



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
& MUSICAL THEATRE PRESENTS

UNCLE VANYA

BY ANTON CHEKHOV
ADAPTED BY ANNIE BAKER

WORKING WITH A
LITERAL TRANSLATION BY
MARGARITA SHALINA
AND THE ORIGINAL
RUSSIAN TEXT

CHEKHOV CAST

SEPT 28 | 7:30
SEPT 30 | 2:00

ERICA STARR THEATRE, UTC
LIMITED SEATING
ADULT CONTENT

ANTON CAST

SEPT 29 | 7:30
SEPT 30 | 7:30

Uncle Vanya

By Anton Chekhov

Adapted by Annie Baker

*Working with a literal translation by Margarita
Shalina and the original Russian text*

Director

KEVIN CROUCH

Assistant Directors

DREW FORD & RB REYNOLDS

Scenic Designer

NICHOLAS GRAVES

Sound Design

ERIC MARSH

Lighting Design

ERIC MARSH

Costume Design

GEORGE CURRY

Technical Director

CRAIG BROSSMAN

State Manager

ZOË PERRY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Erin, Jack & Andy Crouch.
Ken & Leslie Crouch for all their support.

Special thanks to Matthew Carlson for his help with the music selection. A special acknowledgement to ChatGPT 3.5 for its help with music selection as well. A brave new world folks.

SETTING

The action takes place on
Serebryakov's estate.

TIME

Present Day

PERFORMANCE HAS ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

CHEKHOV CAST

Thursday, Saturday Matinee | In order of Appearance
Drew Ford, Assistant Director

Astrov	JALEN TINSLEY
Marina	AVERY ELLIOT
Vanya	MILES ESTES
The Professor	TRISTAN FLORES
Sonya	VICTORIA TAYLOR
Waffles	VINCENT GUIDO
Yelena	ZARINA GARZA
Maria	HANNAH CARLISLE
Yefim	LOGAN BECK

ANTON CAST

Friday, Saturday Evening | In order of Appearance
Rb Reynolds, Assistant Director

Astrov	SAROA-DWAYNE SASA
Marina	MALIA VARGAS
Vanya	MAYSON FERREE
The Professor	GREAT USIAPHRE
Sonya	OLIVIA GARCIA
Waffles	LOGAN BECK
Yelena	MALLORY HUGHES
Maria	ELIZABETH COOPER
Yefim	VINCENT GUIDO

THE CHARACTERS

VOINITSKY, Ivan Petrovich (Vanya), Maria Vasilyevna's son

YELENA ANDREYEVNA, the professor's second wife, twenty-seven years old

MARINA, an old nanny

SEREBRYAKOV, Alexander Vladimirovich, a retired professor

VOINITSKAYA, Maria Vaislyevna (Mama), widow of privy councillor, mother of Voinitsky and professor's first wife, Sonya's grandmother

SOPHIA ALEXANDROVNA (Sonya), the professor's daughter from his first marriage

TELEGIN, Ilya Ilyich, an impoverished landowner (Waffles)

ASTROV, Mikhail Lvovich, a doctor

YEFIM, (Hired Man/Watchmen)

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

My love for Anton Chekhov traces its origins to my professional debut as Treplev in Chekhov's renowned play, *The Seagull*, presented at the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. It is hardly surprising that his works have consistently posed both challenges and profound transformations for actors. Chekhov occupies an esteemed position in the annals of theatrical history, for his pioneering contributions were instrumental in ushering in the Realism movement, while also wielding a significant influence on the future training methods of actors.

The inaugural productions of Chekhov's plays were staged at the Moscow Art Theatre, under the expert guidance of Konstantin Stanislavski, widely regarded as the godfather in the realm of actor training methodologies within Western theatre. It was while laboring on Chekhov's works that Stanislavski began to conceive his groundbreaking method, which subsequently revolutionized the art of acting. For him, working on Chekhov marked the first instance of encountering a playwright who skillfully encapsulated the intricacies of the human experience in his writing. This pivotal revelation fueled his mission to codify this profound experience into what would become known as "the system."

Ironically, my initial introduction to Chekhov was in the year 2001, right here on the boards of the Mainstage Theatre at the University Theatre Center, Sam Houston State University. At that time, I was but a first semester freshman embarking on my theatrical journey, and I had snagged the small role of the Hired Man in *Uncle Vanya*. Eager and elated to be part of this production, I gleaned invaluable wisdom under the direction of Dr. James Miller, then department chair, and alongside a remarkable ensemble of junior and senior actors who embodied their roles with consummate perfection. I soaked up all I could in the first of my four year education.

This chapter marked the beginning of my training as an actor, with Chekhov's profound work at the cornerstone of my artistic foundation. Now, 22 years later, on these same boards, the Erica Starr Theatre, it has been extraordinarily gratifying to witness the budding talents of aspiring students as they embark on their own journeys of artistic discovery. Witnessing their growth as they delve into the depths of Chekhov's narratives, navigating the unspoken realms he so masterfully constructs, and finding their personal truths with the art of acting, all the while harmonizing with the complexities of the human experience, remains a deeply rewarding experience.

Chekhov continues to provide a fertile ground for artists to spread their roots and award winning playwright Annie Baker's translation has been the cherry on top for that exploration. Pairing groundbreaking artists separated by an ocean and a century of time has been exciting to work on. In testing Baker's goal of "to create a version that sounds to our Contemporary American ears the way the play sounded to Russian ears during the plays first Productions in the provinces in 1898" we have set our play in the "now" or "the present day" or the "not so distant past" in an effort to remove biases of time and place and experience the story for what is in front of us, here and now. Enjoy.

—KEVIN CROUCH

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

What follows could be called a translation or an adaptation, depending on how you define the terms. I worked initially with a literal translation commissioned specifically for this project, and then, in my final draft, with the original Russian text. Very little has been “updated”; no cultural references have been changed or omitted. In fact, a particular goal of this translation/adaptation was to preserve all the quoting and name-dropping that takes place in the original Russian. (Waffles’s exclamation “It was a scene worthy of Aivazovsky!” is usually translated as “It was a scene worthy of a painter of shipwrecks!”). Similarly, the grammar of the original text—endless run-on sentences, ellipses, the awkward repetition of words—has been paid special attention. Words like “creep” are an attempt to loyally translate the slang of 19th century Russia.

The goal was to create a version that would make Chekhov happy; to create a version that sounds to our Contemporary American ears the way the play sounded to Russian ears during the plays first Productions in the provinces in 1898. We will never know if that goal was achieved, but it was the guiding principle behind this text.

—ANNIE BAKER

New York City, July 2012

Originally Commission by SoHo Repertory



ANNIE BAKER

Annie Baker’s full-length plays include *The Flick* (Playwrights Horizons, OBIE Award for Playwriting, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Playwrights Horizons, OBIE Award for Best New American Play, Drama Desk nomination for Best Play), *The Aliens* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, OBIE Award for Best New American Play), *Body Awareness* (Atlantic Theater Company, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Play/Emerging Playwright), and an adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya*, for which she also designed the costumes (Soho Rep). Ms. Baker’s plays have been performed at over 100 theatres across the USA and in England, Australia, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, Latvia, Sweden and Russia. She is a Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre and a member of New Dramatists, MCC’s Playwrights Coalition and EST. Recent honors include a New York Drama Critics Circle Award, a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize nomination, a Lilly Award, a Time Warner Storytelling Fellowship, a MacDowell fellowship and a Master Artist Residency at Atlantic Center for the Arts. A published anthology of her work, *The Vermont Plays*, is available from TCG books.



ANTON CHEKHOV

Anton Chekhov (1860–1904) was a Russian playwright and author. He is considered to be one of the greatest writers of short fiction in history. His career as a playwright produced four classics, and his best short stories are held in high esteem. Chekhov practiced as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career. “Medicine is my lawful wife,” he once said, “and literature is my mistress.” Chekhov renounced the theatre after the reception of *The Seagull* in 1896, but the play was revived to acclaim in 1898 by Konstantin Stanislavski’s Moscow Art Theatre, which subsequently also produced Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* and premiered his last two plays, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*. These four works presented a challenge to the acting ensemble as well as to audiences, because in place of conventional action, Chekhov highlighted the depths of human nature, the hidden significance of everyday events, and the fine line between comedy and tragedy. Chekhov died of tuberculosis on July 15, 1904, in Badenweiler, Germany.



MILES ESTES

Vanya

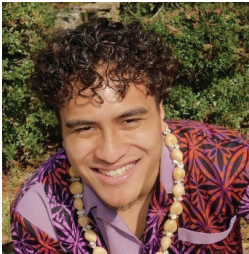
Miles is a junior theatre major from Houston, Texas. SHSU audiences may remember him as an ensemble member in *365 Days/365 Plays Hole Cycle* and Golden Thunder in *Airness*. His other SHSU credits include run crew for *Cry it Out* and *The Pavilion*. At other institutions he has appeared as an Underling in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Sundeep Padamadan in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and as Jellaby/Captain Brice in *Arcadia*. Upon graduation, Miles plans to pursue a career in acting.



MAYSON FERREE

Vanya

Mayson is a senior theatre major from Little River-Academy, Texas. His SHSU credits include ensemble member in *365 Days/365 Plays Whole Cycle*, Scott in *American Son*, Jason in *Sweat* and assistant stage manager for *Hands on a Hardbody*. Upon graduation, Mayson plans to pursue a career in acting.



SAROA-DWAYNE SASA

Astrov

Saroad-Dwayne is a senior musical theatre major from Pflugerville, Texas. SHSU audiences may remember him as Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Johnny in *American Idiot*, Leandre in *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, Asmodeus in *Creature*, Greg in *Hands on a Hardbody* and as a member of the ensemble in *Sonnets for an Old Century*. Upon graduation, Saroad-Dwayne plans to pursue a career in acting.



JALEN TINSLEY

Astrov

Jalen is a junior musical theatre major from Tyler, Texas. SHSU audiences may remember him as an ensemble member/Private Joe in *365 Days/365 Plays Hole Cycle*, an ensemble member in *American Idiot*, Lank in *Detroit 67'*, a Pit Singer/Understudy Greg/Don/Frank from *Hands on a Hardbody*. At other institutions, he has appeared as Willard in *Footloose*, A-rab in *West Side Story*, and Amos in *Chicago*. Upon graduation, Jalen plans to pursue a career in acting.



TRISTAN FLORES

Serebryakov

Tristan is a freshman musical theatre major from Harlingen, Texas. SHSU audiences may remember him as Tobias in *Sweeney Todd*, and D Vicious in *Airness*. At other institutions, he has appeared as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Amadeus*, Usnavi in *In the Heights*, Gregor in Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Warner in *Legally Blonde*, and Gabriel in *The Sweet Science of Bruising*. Upon graduation, Tristan plans to pursue a career in acting.



GREAT USIAPHRE

Serebryakov

Great is a freshman theatre major from Newark, New Jersey. SHSU audiences may remember him as a member of the ensemble in *365 Days/365 Plays Whole Cycle*. Upon graduation, Great plans to pursue a career working for Warner Brothers.



AVERY ELLIOT

Marina

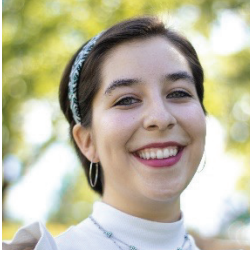
Avery is a junior theatre major from Cypress, Texas. This is her debut to the SHSU stage! At other institutions she has participated in productions such as, *Illyria* as Maria, *The Curate Shakespeare: As You Like It* as the Curate, *Pinocchio Commedia* as Razullo, and two variations of *The Vagina Monologues*. Upon graduation Avery plans to pursue a career in theatre.



MALIA VARGAS

Marina

Malia is a freshman theatre major from Katy, Texas. She recently transferred from College of the mainland in Texas city. This is her debut to the SHSU stage. At other institutions she has appeared as Karen, the Computer in *SpongeBob: The Musical*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Herta in *A Divine Kerfuffle*. After graduation Malia plans to follow her dream of directing and owning her own theatre that specializes in the education of students with disabilities.



OLIVIA GARCIA

Sonya

Olivia is a junior theatre major, dance minor from Round Rock, Texas. This is her debut to the SHSU stage! Other SHSU credits include backstage run crew for *Fade* and *Detroit 67'*. At other institutions she has appeared in *Fame* and *Legally Blonde*. Upon graduation, Olivia plans to pursue a career in acting and directing.



VICTORIA TAYLOR

Sonya

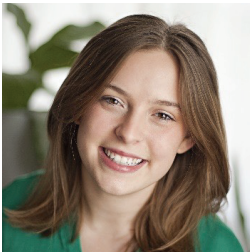
Victoria is a junior theatre major from Katy, Texas. This is her debut to the SHSU stage! At other institutions she has appeared as Black Stache in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Sara in *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and Silvey in *Unexpected Tenderness*. Upon graduation, Victoria plans to pursue a career in acting.



ZARINA IZEL GARZA

Yelena

Zarina is a junior theatre major. Her SHSU credits include assistant stage manager for *365 Days/365 Plays Hole Cycle* and chorus member in *Antigone*. At other institutions she has appeared in various roles in *The Book of Everything*, *Hand to God*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Ugly Lies the Bone*. Upon graduation, Zarina plans to pursue a career in theatre.



MALLORY HUGHES

Yelena

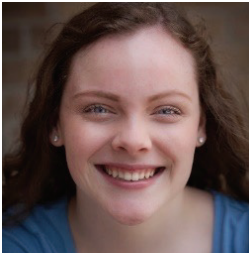
Mallory is a senior theatre major from Brenham, Texas. Her SHSU credits include Catherine in *These Shining Lives*, Martine in *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, costume crew for *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* and technical crew for *Men on Boats*. At other institutions, she has appeared as Anne Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, Zoey in *Steadfast Tin Soldier*, and Muriel in *Thane of Cawdor*. Upon graduation, Mallory plans to pursue a career in acting and directing.



HANNAH CARLISLE

María

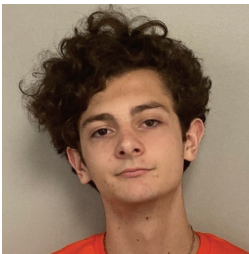
Hannah is a senior theatre major from Corsicana, Texas. Her SHSU credits include Costume design for *365 Days/365 Plays Whole Cycle*, Costume Design & Dramaturgy for *American Idiot*, Assistant Costume Designer for *Memphis* and Costume Crew for *Men on Boats*. At other institutions she has worked as the costume designer for *Escape to Margaritaville*, she has appeared as Elizabeth Cady Stanton in *Leaders of American Monologue Showcase*, and as Olive Addison in *The Women of Lockerbie*. Upon graduation, Hannah plans to pursue a career in dramaturgy and costume design.



LIZZY COOPER

María

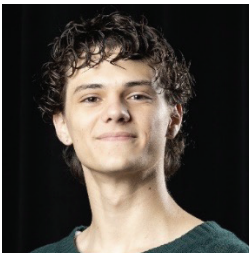
Lizzy is a senior musical theatre major from Spring, Texas. SHSU audiences may remember her as Alysha in *Fugitive Songs*, Mama/Gladys in *Memphis*, Pit Singer/Understudy in *Hands on a Hardbody*, and Cardinal/Scrivener in *Richard III*. At other institutions she has appeared as Sarah in *Children of a Lesser God*, Sandra in *Big Fish*, and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*. Upon graduation Lizzy plans to pursue a career as a music and acting teacher for individuals with disabilities, as well as work professionally as an actor.



LOGAN BECK

Telegin/Yefim

Logan is a freshman theatre major from Fort Worth, Texas. This is his debut to the SHSU stage. At other institutions he has directed *Fast* and has appeared as Ichabod Crane in *Sleepy Hollow* and as Gunther Roy in *BOB: A Life in 5 Acts*. Upon graduation Logan plans to pursue a career in acting.



VINCE GUIDO

Telegin/Yefim

Vince is a freshman theatre major from Fort Worth, Texas. This is his debut to the SHSU stage! At other institutions he has appeared as Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief: A Percy Jackson Musical* and Hamlet in *Hamlet*. His directing credits include co-directing *Remote*. Upon graduation, Vince plans to pursue a career as an actor and high school theatre teacher.



ZOË PERRY

Stage Manager

Zoë is a senior theatre major from Frisco, Texas. Her SHSU credits include assistant stage manager for *The Swan*, *Betrayal* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. At other institutions, she has appeared as Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka: The Musical*, and as Freda Benson in *The Life & Death of Larry Benson*. Upon graduation, Zoë plans to pursue a career in theatre education and professional technical work.



DREW FORD

Assistant Director

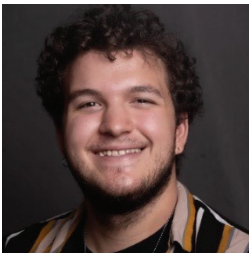
Drew is a senior theatre major from Houston, Texas. Their SHSU credits include ensemble member in *365 Days/365 Plays: Whole Cycle*, Teiresias in *Antigone*, assistant stage manager for *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, and Hawkins in *Men on Boats*. At other institutions, they have stage managed for *Runaways* and *BOB: A Life in Five Acts*. Upon graduation, Drew plans to pursue a career in directing.



RB REYNOLDS

Assistant Director

Rb is a senior theatre major, her SHSU credits include ensemble member in *365 Days/365 Plays Hole Cycle*, assistant stage manager for *Antigone*, a stitcher in the SHSU costume shop since 2021, and the student wardrobe supervisor since 2022. At other institutions she was the Music Director for *Highschool Musical Jr.*, Co-Director for *Finding Nemo Jr.*, and facilitated the creation of performances of *Secret Pizza Party* and *Dragons love Tacos*. Upon graduation, Rb plans to pursue a career in directing.



KALEB COLE

Assistant Stage Manager

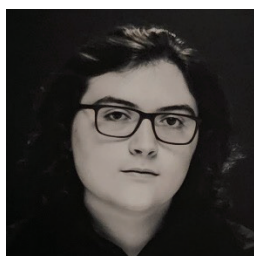
Kaleb is a junior theatre major. His SHSU credits include chorus member in *Antigone* and a member of the technical crew for *Airness*. At other institutions he has appeared as Miss Trenchbull in *Matilda*, Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Mouthpiece in *West Side Story*, and Electric Skate in *Spongebob: The Musical*. Upon graduation, Kaleb plans to move to New York and pursue his dream of being on Broadway.



HADLEY ELLIOTT

Assistant Stage Manager

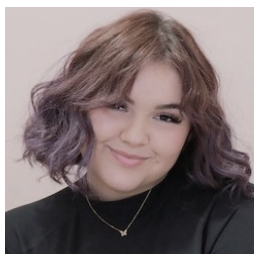
Hadley is a freshman theatre major, and this is her first production to participate in at SHSU. At other institutions she has worked on shows such as: *Beauty And the Beast*, *James And The Giant Peach*, *Suite Surrender*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Giver*, *Zink The Myth*, *The Legend The Zebra*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Lafayette N.1*, *And Over The Tavern*. Upon graduation, Hadley plans to pursue a career in theatre.



CORBIN GARRETT

Assistant Stage Manager

Corbin is a freshman theatre major from Cypress, Texas. This is his first show to participate in at SHSU. At other institutions he has participated in shows such as, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Elephant Man*, *Damn Yankees*, *Henry Lumper*, *Leading Ladies*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *Shrek: The Musical*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Upon graduation, Corbin plans to pursue a career in technical theatre, specifically lighting design or stage management.



MORGAN GUINN

Assistant Stage Manager

Morgan is a senior theatre major from Conroe, Texas. Her SHSU credits include assistant stage manager for *These Shining Lives*, and crew member for *Silent Sky* & *Cendrillon*. At other institutions she has participated in *Laughing Wild*. Upon graduation Morgan plans to pursue a career in high school theatre



ELLIE HAND

Assistant Stage Manager

Ellie Hand is a freshman theatre major from Kingwood, Texas. Her SHSU credits include assistant stage manager for *Sweeney Todd*, assistant stage manager for *Antigone* as well as light board operator for *Airness*. At other institutions, she has participated in show designs for *Anastasia*, *Legally Blonde*, *Kentucky*, and *Shakespeare In Love*. Upon graduation, Ellie plans to pursue a career in stage management and sound design.

TECHNICAL CREW

Assistant Stage Managers	Kaleb Cole, Corbin Garrett, Morgan Guinn, Kylie Richards
Assistant to the Lighting Designer	Peyton Conley
Change Artist/Props Master	Kelley Malin
Scene Shop Specialist	Mason Johnson
Shop Technicians	Mayson Ferree, Ashley Jessup, Carolina Ornelas, Anthony Sloterdijk
Scenic Artist	Emily Childs
Draper/Tailor	George Curry
Assistant to the Costume Designer	Kaylee Baldwin
Costume Shop Assistants	Kaylee Baldwin, Eric Larson, Rb Reynolds, Grace Wacker
Stage Management Advisor	Patrick Pearson

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Kira Wygle

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Angi Sosa

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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