“Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!” / Steppenwolf NOW series

March 2021

Virtual Pre-show Audio Description Notes

You are listening to the audio description pre-performance notes for “Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!”. My name is Bridget Melton and I will be your audio describer.

The show credits:

Steppenwolf NOW presents a virtual stage performance of

“Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!”

By Vivian J.O. Barnes

Directed by Weyni Mengesha

Sound Design and Original Music by Pornchanok Kanchanbanca

Creative Director Joel Moorman

Video Editor Lowell Thomas

Hair and Makeup Consultant Trevor Brown

Artistic Producer JC Clementz

Production Manager Claire Haupt

Casting Director JC Clementz, CSA

Production Stage Manager Laura D. Glenn  
Assistant Production Stage Manager Christine D. Freeburg

Featuring ensemble members Celeste M. Cooper and Sydney Charles.

The performance runs 32 minutes with no intermission.

The action includes two characters and takes place over a single interval in one room.

The back wall of the room is covered in heavy black drapes from floor to ceiling. At the far right and left are unseen entrances to the space. In front of the back drapes are two ornate armchairs, with wooden frames painted cream, and fluting on the edging and curved legs. The upholstery is a pale turquoise brocade covering the seat and back. In between the chairs is a small round side table with a pedestal base and a silver reflective finish. On top of the table is a clear glass vase filled with a formal arrangement of large fresh flowers in corals and creams with hints of greenery. On the floor is a large oriental rug in cream and beige with rust colored accents.

The Duchess, age 30’s, is played by SYDNEY CHARLES.

She is five feet seven inches tall with a slender build.

Her skin is a warm medium brown color.

Her hair is glossy black, worn down in smooth soft waves that fall to her mid back, with a side part.

Her face is an oval, with pronounced high cheekbones.

Her eyes are dark brown and large, with long eyelashes.

Her makeup is minimal and polished. On her eyes she wears subtle dark grey eyeshadow lining her upper lid. Her cheeks are bronzed slightly and her lips have a light reddish pink hue.

She wears a lavender blouse with long sleeves rolled up to below the elbow. Extending from the V-neck shirt collar are two long ties of the same lavender fabric that are tied in a low bow that ends at her waist. Her shirt is tucked into a high waisted light grey pencil skirt that ends at her knees. She wears nude hosiery, and her shoes are beige high heels with pointed toe and a two inch stiletto heel. Her jewelry is a matching set, with dangle earrings of a silver hoop with a diamond encrusted bauble with a pearl hanging from it. Her necklace is a close fitted pearl necklace with a matching diamond and pearl bauble pendant. Her bracelet is pearls inset in diamond studded circles. On her left ring finger she wears a large sapphire ring edged in diamonds, similar to that of Princess Diana and Duchess Katherine.

In her hands she has a polished black leather portfolio and a black and gold fountain pen.

The Soon-to-be-Duchess, age 30’s, is played by CELESTE M. COOPER.

She is five feet four inches tall with a slender athletic build.

Her skin is a warm bronze brown color.

Her hair is black and worn in tight tiny curls styled edgily. Short and pulled back at her temples and the sides, similar to a small mohawk.

Her face is round and clear, with thin lips.

Her eyes are dark brown and narrow, with expressive eyebrows.

Her makeup is natural and minimal. On her eyes she wears a subtle shimmery pink. Her cheeks are natural and glowing and her lips have a mulberry stain barely visible.

She wears a sleeveless blouse that is cream colored with a large floral pattern of yellow, orange, and grey daffodils. The front of the blouse has wide fluttering pleats and the top few buttons are undone. Her shirt is tucked into a dark charcoal grey fitted skirt that ends at her knees. She does not wear hosiery, and her shoes are beige high heeled stilettos with a pointed toe and three inch heel. Her jewelry is curated, with diamond stud earrings and a necklace of a long delicate gold chain. On her left hand is a gold cuff bracelet and a very large ring with a single diamond. On her right is a thin gold bangle.

She carries with her a structured handbag of cream leather with two small handles that she wears looped over her arm. When she takes notes, she uses a small black notebook with a sleek ballpoint pen.

This concludes the preshow description. We hope you enjoy our virtual stage performance of “Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!”, streaming March 2021 as part of Steppenwolf NOW, a new virtual programming stream featuring breakthrough stories written by America’s most talented voices, spotlighting the nation’s premier ensemble theatre.

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