



Feu & Her Friends

By María Irene Fornés
"The heart has a way of seeing that the eyes don't"

Directed by Leila Teitelman

November 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2025
Royall Tyler Theatre
University of Vermont



Presents

Fefu and Her Friends

By María Irene Fornés

Director	~	Leila Teitelman
Assistant Director	~	Adam Smith
Costume Designer	~	Sarah Sophia Lidz
Sound Designer	~	Sadie Kraus
Scenic Designer	~	Sara Nelson
Lighting Designer	~	Craig Zemsky
Assistant Lighting Designer	~	Nox Giordano
Dramaturg	~	Grace Fleming De Torres
Production Stage Manager	~	Logan Barker
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Liliana Clark

CAST

<i>Fefu</i>	~	Iris Pelli-Walbert
<i>Cindy</i>	~	Arden Gonzalez
<i>Christina</i>	~	Jessica Fulmer
<i>Julia</i>	~	Helena Muller
<i>Emma</i>	~	Audrey Buzza
<i>Paula</i>	~	Emma MacLaren
<i>Sue</i>	~	Kate Manitsky
<i>Cecilia</i>	~	Jessie Burke
<i>Cecilia Stand-In/Understudy</i>	~	Riley Ergin

TIME

A Spring Day in 1935

The running time for this performance is approximately 90 minutes
There will be one 12-minute intermission

FEFU AND HER FRIENDS is produced
by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC

www.broadwayplaypublishing.com

Originally produced by the New York Theater Strategy

Fefu and Her Friends ~ The Company

PRODUCTION

<i>Production Manager</i>	~	Sara Nelson
<i>Stage Manager</i>	~	Logan Barker

SCENERY & PROPS

Scenic/Properties Running Crew.....Laurel Denver, Molly Joyce, Blakely Toppel
Scenery Construction.....Kailyn Baugh, Sophia Berger, Hugh Boyle, Eloise Casi,
Teddy Chavez, Kai Haddock, Ethan Humphrey, Liz Loprinze, Ezekiel Lorenzo,
Leda Consejo Malazarte, Hero McCarty, Elliot Murray-Gurney, James Oltmanns,
Emma Pasqual, Mira Pompei-Ulatkowski, Hana Riser

COSTUMES

Wardrobe Head..... Emma Cowper
Wardrobe Crew.....Kyrida Irving, Liz Loprinze
Wardrobe Construction.....Thomas Boland,
Audrey Buzza, Lena Byron, Ian Carpenter, Emma Cowper, Franny Daleo-Clark,
Jordan Hembury, Alex Huber, Bergen Schultz Keats, Molly Martin,
Georgia Paine, Cadin Pinney, Kieran Roberts, Kai Robinson, Sophia Rosen,
Natcha Schnare, Keira Smith, Tovahn Vitols

LIGHTING & SOUND

Master Electrician.....Craig Zemsky
Assistant Master Electrician.....Nox Giordano

Electricians.....Zane Twining Baker, Cleo Blanding, Ezra
Case, Laurel Coleman, Robin Coleman, Jordan Houghtaling, Ethan Humphrey,
Geo Klapow, Violet Lacroix, Cameron Lino, Clare McCormack, Andrew North,
Jet Pyle, Henry Robinson, Nina De Silva, Ngoc Tran

Light Board Operator.....Charlie Bolduan

Sound Board Operator.....Alexis Lindsay

FRONT OF HOUSE

Box Office/Marketing Staff.....Jasper Burton,
Ezra Dillihay, Jayden Hahn, Oliver Hsu, Madeline King, Marianne Lutz, Nina Rivers

House Manager.....Wiley Delisa

Director's Note

The students of UVM's theater program won't stop talking about María Irene Fornés. Their hunger for her work reminds me of my own discovery of her—something of an unclouding, like meeting an old friend. The students are the ones who chose this piece. Every time I passed by a group in the theater lobby, they would call to me, asking- "Leila, can we please do *Fefu*?" I started thinking, yes. Of course. Why wouldn't we do *Fefu*?

There is a magic to this text. When engaging in Fornés' work, it is impossible not to feel the playwright's presence energizing the creative space. As a teacher, poet, and truthful world builder, Maria Irene Fornés touches all of our theatrical journeys, whether you're aware of her or not. She comes to us as a brilliant specter who forces us to fall in love with the odd, raw, humiliating and humorous parts of life- all while laughing in the face of our creative expectations. *Fefu and Her Friends* is a clear example of her magic working. It sneaks up on you. A simple play, but as you dig deeper and deeper into the world of these women, you are somehow left gutted. More questions than answers.

Audiences like to think of this as a feminist piece because they don't know what else to point to. It is, after all, about women and their relationships to one another. But it is larger than gender. Fornés says that her intention in writing *Fefu and Her Friends* was "not necessarily to promote kindness to the opposite sex but something ultimately more interesting, which is that any human being is a member of our species and if we do not allow our imagination to receive the experiences of others because they are of a different gender, we will shrivel and decay, and our spirit will become a dry prune and we will become ill and die and we will not go to heaven because in heaven they do not allow dry prunes." Enough said.

The play uncovers the pieces of us all, regardless of gender, that must grapple with identity and self-loathing. Theater is most powerful when it causes a stir internally and externally. Politically and personally. Artistically and textually. Fefu (and her friends) are teasing out their feelings in order to honor ours. The characters stir something in us, forcing us to speak to those judges and guardians in

our own lives. Fornés was interested in the experience of truth. The reason I believe Fefu resonates with audiences so acutely is because it's simply truth- both gendered and human, imperfect and whole. In a world obsessed with truths, we tend to focus on facts. But beyond facts, there is the absurd truth of being alive and all the revolting, beautiful ways that manifests.

I'd like to thank my brilliant cast and crew for their endless curiosity and hard work. I hope you see the passion and care they all put into this piece.

Leila Teitelman, M.F.A
UVM School of the Arts
Theatre and Dance Faculty

Special Thanks

My friends and family for their support (especially Sarah and Brendan for keeping me propped up)

To Kenneth Prestininzi for introducing me to Fornés.

PLEASE NOTE:

Original sound created and sung by the cast

Content Warnings:

This show contains a simulated gun and gun shot.



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Program in Theatre and Dance

Who's who in the cast of *Fefu and Her Friends*

Jessie Burke (*Cecilia*)

Jess Burke is a sophomore at UVM from Louisville, KY, and she is so excited to be a part of *Fefu and Her Friends*! She did theatre for 10 years with Walden Theatre Conservatory back home and this is her first performance with UVM Theatre. She feels so grateful to be a part of such a talented cast and crew.

Enjoy the show!

Audrey Buzza (*Emma*)

Audrey is a Senior Theatre Major who is beyond excited to be a part of *Fefu and Her Friends*! She has had the honor of being involved with many shows in many capacities here at UVM; some of her favorites being... performing as Amalia Balish in *She Loves Me* and costume designing *Spirits to Enforce*! She is so grateful for this cast, crew and creative team. They have been so fun, supportive, and inspiring! It has been such a joy to work with them!

Riley Ergin (*Cecilia Stand-In / Understudy*)

Riley Ergin is a senior Communication Sciences and Disorders major at UVM. They are more than grateful for the opportunity to watch this show come together. Though this is their first show with UVM's Theatre department, Riley has been involved with Lyric Theatre Company for just over a year, having participated in their shows both on and off stage. As the understudy for all characters, Riley has enjoyed having the chance to dive into each character and, additionally, their relationships with each other. They want to thank this amazing cast and crew, and they hope you enjoy the show!

Jessica Fulmer (*Christina*)

Jess Fulmer is a Senior at UVM studying Public Communication with a minor in English. She is from Spencer, MA and enjoyed being in plays at her local library when she was young, but this is her first role in an official production. She is thrilled to be a part of this show and is extremely grateful for the entire cast, crew, and production team she was privileged to work beside. She would like to thank you for supporting the arts, as well as the UVM Theatre Department for putting on such a significant piece. Enjoy!

Arden Gonzalez (*Cindy*)

Arden Gonzalez is a junior with a major in Theatre. Her past UVM Theatre & Dance credits include: *She Loves Me* (Assistant Stage Manager) *Shimmering Site* (Narrator/Dancer), *Spirits to Enforce* (Donna Adams) and *Dance Nation* (Zuzu). She would like to thank the talented cast and crew for all of their hard work in bringing Fornés' beautiful script to life. As always, she sends love to her friends and family for their endless support. Enjoy the show!

Emma MacLaren (*Paula*)

Emma MacLaren is a Senior, Theatre Major from Connecticut. This is her fifth production at UVM, and she is thrilled to be working on *Fefu and Her Friends*! Some of her past productions include *Game On*, *Spirits to Enforce*, *Carrie*, *Dance Nation*, and *Walking*. Emma has had the BEST time working with this creative team, cast, and crew, and she is extremely grateful that her two years of bothering her professors to do this show actually ended up paying off! Emma would also like to thank her friends, family, and partner for supporting her through this process, and Maria Irene Fornés for writing her favorite play:)

Kate Manitsky (*Sue*)

Kate Manitsky is a third year English and Theatre major at UVM. This is her first time being involved in a UVM Theatre production, and she's incredibly excited to have been a part of the *Fefu and Her Friends* cast! Past roles include the Stepmother in *Rodger and Hammerstein's Cinderella* and Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She also frequently performs with UVM's Yamaneko Taiko. Kate would like to thank the *Fefu* team for making this such an enjoyable experience and her friends for helping her run lines. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Helena Muller (*Julia*)

Helena Muller is a transfer student in her last year at UVM majoring in Health & Society with a Music minor. Her previous roles include Mae Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. *Fefu and her Friends* is her first step back into performing since high school, and she could not have asked for a better cast and crew to be a part of.

Iris Pelli-Walbert (*Fefu*)

Iris Pelli-Walbert (She/They) is a Junior religion major and sociology minor. They are so excited to be part of the *Fefu and her Friends* cast as their first experience with the University Theatre Department. Iris has done two other mainstage shows with UVM, both with the student run theatre club, The University Players, as Mrs. White in *Clue* and Sierra in *Renew*. Iris extends a huge thank you to her parents/family who always encouraged her dramatics, all of her amazing friends, and the cast and crew for working so hard to make this production happen!



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Who's who on the creative team of *Fefu and Her Friends*

Logan Barker (*Production Stage Manager*)

Logan Barker (she/her) is a second year Theatre student at the University of Vermont. She has done work in other theatrical spaces as an actor, choreographer, and director for shows such as *Annie*, *Clue!*, and *White Christmas*, however *Fefu and Her Friends* is her first UVM Theatre Department production. She is excited to be working alongside such an amazing cast and crew and would like to thank everyone who has made this production possible. She would also like to give a special thanks to her mother, father, and brother for all of their continued support. Enjoy *Fefu and Her Friends*!

Liliana Clark (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Liliana Clark is a Junior Sociology Major and Theatre/Anthropology Minor and is very excited to be Assistant Stage Managing their second show at UVM, the first being *Spirits to Enforce* last fall. They love this play and are very happy to be a part of the team making it happen behind the scenes!

Grace Fleming De Torres (*Dramaturg*)

Grace Fleming de Torres is a junior double-majoring in Theatre and English, and she is so excited to be working as dramaturg for her third show at UVM! Past theatre credits include *She Loves Me* (2024), *Imogen Says Nothing* (2023), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2023). Congratulations and a special thank you to all of the insanely talented cast and crew who brought this beautiful show to life. And, of course, special thanks to Liv, Gabe, Maddie, and Axl for being the easiest faces in the world to come home to every night.

Nox Giordano (*Assistant Lighting Designer*)

Nox Giordano (he/they) is a senior Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Theatre double major. Originally from Westtown, New York, they began their career in theatre tech in 5th grade and continues to grow within this role. At UVM, he has worked on *Batboy: the Musical*, *She Loves Me*, *Dance Nation*, *Spirits to Enforce*, and more. He would like to thank Craig for taking him under his wing and mentoring them through their lighting journey. They would also like to thank their family and friends for their endless support and love. Enjoy the show!

Sadie Kraus (*Sound Designer*)

Sadie Kraus is thrilled to make her UVM Theatre debut with *Fefu and Her Friends*. A Burlington-based sound designer and engineer, she studied Music Technology and Business at UVM. Her recent designs include *The Garbologists*, *The Bake Off*, and *Triangle* at Vermont Stage, as well as the Vermont Young Playwrights Festival. She loves discovering how sound transforms the way we see and feel a story.

Sarah Sophia Lidz (*Costume Designer*)

Design Credits include UVM: *She Loves Me!*, *Imogen Says Nothing*, *BAT BOY!* Vt Stage Company: *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Cadillac Crew*, *AIRNESS!*, *Women in Jeopardy*, *The Thin Place*, Middlebury Actors Company: *A Christmas Carol*.

Design Associate Credits; The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Las Vegas: *Peepshow*. Broadway Credits: *Motown the Musical*, *Baby it's You*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Elf*, *Grease*, *Ragtime*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *110 in the Shade*, *The Farnsworth Invention* and *Inherit the Wind*.

Sara Nelson (*Scenic Designer & Production Manager*)

Sara Nelson is the resident scenic designer, production manager, and faculty for the Program in Theatre and Dance here at UVM. In addition to those roles, much of her work is focused on mentoring students through the design and production process. Sara is a member of USITT and has also presented work on collaboration and the creative process for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. Selected Design: *Popcorn Falls*, *Desperate Measures* (Saint Michael's Playhouse), *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Orange Julius*, *She Loves Me*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Spirits to Enforce*, *Dance Nation*, *Imogen Says Nothing*, *Bright Half Life*, *Batboy*, *Walking*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Blue Window*, *Enemy of The People*, *Shakespeare In Love*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Wolves* (University of Vermont); *Big Love*, *Cabaret*, *Eurydice* (Northern Vermont University); *Spring Fling: First Love* (F*It Club); *This Time* (Workshop presented by Rising Circle Theater Collective); *Spring Fling: My Best/Worst Date Ever* (NYIT Nom) (F*It Club); *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, *The Laramie Project* (Adelphi University). MFA University of Montana.

Adam Smith (*Assistant Director*)

"Hi Mom and Dad."

Fefu and Her Friends is Adam Smith's fourth production with UVM Theater, following acting in *Batboy*, *Imogen Says Nothing* and *The Thanksgiving Play*. He is honored to be the Assistant Director for this production and would like to thank every member of the cast and crew, student and faculty alike, who have made the experience both incredibly enjoyable and deeply educational. Outside his work in The Royal Tyler, Adam is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Teaching (expected Spring 2027) alongside completing his undergraduate degree in English, Musical Theater and the Psychological Sciences (expected Spring 2026).

Leila Teitelman (*Director*)

Leila Teitelman (she/her) is a teaching artist and practitioner from New Hampshire. She holds a B.A. in theater from Connecticut College and an MFA in theatrical writing from Lesley University where she presented her thesis, *Mother of all Monsters: How Horror Became a Feminist Genre*, on the intersection of

femme bodies and the grotesque. Her plays and screenplays have been recognized by the National Playwrights' Conference, The Princess Grace Fellowship, Table Work Press, Portland Stage, Humanitas, and The Middlebury Acting Co. Productions and readings of her work have been presented through B-Street Theater, The Hearth Theater Co., The Kennedy Center, and the Boston Theater Marathon. Leila was a 2017/2018 resident playwright at Athena Theater and a 2019/2020 resident playwright of the Inkubator writers group. Leila has worked in Education and Literary offices at Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Keene State College and Barrington Stage Company, where she also worked as assistant director and dramaturg on numerous productions. As a performer, she has worked with Vermont Stage, Middlebury Acting Co, David Dorfman Dance, The College Light Opera Company, The Hearth, Roundabout Theater, NYC Fringe and NYC Musical Theater Festivals

Craig Zemsky (*Lighting Designer*)

After receiving a Bachelor's in Theatre and Communications and an MFA in Theatrical Production, Craig has spent most of his adult life working within the theatre community throughout the country. Previous places that he worked were the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA and Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee, WI. Working for Chamber Theatre, Windwood Productions, and The Kennedy Center, Craig was able to see the country while doing theatre. Fun fact, he has been performed a show in every state of the continental US. Craig appreciates the opportunity to Light Design at the Royall Tyler. Previous design credits include *Dancing with the Burlington Stars* for the Vt. Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired and *Title of Show* for Vermont Stage. Future projects include *Murder on the Orient Express* for Vermont Stage and *Dancing Uphill 2026*. While not working in theatre, Craig is hanging out with his family and playing Magic with his son.

SPECIAL THANKS

Lyric Theatre Company
Middlebury College
Chris Bush
Dash Mazzotta
Olga Sanchez Saltveit
The Fornés Institute



Faculty & Staff

Julian Barnett.....	Associate Professor & Resident Choreographer
Paul Besaw.....	Professor
Millie Heckler.....	Lecturer
Paula Higa.....	Associate Professor & Resident Choreographer
Chong Ho Kim.....	Lecturer
Kyra Miller.....	Lecturer
Sara Nelson.....	Senior Lecturer & Production Manager
Julie Peoples-Clark.....	Full Time Lecturer
Zeina Salame.....	Assistant Professor & Resident Director
Lynn Ellen Schimoler.....	Lecturer
Robert Shimko.....	Program Head, Theatre and Dance
Leila Teitelman.....	Full Time Lecturer
Avi Waring.....	Lecturer
Sarah Bush.....	Costume Shop Supervisor
Nate Venet.....	Program Administrative Coordinator
Thomas Lindley.....	Scene Shop Supervisor
Wayne Tetrick.....	Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
Craig Zemsky.....	Sound & Lights Technician – School of the Arts



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Spring Semester 2026 Events from the Program in Theatre & Dance

Dancing Uphill 2026

Performances February 4 - 7, 2026, at 7:30 PM &
February 7 at 2:00 PM

Cohen Hall Performance Studio - Room 110
14 South Williams Street, Burlington, VT

Dancing Uphill is an annual presentation that highlights UVM dance student performers and features choreography by UVM dance faculty Julian Barnett, Paul Besaw, and Avi Waring, and guest artists Jenna Riegel and Miguel Alejandro Castillo. *Dancing Uphill* explores the play, rigor, and collaboration that go into the dancing, dance-making, and creative research in the UVM School of the Arts Dance Program.

Bernhardt/Hamlet

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Rob Shimko

Performances March 25 - 28 thru at 7:30 PM & March 29 at 2:00 PM
Royall Tyler Theatre

Mark Twain wrote: "There are five kinds of actresses: bad actresses, fair actresses, good actresses, great actresses – and then there is Sarah Bernhardt." In 1899, the international stage celebrity set out to tackle her most ambitious role yet: Hamlet. Theresa Rebeck's recent Broadway hit rollicks with high comedy and human drama, set against the lavish Shakespearean production that could make or break Bernhardt's career.

Thank you to our generous supporters!

Your gift to the University of Vermont School of the Arts Program in Theatre and Dance supports everything we do! Donors help fund production costs for our shows, new equipment and material, student scholarships, and awards. By giving to this fund, you are fueling the creativity of our students and faculty.

Go to uvmfoundation.org
to make your contribution now.