

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2025-2026 | Issue 1: Austen's *Pride: A New Musical of Pride and Prejudice*



Photo Credit: STL Production Photos by Phillip Hamer

Where wit and romance meet,
a writer finds her true voice.

Austen's **PRIDE**

A NEW MUSICAL OF
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Watch the trailer for
Austen's Pride



CLICK FOR TICKETS TO
AUSTEN'S PRIDE
OR CALL 203.346.2000

ABOUT THE SHOW

2025 is the 250th anniversary year of Jane Austen's birth, and we are excited to present this beautiful and thoughtful musical adaptation of the beloved classic *Pride and Prejudice*!

Austen's Pride presents *Pride and Prejudice* as never before, blending wit and wisdom with a gorgeous original score that whisks audiences away to an era rich with passion and longing.

Elizabeth Bennet and her sisters, Fitzwilliam Darcy, Charles Bingley, and other principal characters from the novel come to life through the rich imagination of Jane Austen, reimagined in this charming and engaging musical. As romances develop, misunderstandings ensue, and characters grapple with the social and class expectations of Regency England, Austen interacts with them, following her own creative path to find her authentic voice.

FACTS ABOUT PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

— Jane Austen, [*Pride and Prejudice*](#)

- Jane Austen wrote the first draft (titled *First Impressions*) in 1797, revised it in 1811-12, and changed the title to *Pride and Prejudice* before publication in 1813.
- The book sold for a one-time fee of £110. This would be about \$13,000 today – a fraction of what the book would eventually earn.
- The novel has sold over 20 million copies worldwide.
- It is one of the most widely adapted books. The first *Pride and Prejudice* movie premiered in 1940 (Greer Garson & Laurence Olivier). Other notable screen versions include the BBC's 1995 mini-series (Jennifer Ehle & Colin Firth) and a 2005 film (Keira Knightley & Matthew Macfadyen).
- The story has also inspired many other novels, films, scholarly works, and Austen societies.



CREATING AUSTEN'S PRIDE

The musical *Austen's Pride* is co-written and composed by Lindsay Warren Baker and Amanda Jacobs. The writers depict the Regency period through a contemporary lens, featuring Jane Austen as a central character whose creative process and emotional self-discovery are important themes throughout the show.

Austen's Pride won the 2011 New York Musical Theatre Festival's Stage Entertainment Award for Most Promising Musical and has had productions at the ACT Connecticut (Ridgefield, CT), and 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), among others. A concert version was performed at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium in June 2023. This current tour production launched in St. Louis in July 2025.

Baker and Jacobs have also collaborated on other works, *Daniel*, *Lily*, and *Truth in Beauty*.



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SPOTLIGHT ON... JANE AUSTEN

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, the second youngest of eight children. Her father was a village clergyman in Steventon, Hampshire, until his retirement in Bath in 1801. After his sudden death in 1805, Jane, her mother, and sister Cassandra moved several times until they were offered a home on her brother Edward's estate in Chawton. Jane had suitors, but never married, and lived with her family until her death in 1817, at the age of 41. Many of the personal details of her life were lost when Cassandra burned Jane's letters after she died.



Jane and her siblings were raised in a home where education and intellectual discussion were prized. She and Cassandra attended boarding schools and were later educated at home. As a child, Jane wrote stories and poems for her family, often referred to as her *Juvenilia*. She began writing longer, more complex works in her late teens.

She never received credit for any of her published novels during her lifetime; her first, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), was published anonymously ("By a Lady"). Subsequent novels *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816), were credited to "The Author of *Sense and Sensibility*." In 1817, Her brother Henry posthumously published her last two completed manuscripts, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, naming Jane as the author of all her novels.



Photo Credit: Penguin Books Limited; Cover Design: Coralie Bickford-Smith

Jane Austen's work addresses serious issues of class, marriage, and financial insecurity with a blend of social commentary, humor, and imagination. Her writing was well-liked in her time, despite reaching a limited market – novels weren't as fashionable as poetry. However, her books continued to gain in popularity and have been continuously in print since 1833.



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