



Marie Antoinette

By David Adjmi

Directed by Mary Beth Easley

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 1 hour 35 minutes. There is no intermission.

Please be advised that this production includes strong language, depictions of violence towards a child, and the presence of a straight razor. There are descriptions of extreme violence and sexual content. Theatrical atmosphere haze and fog will be used. Flashing lights may affect some photo sensitive viewers.

Protests! Sieges! Chants of “Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité” echo throughout the streets. Revolutionary unrest stirs the country as Queen Marie and King Louis XVI begin to face the repercussions of their cavalier reign. Tony Award winner and UIowa Theatre Arts alum, David Adjmi, composes a contemporary take on the historic French Revolution which follows Marie’s nightmarish personal journey from idolized monarch to social pariah. Reflecting our own media-addled infatuation with wealth and power, *Marie Antoinette* weaves together comedy, hierarchy, and intrigue as the young queen navigates the tenuous path towards her inevitable deposition.

Marie Antoinette is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Performances:

Friday, October 11 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 12 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m.
Wednesday, October 16 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 17 at 8 p.m.
Friday, October 18 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 19 at 8 p.m.

Tickets:

Purchase your tickets in advance through Hancher Box Office by calling 319-335-1160 or online through [their website](#).

The Box Office at the Theatre Building opens one hour prior to the performance, with tickets on an as-available basis, unless the production is sold out.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Theatre Arts at 319-335-2700 in advance of the event.

MARIE ANTOINETTE was commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre James Bundy, Artistic Director, Victoria Nolan, Managing Director and received its first public performance on September 1, 2012.

MARIE ANTOINETTE had its New York Premiere at Soho Rep.

Sarah Benson, Artistic Director

Cynthia Flowers, Executive Director

Marie Antoinette – Dramaturg's Note

From Meredith G. Healy

From our earliest conversations about *Marie Antoinette*, Mary Beth encouraged me to listen to the words that playwright David Adjmi uses to talk about his show. The historical moments that inspired the play are, of course, important, but by looking at interviews Adjmi has done over the years, some explicitly about *Marie Antoinette* and some not, we were able to explore the lavish world of the play through his eyes. Since Adjmi's voice has been so present for us during this process, we'd like to give you some of his wisdom as you enter into Marie's realm with us!

ADJMI ON THE GENESIS OF THE SHOW:

"I was at the MacDowell Colony, and I was there to work on another project. But it was a very complicated project and I was driving myself crazy. I had never been in an artists' colony before, so I was getting really panicked by the sheer latitude that I had every day. I didn't know what to do with myself and I started having a meltdown. So I thought, "I'm not going to write this play anymore." And I decided to read *Veronica*, Mary Gaitskill's novel about a model. I was enjoying reading the book, and then I remember having this flash—"I'm going to write a play about *Marie Antoinette*." I walked down to the public library and got a bunch of children's books. Then I looked on the internet for two or three days and wrote down everything, just to get the timeline. And then I frenetically wrote the play as quickly as I could. The play just flew out of me. It was a very strange experience."

David Adjmi in an interview with A.R.T. Dramaturg Ryan McKittrick

ADJMI ON PLAYWRITING:

"It's different with every project. So much of playwriting is play, and people forget that. Especially when I teach. My students are all so serious. I'm like, Guys, you can't do this if you're so nervous. When I wrote *Marie Antoinette*, it was like I was playing pinball or something. The historical material just reverberated inside me. Sometimes I get into a zone: a certain wavelength or a frequency where I'm dancing with the material. The main thing is I don't want to be avalanched or ambushed by my research. You know how you can see a play that's really well researched, but the writer was just suffocated by the research because they didn't have the arrogance or the insistence to be heard

through it? They're being very quiet and sitting with their hands folded and being a good little student."

David Adjmi in an interview with Jen Silverman for *BOMB* Magazine

ADJMI ON THEMES IN *MARIE ANTOINETTE*:

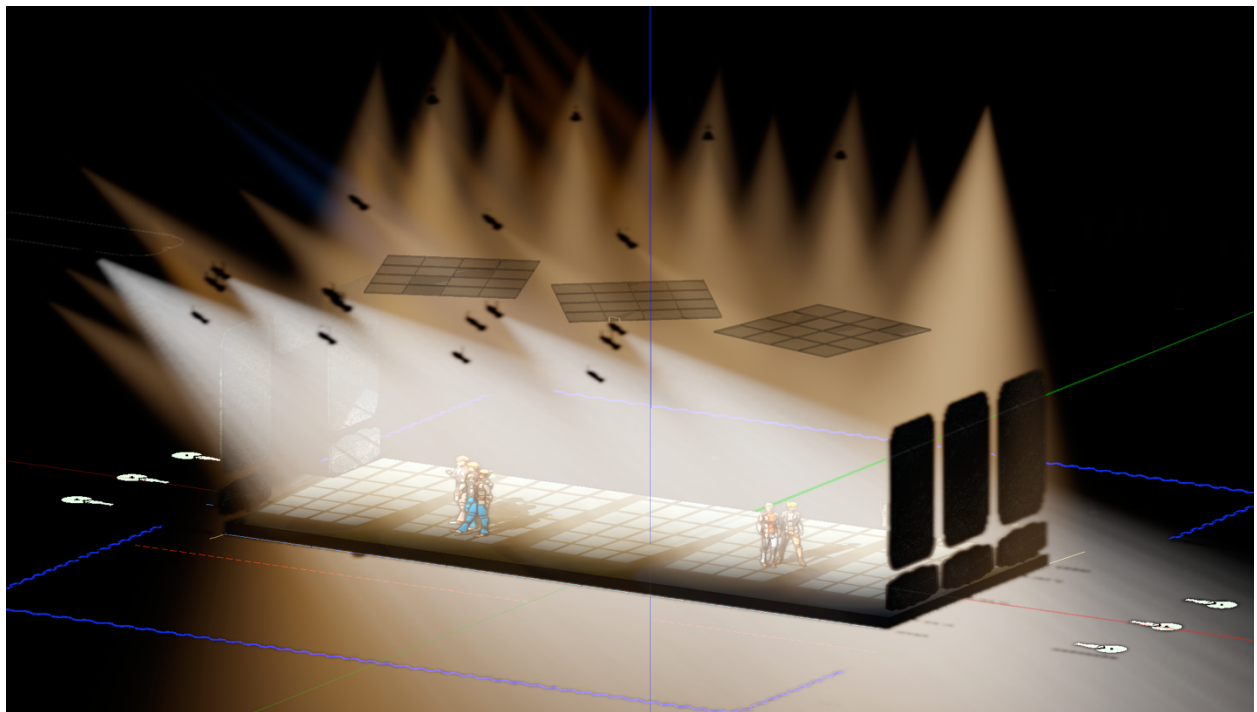
"At least in my play, there is not a lot of continuity of where Marie Antoinette came from and how she was raised and what she was doing. It's almost like she wasn't really raised. She was thrown into the world and given a role to play. So much of what the play is about is her trying to negotiate between the role and who she is inside, and she can't do it. It's a very difficult thing; it's a trick between negotiating between the interior and the exterior. What you show people and how you negotiate power with them and then how you try to make yourself feel whole and safe inside. It's how those two things happen together. She's got a very big problem doing that.

Then there is this notion of her trying to figure out how to be a responsible human being: responsible to herself, responsible to her family and responsible to the State and civic responsibility. She doesn't understand any of it. She can't be responsible really because she doesn't understand herself. She doesn't feel like she is a whole person. She feels like she is a lost, regressed child. I am very interested in that."

David Adjmi in an interview with Sydney-Chanele Dawkins for *DC Theater Arts*

Marie Antoinette – Lighting Design Renderings

by Søren Olsen



Marie Antoinette – Costume Design Renderings

by Abby Garraty





COSTUME TRACKING

Marie Antionette

Marie Antoinette – Scenic Design Renderings

by *Chloe Cobb*



Marie Antoinette – Meet the Cast

MARIE ANTOINETTE
BY DAVID ADJMI
DIRECTED BY MARY BETH EASLEY
MEET THE CAST



Marie Antoinette | ALICE CONROY*

Alice is a fourth-year undergraduate and is so grateful to be doing her 6th mainstage production at the University. Alice has been quite insufferable in her method acting this semester. This past month, she has been giving people cake nonstop and trying to behead the people she doesn't like (don't worry, she has not been successful yet). She would like to thank her parents, Barney and Tina, for manifesting this role for her when they gave her the middle name 'Marie' many moons ago, and she hopes you enjoy the show.



Louis XVI | HUNTER MEYER

Hunter Meyer is a first-year MFA acting candidate at the university, from Kansas City. He received his undergraduate degree from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. He was recently seen as Howard in Tent Theatre's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*, as well as Miles in *She Kills Monsters*, Mr. Reed in *These Shining Lives*, and Howard in *Picnic* all at Missouri State.

*Undergraduate student. UI Theatre is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

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MEET THE CAST



Emperor Joseph / Mr. Sauce | BRENNEN SAVON MALONE

Brennen Savon Malone (he/they) is a first-year MFA acting candidate. He is a Philly-born actor. He received his undergraduate degree from Bates College in Lewiston, ME. Some of his recent credits include originating the role of Juicy in the Pulitzer Prize-winning, *Fat Ham* at the Wilma Theater, as well as Brad in *Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Theatre Horizon, Collins in *RENT*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening* at Milton Theatre, and Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web* at the Arden Theatre. He is incredibly grateful to be honing his

craft here at Iowa among such generous artists.



Axel Fersen | RAPHAEL (RAPH) THOMÉ

A passionate artist with a journey that began in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Raphael started working as an actor at a young age. His career spans film, television, and theatre, which led him to Los Angeles to pursue a career both in front of and behind the camera. Having worn multiple hats, such as writer, director, editor, and actor, he developed a taste for all the different challenges within the performing arts. Now a first-year MFA acting candidate at the University of Iowa, Raphael is eager to keep learning about his craft and growing with his peers.

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Yolande De Polignac / Mrs. Sauce | MADELINE (MADDIE) RODRIGUEZ*

Maddie Rodriguez (she/her) is a third-year student majoring in theatre arts and ethics & public policy. Some of her previous works at Iowa include *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties*, *Dance Nation*, *Men on Boats*, *Braided Sorrow*, and *Mother:Knife*. She has been tirelessly preparing for this role with a diet of purely baguettes, macarons, and escargot. Elle a oublié l'anglais et elle parle français avec ses amis maintenant. C'est dommage, mais elle prend le théâtre au sérieux. Bon spectacle!



Therese De Lamballe / Royalist | HOLLAND LARNED*

Holland is a fourth-year acting student at Iowa, pursuing a bachelor's degree in theatre arts on the comedy track. This is her sixth time appearing on the University of Iowa's stages, following such credits as *The Bacchae*, *Men on Boats*, and *Razor Creek: A Folk-Rock Sci-Fi Musical*. She would like to extend a "merci beaucoup" to the cast, crew, and to you for being here!

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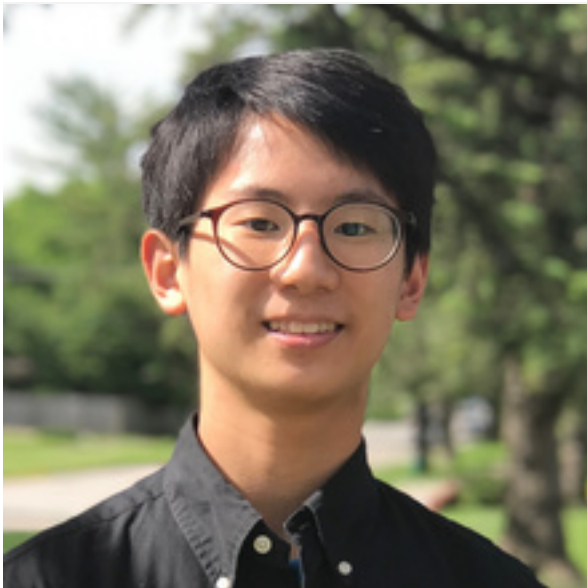
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A Sheep | LEAH URZENDOWSKI

Leah was an ensemble member of The Neo-futurists from 2011-2021. Wrote, directed, and performed in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* and *The Infinite Wrench*. Performer/choreographer/devisor credits include: *Burning Bluebeard*, *Miss Neo Pageant*, *The?Unicorn?Hour?* (Neo-futurists). Choreography credits include: *Lord of The Flies* (Steppenwolf), *The Magic Play* (Goodman), *Ivywild* (Hypocrites), and Jeff award winner for *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Red Tape). Performer credits include: *500*

Clown Trapped, *500 Clown Frankenstein* (500 Clown), *Hunchback* (Redmoon). TV/Movie credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*, *Beats*, and *Operator*. Thank you for seeing live theatre. Do it again.



The Dauphin | DAVID LEE*

David Lee is a first-year undergraduate student cookin' up his physics B.S. and saucin' it up with his sociology B.A. at the University of Iowa. David makes his UI theater debut as Dauphin in *Marie Antoinette* and has been soaking up all the creative and intellectual capital of his cast and production team to utilize when direction films in the upcoming semesters. His previous stage credits include *High School Musical*, *Big Fish the Musical*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, and *Oliver*. Befitting the Dauphin, David is always hungry and in need of going to Paris. Due to his mama

and papa being too busy running around to save the monarchy, David is perpetually looking for food. All invitations of home-cooked meals and/or flight tickets to Paris will be gladly accepted. He has a brother in Paris he would like to visit.

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MEET THE CAST



Guard / Revolutionary 1 | AIDAN SEVILLE*



VALET / Revolutionary 2 | PRESTON COLEMAN

Preston Coleman is a first-year MFA acting candidate. A Prince-Georges County, MD native. He studied at Morgan State University (HBCU) earning his bachelor's degree in theatre arts. He's taught in Baltimore City Public School as an English teacher; staged managed productions *Our Town* at Carl J. Murphy Fine arts Center (2021) and *The Mountaintop* at Vagabond Players company (2023); and an Alumni-production team/ cast member of a non-profit, social justice, youth development group called City at Peace in located in Washington D.C.

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Guard / Revolutionary 3 | EPHRAM SINNWELL*

Ephram is a sophomore undergraduate at the University of Iowa studying cinema, screenwriting, and theatre arts. In *Marie Antoinette*, he is taking on his third credit at Iowa, playing one of Marie's servants who helps upkeep her lavish lifestyle as well as a French Revolutionary who aids in her fall from grace. Ephram hopes you enjoy this incredible play written by an Iowa Playwrights Workshop alum!



Lady in Waiting | ELIZABETH NIGG*

Elizabeth is a second-year undergraduate double majoring in English and theatre arts on the music theatre track. This will be her first production at Iowa, having just transferred here this fall. Recent credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena) with Iowa Stage Theatre Company, and *Elizabeth Cree* (Shadow Player) with the University of Michigan. She would like to thank her parents for their unending support, along with the cast and creative team for their committed efforts to breathe life into this pocket

of history—now more relevant than ever.

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Marie Antoinette – Meet the Creative Team

MARIE ANTOINETTE

BY DAVID ADJMI

DIRECTED BY MARY BETH EASLEY

Meet the creative team



Director | MARY BETH EASLEY

Mary Beth Easley is head of directing in the Department of Theatre Arts. From 2006–2018, she was Artistic Director of the CUNY-Brooklyn College Department of Theater. Focusing on new play development, intercultural theatre expression, and outreach to under-represented urban and rural communities, Ms. Easley has been directing plays, coaching, and teaching acting for many years. She has directed Off-Broadway and in regional theatres throughout the United States. In NYC, her work has been featured at The Bushwick Starr, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Circle Rep, The Women’s Project, The

New Federal Theater, and LaMama ETC, among others.



Dramaturg / Assistant Director | MEREDITH G. HEALY

Meredith is a second-year directing candidate at the University of Iowa. Originally from Lexington, KY, Meredith made her way to Iowa by way of Wellesley, MA; Providence, RI; and Portland, ME. During her first year at Iowa, she was lucky to direct *Brother-Brother* by Sixtus Chetachi Igbokwe for the Gallery Series (2023) and *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties* by Derick Edgren Otero for the Iowa New Play Festival (2024). Thanks to Mary Beth for the opportunity to work on this show and to her parents for their

unwavering support!

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Meet the creative team



Fight Director | JOSH TURNER

Josh Turner, an Atlanta native, earned his BFA in acting from the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. His passion for storytelling began early, inspired by his grandfather, Ural Smith Jr., leading him to believe that great stories can change lives and touch hearts. Josh has performed in award-winning productions such as *The New Black Fest's Hands Up: 7 Playwrights/7 Testaments*, which was staged at the Tony Award-winning Alliance Theatre and received a Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Social Justice Production. As a director, his credits include new works such as *The Just Us League* (Gainesville Theatre

Alliance), *West Illinois Glass House* (University of Iowa), and *Spells For Going Forth by Daylight* (University of Iowa, Iowa New Play Festival), as well as classics like *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (AD Players Theatre). Josh is currently pursuing his MFA in directing at the University of Iowa. He would like to thank his wife, Zafyre, for her love and support!



Intimacy Director | CRISTINA GOYENECHÉ

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Meet the creative team



Stage Manager | MELISSA L.F. TURNER§



Scenic Designer | CHLOE COBB

Chloe Cobb is a third-year MFA candidate in theatre arts with a focus in scenic design. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Chloe attended Arizona State University for their undergraduate degree. Previous scenic design credits at the University of Iowa include *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifities* (2024), *Into the Woods* (2024), *Men on Boats* (2023), and *Ugly Lies the Bone* (2023). Their full portfolio can be found at www.chloecobbdesign.com.

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Costume Designer | ABBY GARRATY



Lighting Designer / Media Designer | SØREN OLSEN

Søren Olsen is a second-year directing and design MFA candidate at Iowa. He is a multidisciplinary artist whose research and creative work is focused on collectively created performances, installations, and non-violent communication. His work can be seen at www.sorenolsen.com. He is grateful for this opportunity and feels deeply warmed by the support of the entire cast and crew. He would especially love to thank the lighting and media teams at the university for their flexibility,

professionalism, and sunny attitudes.

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Composer / Sound Designer | MARK BRUCKNER

Mark Bruckner (Composer, Arranger, Music Coach, Sound Designer) is a New York Innovative Theater, Audelco Award-winning composer, and Henry Hewes American Theatre Wing design nominee. Some recent projects include: Original Music and Sound Design for *Men on Boats* (Thayer Theatre, Fall 2023) and *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Mabie Theatre, Spring 2023) both directed by Mary Beth Easley; Music Direction, Conductor, and Arranger for *Into the Woods* (directed by Stephen Thorne, Spring 2024, Mabie Theatre); Original music and music director for *The Bacchae* (directed by Sarah Gazdowicz, Thayer Theatre, Fall 2022); Original music and sound design for *The Marriage of Alice B. Toklas by Gertrude Stein* by Edward Einhorn (Jermyn Street Theatre, West End London, UK, March 2022); Original music and ambisonic sound design for *Body Concert* by Kevin Augustine of Lone Wolf Tribe, which received the Grand Prize for Best Music at the 17th International [Lalka Też Człowiek](#) festival in Warsaw, Poland. Visit www.markbruckner.net



Vocal Coach | CAROLINE CLAY

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Dance Director | MICHAEL C. FLORES



Assistant Stage Manager | REED DAVIS§

Reed is first-year stage management candidate from Bangor, Maine. After receiving his BA in theatre from the University of Maine, he has worked with Opera House Arts, First Stage Milwaukee, Opera Maine, and was the resident Production Stage Manager at Penobscot Theatre Company for three seasons. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support. Enjoy the show!

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Assistant Costume Designer | CHELSEA PRESTIEN

Chelsea Prestien is a graduate candidate concentrating in costume design at Iowa. She is delighted for the opportunity to assist with this incredible story and wants to thank her lead designer, the talented team at the costume shop, and the production team for their tutelage, patience, and encouragement through this process.

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MEET THE CREW

Deck Crew Captain	Andrew Lindsay*
Wardrobe Crew Captain	Rhianna Koppes*
Light Board Operator	Abby Weiss*
Media Board Operator	Bridget Dieden*
QLab Operator	Zhenya Loughney
Follow Spot Operators/Deck Crew	Reyna McDermott* Tommy Ferguson*
Run Crew - Deck	Joey Lepire* Sara Alvidrez*
Run Crew – Wardrobe	Nicolette Mayer* Grace Puchalla* Roxy Glave*
Wardrobe Associate	Nat Payán

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