/Rock Opera at Firehouse Theatre. Kat is so excited to be working with such a fun-loving good-times-only team. She wants to thank the whole production team, as well as technical team for making this show happen. As the first page of the script says “Have fun - Jane Austen would approve.” Enjoy the show, much love to Kat’s family!

Corey T. Norman (Robert Ferrars/Gossip) is a second year performance major at Virginia Commonwealth University. He was previously seen on stage at VCU in Hand To God, In the Red and Brown Water, and Heart of a Dog. Sense and Sensibility marks his second VCU Mainstage show, but his fourth show at VCU overall. He’s grateful to have been a part of making this wonderful, all out production alongside this talented group of individuals in the cast and crew. He would like to thank God above all else for the life that he has, and his family and friends for their unconditional support.

Emma Olson (Elinor Dashwood) is delighted to be a part of this beautiful production of Sense and Sensibility. You may have seen her in The Wolves (VCUarts Theatre) and Holding (Firehouse Theatre). She is so thankful for everyone that’s been involved in this process for their constant hard work and giggles. Thank you Tevin for helping her write this bio. Enjoy the show!
Amita Rao (Marianne Dashwood) is super excited to make her debut on the mainstage with VCUarts Theatre. You may have seen her before with her improv team, Running AMok, or with her sketch comedy group, Blue Collard Greens, or perhaps even with her rabbit, Theo — but you’ve never seen her like this before. And by this, she means British! She hopes you enjoy the accent, and the show, and encourages you to check out any upcoming shows at S.A.L.T too!

Liam Storm (Sir John Middleton/Gossip) is a second year Theatre Performance Major and he is very grateful to be part of such an incredible cast and crew. Other credits include Planchet in The Three Musketeers (VCUarts Theatre) and Romeo in Romeo and Juliet (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre). He would like to thank his dog Charlie for all the kisses during tech week.

Celeste Taica (Margaret Dashwood/Gossip) is a junior pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance at VCU. Her recent credits include The Wolves with VCUarts Theatre and 4.48 Psychosis with Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre. She is a proud writer and performer for The Blue Collard Greens, a locally grown sketch comedy group. Follow @bcgrva on social media for show dates and come by next spring to see her in Machinal! She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoyed being 20 going on 13!
The Production Team

Chris Raintree (Scenic Designer) is a freelance scenic designer in Richmond. His scenic education includes a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University. His designs have won awards from the South Eastern Theatre Conference, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle. He was given the honor of designing CMU’s centennial production of The Wild Party. Select credits include A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, Mr. Popper’s Penguins (Virginia Rep); Passing Strange, Songs From Bedlam, Desire Under The Elms (Firehouse Theatre); Moth, A Doll’s House (TheatreLAB); An Act of God, Seven Homeless Mammoths (Richmond Triangle Players).

Evie King (Costume Designer) is in her first year of VCU Theatre's MFA in costume design program. Ms. King earned her BS in journalism from VCU last May. Previously Ms. King has designed A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, and Much Ado About Nothing with The Children’s Shakespeare Society (Bozeman, Montana). She has worked as a design assistant with the American Shakespeare Center (Staunton, VA), Door Shakespeare (Door County, WI) and on multiple productions at Lawrence University (Appleton, WI) and Interlochen Arts Academy (Interlochen, MI).

Sreypech An (Lighting Designer) is a 4th year student who is majoring in Lighting Design and Technical Production with a minor in General Business here at VCU. Some of her favorite productions include A Time to Kill, Into the Woods, Boy Gets Girl, and Sister Act. She has worked at Busch Gardens and Dogwood Dell Amphitheater during the summertime and is currently a part-time Recreation Specialist at Henrico Theatre. She is very excited to explore the industry and possibly go on tour after graduation.

Samantha Tiller (Sound Designer) is a third year student studying Sound Design, with a minor in Environmental Studies, and Gender and Womens Studies. Most recently she was the Sound Designer for Grease Jr. with Cadence Theatre, and she was the Associate Sound Designer for In the Red and Brown Water with VCUarts Theatre. She hopes that you enjoy the show and all the lovely sounds throughout it. She would now like to shout-out her parents for their constant support. Y’all the MVPs.
**Acadia Khan** (Props Master) is a sophomore scenic design student and is excited to be part of this production! She was an Assistant Paint Charge of VCU’s production of *Eclipsed* and is looking forward to contributing to even more shows here!

**Megan Pelaccio** (Production Stage Manager) is a senior stage manager graduating this December. She’s very excited to conclude her time at VCUarts Theatre with this production, and couldn’t have done it without her wonderful stage management team, Destiny, Lane, and Angela. Past VCUarts Theatre credits include, *Into the Woods, The Wolves, and In the Red and Brown Water.* She’d like to thank Wes for being a great director to work with, Bonnie Brady for being a phenomenal mentor and professor, her parents for their continual love and support, and all of her friends and peers for their nonstop support. Enjoy the show!

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The Production Staff

SCENERY
Props Master ......................................................... Acadia Khan
Assistant Props Masters ....................... Calon Haun, Nathan Rankin, Tomya Pryor
Paint Charge ............................................................ Jeffery Hales
Assistant Paint Charges ......................... Sarah Cook, Richard Williams
Graduate Scene Shop Assistant ............... Scott Jones
Set Construction .............................................. Shane Barber, Naomi Bertha, Faith Carlson,
                                        Amari Cummings, Aya Daniels, Keegan Ferrell, Nathan Kane,
                                        Sun Park, Joseph Peregrine, Liam Storm, Alyssa Sutherland,
Scene Shop Foreman ........................................ Kevin McGranahan
Faculty Supervisors .............................. Scott Bradley, Preston Spence

COSTUMES
Assistant Designer ............................................. Kirsten Katt
Costume Coordinator ................................. Carolan Corcoran
Drapers ............................................. Victoria Cozza, Skyler Glaser, Laura Holt,
                                        Kaitlin Kutchma, Evangeline King
Graduate Costume Assistants .................... Audrey Reed, Evangeline King
Craft Supervisor ........................................ Kendra Rai
Costume Construction and Crafts ............. Taylor Aragon, Melissa Drago, K T Farmer,
                                        Christopher Goode, Emma Harrison, Laura Holt, Amanda Jackson
                                        Addison Michael, Sterling Neiman, Hailey Parker-Combes,
                                        Neva Sediak William Singleton, Delaney Theisz, Lily Valentin
Costume Shop Assistants ....................... Avery Johnson, Eduardo Miano,
                                        Sheridan Parkinson, Makai Walker
Wardrobe Supervisor ............................ Emma Harrison
Wig Supervisor ........................................ Delaney Theisz
Wardrobe Crew ........................................... Henry Boyle, Cedar Curran, Yosef Etana,
                                        Kimberlee Flores-Tejada, Zora Grace, Milena Gutierrez,
                                        Alexa Lushetsky, Robert McNickle

LIGHTING
Associate Lighting Designer ...................... Emily Steinmiller
Master Electrician ........................................ Maya Kotto
Assistant Master Electrician ..................... Gabrielle Cruz
Moving Light Technician .......................... Dakota Carter
Lighting Programmer .................................... Sarah St. John
Deck Electrician .......................................... Joseph Stitt
Light Board Op .............................................. Dezmond Ward
Electricians ............................. Hannah Allison, Sreypech An, Amy Ariel, Hannah Beckner,
                                        Jason Burns, Dakota Carter, Catherine Cochran, Gabrielle Cruz,
                                        Julian Difelici, Emily Ellen, Deryn Gabor, Nicholas Greene, Austin Harber,
                                        Maya Kotto, Brianna Oglesby, Sarah St. John, Emily Steinmiller,
                                        Joseph Stitt, Dezmond Ward, Ethan Weiser

SOUND
Sound Board Op ........................................ Rose Bailey
Sound Advisor ........................................... EJ Cho
Sound Assistants ............................ Asjah Janece, Shinji Oh
Faculty Supervisor ............................... Thomas Vecchione

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Assistant Stage Manager .............................. Destiny Martinez
Production Assistants ........................ Angela Vivaldi, Lane Woodward
Run Crew ........................................ Abigail Cole, Keegan Ferrell, Dawson Garrett, Jamar Powers
Faculty Supervisor ................................. Bonnie Brady

HOUSE MANAGEMENT
House Managers ................................. Emily Godbey, Asjah Heiligh
Assistant House Manager ..................... Emma Tolley

BOX OFFICE
Box Office Manager ................................. Melissa Freilich
Box Office Assistants ......................... Saniyah Phillips, Emma Tolley, Makai Walker
Full Time Faculty

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, AGMA, or SAG/AFTRA
^Member of United Scenic Artists, 829
^Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Sharon Ott*
Department Chair

Dr. Keith Kirk
Director of Graduate Studies

Kikau Alvaro*
Musical Theatre

Bonnie Brady*
Stage Management

Christian DeAngelis*
Lighting Design

Shaun McCracken
Academic Advisor

Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates*
Directing & Performance

Neno Russell*
Head of Design/ Technology

Wes Seals*
Performance

Dr. Aaron Anderson*
Associate Chair

Bonnie McCoy+
Administrative Director

Michelle Anderson
Administrative Coordinator

Scott Bradley*
Scenic Design

Karen Kopyrinski*
Head of Undergraduate Performance

Kevin McGranahan
Scene Shop Foreman

Kendra Rai+
Costume Design

Preston Spence
Technical Director

David Emerson Toney*
Performance

Elizabeth Byland
Impro

Jeff Darland
Improv and Movement

Erica Hughes
Voice & Speech

Happy Mahaney*
Performance

Chris Raintree
Scenic

Emily Tappan
Costumes

Dr. Bryan Wade
Musical Theatre

Andrew Bryce
Graduate Administrative Assistant

Katharine Given
Graduate Administrative Assistant

Weston Corey
Lighting

Emily Hake
Scenic Painting

Xiaolin Lan
Performance

Dr. Jesse Njus
History & Literature

Lisa Rumbauskas
Dance

Thomas Vecchione
Sound

B J Wilkinson
Lighting

Nancy Scott
Interim Dean of the School of the Arts

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