



We're thrilled that you'll be joining us for the Hangar Theatre's 2022 production of *Natasha, Pierre, and the Comet of 1812* with music and lyrics by Dave Malloy and directed by the Hangar's own artistic director, Shirley Serotsky.

Before you see the show, we're sending you this Interactive Dramaturgy Board. Dramaturgical research helps an artistic team and an audience better understand the world of the play, which includes the setting, time period, circumstances, and the societal, psychological, and aesthetic expectations of a particular piece of dramatic writing. Useful materials may include articles, memoirs, historical sources, songs, recipes, images, and video clips.

Special thanks to Jess Kalams and Morgan Kingsley for creating and designing this email.

A Giant of Russian Literature

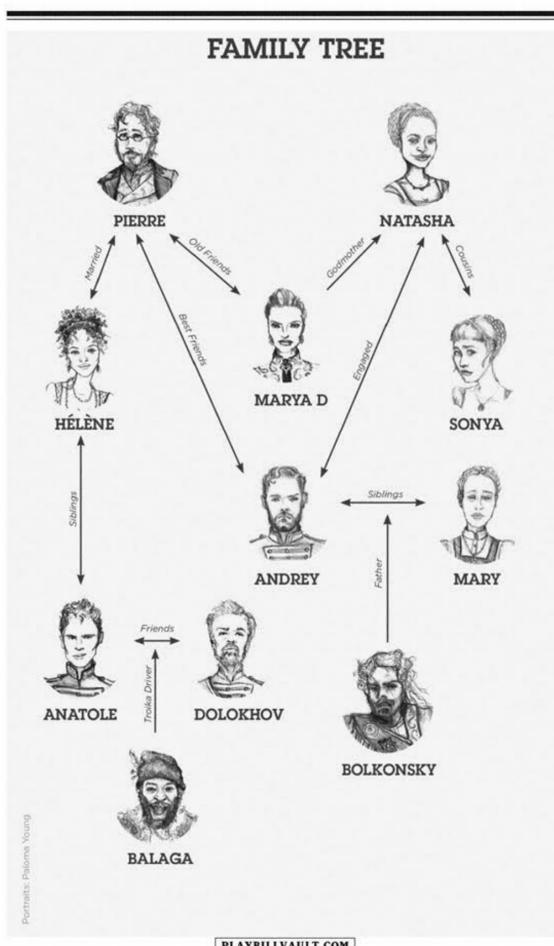


Leo Tolstoy on 23 May 1908 at Yasnaya Polyana, Lithograph print by Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky

Leo Tolstoy, formally Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, is regarded as one of the greatest writers in history. Tolstoy is known for his realistic style of writing and often commented on Russian society. This pop opera is based on a 70-page section of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* (1869).

"Gonna have to study up a little bit, If you wanna keep with the plot. 'Cause it's a complicated Russian novel, Everyone's got nine different names, So look it up in your program. We'd appreciate it, thanks a lot."

"Prologue" from *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*



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Great Comet "Family Tree", illustrations by Paloma Young.

The Original Broadway Production

Great Comet's music, lyrics, book, and orchestrations were all crafted by Dave Malloy. The show was initially staged in 2012, eventually making its way to Broadway in November of 2016.



Click the image above to read Dave Malloy's journey of creating *Great Comet*.



Watch the *Great Comet* medley performance at the 2017 Tony Awards

"The show focuses on the relationship between the lead characters, Natasha Rostova and Pierre Bezukhov, and their different (yet interlinked) social circles. The play also contains some key historical moments: namely, the reaction of the Russian elite to Russia's wars against France, and this group's reactions to the titular comet."
(Lauren Boname, University of Lincoln).

Relevant Background History

Napoleon's Invasion

Click [here](#) to read an article about why Napoleon's invasion of Russia was the beginning of the end.

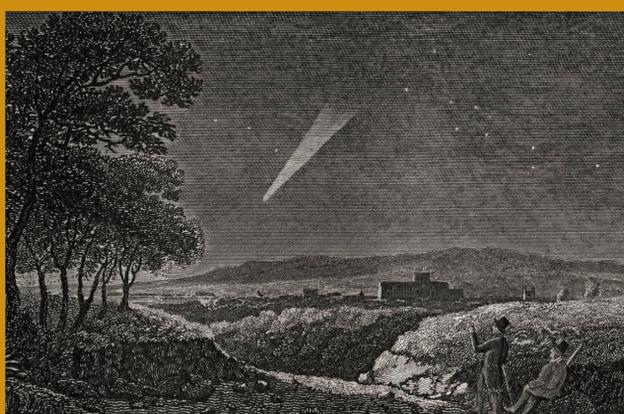


Imperial Political Structures

Click [here](#) to read about imperial Russia and the Russian aristocracy.



Did you know that there really was a comet?



The Great Comet of 1811 on October 15, 1811, from Otterbourne Hill near Winchester, England.

In 1811, a comet officially known as C/1811 F1, was visible to the naked eye for a record 260 days. The huge comet became a fascination for artists and writers who painted it and wrote stories with it as the focus.

Want to add more seats to your order? Click the button below to purchase online or call our Box Office (607-273-2787).

Come back twice without paying full price! Pay-What-You-Will tickets are available over the phone or at the door. Check out more ways to save on our website [HERE](#).

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Questions? Contact our Box Office
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