

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Issue 2: Anastasia



FUN FACTS

- » The word Tsar (Tzar, Czar, or Csar) comes from the Latin word Caesar, a title for Emperors.
- » The Tsarina was a favorite grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, who had hoped that Alexandra would marry into the British Royal Family and become Queen of England.
- » Contrary to the story in the musical, the Dowager Empress did not leave for Paris before the Revolution, but stayed in Russia until 1919, hoping that her family members had survived.

CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS

- » Anastasia’s stage production premiered at the Hartford Stage in 2016. Directed by Darko Tresnjak, it starred Christy Altomare and Derek Klena (who went on to originate the roles of Anya and Dmitry on Broadway in 2017).
- » Cast member Taya Diggs (Little Anastasia) is from North Haven, CT, and this is her national tour debut!



Christy Altomare & Derek Klena on Broadway

EDUCATION PROGRAM

- » This year’s Palace Theater after-school theater and arts appreciation program, **Journey to the Past: Music, Memory and Identity**, will bring around 20 local middle and high school students to the theater to learn about the musical and explore concepts of history, memory, family and personal identity.
- The students will attend a performance of Anastasia and create projects related to the course’s themes.

SYNOPSIS

Based on the 1997 animated film musical **Anastasia**, this beautiful musical takes us on a “Journey to the Past” from Imperial Russia to 1920’s Paris. Two con men persuade orphaned Anya to play the role of the Grand Duchess Anastasia, which sets all three on a path of self-discovery, adventure and romance.

PRODUCTION NOTES

- » The Broadway musical kept 6 of the animated film’s songs, including “Once Upon a December” and “Journey to the Past” but lyricist Lynn Ahrens and composer Stephen Flaherty added about 16 new numbers. [Listen to Stephen Flaherty’s interview on our Broadway Buzz podcast.](#)
- » Ahrens and Flaherty have collaborated on over 10 shows, including *Ragtime*, *Seussical*, and *Once on this Island*.
- » Choreographer Peggy Hickey and Costume Designer Linda Cho also worked with Director Darko Tresnjak on *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*.
- » Lindo Cho had originally designed a pink dress for Anastasia’s first appearance at the ballet, but the “Fanastasias” wanted to see the blue dress from the film, and she changed it!
- » Anastasia ran for 842 performances and was nominated for 28 NY theater awards, winning three (*Dear Evan Hanson* was tough Tony Award competition that year!)

FROM FILM TO STAGE!

Devotees of the animated movie may be surprised that Anya’s former nemesis, the maniacal Rasputin, does not play a role in the stage version, but they will discover a more complex (and historically accurate) villain, the Bolshevik General Gleb Vaganov.

While Rasputin certainly played a role in the downfall of the Romanovs, he had already been assassinated by 1914, several years before the family was imprisoned and killed.

In Gleb, Anastasia presents a young Bolshevik officer, a passionate defender of the new order. His determination to eliminate any potential surviving Romanov family members sets him up for a reckoning with his own past.

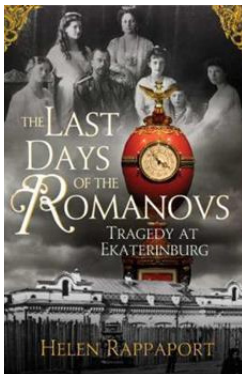
MOVIES & BOOKS



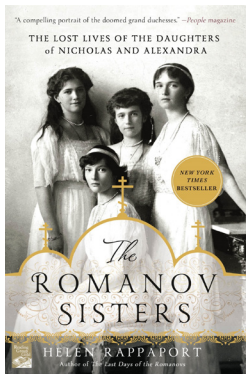
Anastasia
(1997)



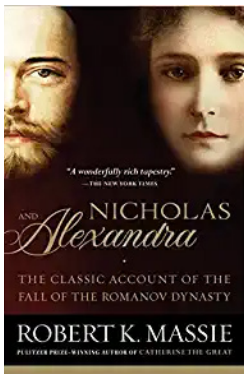
Anastasia
(1956)



The Last Days of
the Romanovs
Helen Rappaport



The Romanov
Sisters
Helen Rappaport



Nicholas &
Alexandra
Robert K. Massie

MEDIA



Watch the musical trailer featuring the cast from the Madrid tour!

BROADWAY BUZZ EPISODE

LISTEN TO ANASTASIA’S COMPOSER STEPHEN FLAHERTY!



CLICK FOR TICKETS TO
ANASTASIA
OR CALL 203.346.2000

Can’t see it at the Palace Theater on these dates?
Anastasia is heading to the Shubert Theatre **October 22–24**