

SKIDMORE THEATER PRESENTS

JKB SpringFest

UPLIFT

Lead Artists Will Carter '23 and
Anne-Sophie Vandenberg '23



Created in collaboration with the ensemble of artists.

ARTISTS

Isabella Kiely '24

Arielle Lam '24

Anesu Mukombiwa '24

Sarita Padukone '23

Annalise Sawit '21

Jacob Smith '24

Isha Smith-Ramakrishnan '22

Red

PRODUCTION TEAM

Wynn Lee '21 Scenic Designer

Sarita Padukone '23 Choreographer

Braedon Quinlan '24 Sound Designer/Video Technician

Dare Wedgeworth '23 Stage Manager/Choreographer

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Eunice Ferreira

Emily Hardy

Taylor Jaskula

Jared Klein

Gary Wilson

The Management Team

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

If you were to have asked us a year ago, what we would be doing during our Spring semester as sophomores, you would have gotten a lot of answers, none of which would have been working on a show in the Theater Department together. While Anne-Sophie is a Theater major, Will is a Studio Art major, and never thought that he would be directing a show for the JKB. But an idea was formed during the Black Theater class we took together last fall. Will had the idea to do a student written piece reflecting the BIPOC experience at Skidmore, and Anne-Sophie had the theater experience that allowed them to work together to make UPLIFT happen.

In our initial meetings for UPLIFT, we envisioned a show that was entirely individual acts, with each performer creating and starring in their own five-minute piece. That quickly changed during our first rehearsal. We could never have predicted the deep bond that the cast created with each other as soon as they met. We then knew that we had to add group pieces to the show, and since then UPLIFT had become a show full of almost all collaborative pieces. We encouraged our cast to explore out of their comfort zones when creating devised pieces and that led to them creating work they never thought they could do.

We wanted to create a space for BIPOC students to feel comfortable truly expressing their feelings without the worry of the oppressive white gaze. Creating an environment within the theater department for BIPOC students seemed like an impossible feat, but thankfully the structure of our show promoted conversation that brought our cast closer together. Our original goal was to be an example of how to successfully collaborate multi-ethnically in a department that is almost entirely white. We want the theater department to further this idea in the following semesters and continue to allow for BIPOC students to have their voices heard and be supported through their work.

–Will Carter '23 and Anne-Sophie Vandenberg '23



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21

ARTIST BIOS

Isabella Kiely '24 is a prospective Theater or Gender Studies major with a French minor. Previously at Skidmore: *By Design* (Alessandra). Non-Skidmore credits: *Spamalot* (Ensemble/French Taunter) and *Heathers* (Ensemble). Isabella has trained at the Goodman Theater's Musical Theater summer intensive and the Looking Glass Theater's acting summer program. She would like to thank her directors and stage manager for their dedication and support.

Arielle Lam '24 has absolutely no idea what she wants to do. Previous credits include *Gypsy* (Pit) and *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Ensemble). She went to Langley High School. Pastimes include working, working, working, music, the arts, sewing, and crafting. This is her first Skidmore Theater Production as a cast member. She would like to thank the cast and production team for all the amazing support and dedication, as well as the warmest welcome to Skidmore performing arts!

Anesu Mukombiwa '24 is an English and (prospective) Theater major. Her previous credits include *I Talk to the Flowers* (May). She acted in a few other theater productions in the past, but this is the first for which she has had the opportunity to create original work and she's particularly excited to share it. She would like to thank her directors and stage manager, not only for their unwavering support, but for the healing and empowering work environment they managed to create.

Sarita Padukone '23 is a Neuroscience major and a Computer Science minor. Though she is familiar with performing, singing, and dance at Skidmore, this is the first time she has ever been in a theater production. She is so excited to be part of this show and to be able to incorporate her passion for Indian Classical dance. She would like to thank her director and her stage manager for their dedication and support.

Annalise Sawit '21 is a Neuroscience major and Anthropology minor. Though she has acted in several Intro to Directing Scenes, this is her first performance at Skidmore. She hopes to work in research and eventually

get her PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience. She's thankful for the opportunity to show her creative and vulnerable side in *UPLIFT*.

Jacob Smith '24 is an prospective Social Work and Psychology double major. His previous Non-Skidmore credits include *Dracula* (Arthur Holmwood) and *In the Heights* (Benny). Jacob has trained at The Rudolf Steiner School in New York City. He would like to thank his directors and his stage manager for their dedication and support.

Isha Smith-Ramakrishnan '22 is a Psychology major with a minor in Music. Although she has participated in a few productions in high school, this is her first Skidmore theater production. She is excited to showcase the talent and creativity of this cast, and she would like to thank her directors and her stage manager for their dedication and support.

Red (Annalise filtered through Red) Everyone has aspects about themselves they feel like they could never share with others. Red is the manifestation of that. Red allows for thoughts, actions, and sentiments that build up and yearn to be released—for better or for worse. Red is written and performed by Annalise Sawit.

PRODUCTION BIOS

Will Carter '23 (Director) is a Studio Art major with concentrations in Fiber Arts and Digital Media. This is his first time directing and being a lead artist for a show, but he has acted in multiple other musical theater performances in grade school. He wants to thank his co-director and stage manager for keeping him sane throughout this process.

Braedon Quinlan '24 (Sound Designer/Video Technician) is on the pre-med track with a proposed Biology major and Statistics and Honors Forum double minor. This is his first production at Skidmore College. He would like to thank the cast and production team for being so welcoming and inviting into theater at Skidmore.

Dare Wedgeworth '23 (Stage Manager/Choreographer) is a Dance and Theater double major. Their recent non-Skidmore credits include *Dreamgirls* (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer) and *The Wiz*. They're excited to make their stage management debut at Skidmore. They are so grateful for their directors and actors for truly committing to *UPLIFT*.

Anne-Sophie Vandenberg '23 (Director) is a Theater major and an Environmental Science and Studies minor. *UPLIFT* is her first directing project at Skidmore and she is extremely grateful for having such a wonderful group of dedicated performers. She would like to thank Braedon, Dare, and Will for being the most amazing team.



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Theater Department at Skidmore College acknowledges that we work, learn, create, and reside on the lands of the Haudenosaunee, Muheconneok, Kanienkehaka, and Abenaki peoples. We thank the elders of these tribes for their past, present, and continued stewardship of these lands. We recognize that land acknowledgement is only a first, small step towards building ethical, reciprocal, and reparative relationships with the indigenous, Native, and First Nations peoples of this hemisphere and we strive to move beyond our words to reflect our intentions through our actions.