

SummerStage 2026

Production Content Disclosures

Please find information about the themes and content of the SummerStage 2026 productions. We share this with families so you have more information about each production that your child may be cast in. For students to audition with "eyes wide open," we want to provide clear information on the themes and actions they will be asked to portray. For specific examples of anything mentioned below, or if you would like to read the script, please contact education@ctcharlotte.org.



Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812

We are incredibly excited to produce *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, a 12-time Tony-nominated "electropop opera". It is a sung-through musical adapted from a "scandalous slice" of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. The show's style is contemporary and high-energy, but the story is a mature, complex, 19th-century drama. This material will be handled with the artistic integrity and "holistic view of humanity" intended by the composer. We are committed to a professional, safe, and artistically challenging rehearsal process for our students.

Central Conflict/Themes

The plot is "ripped from a slice of Tolstoy" and is fundamentally an adult story. It deals with a "young and impulsive" woman (Natasha) who, while engaged to a soldier at war, is seduced by a "roguish" and "hedonistic" man (Anatole). The show explores the consequences of this "terrible decision", including her "shattered reputation" and "downfall". It also follows the parallel story of a family friend (Pierre) who is grappling with a deep "existential crisis" and a loveless marriage.

Specific Mature Content

This show is about adult choices and their consequences. For students to audition with full awareness of the roles they are pursuing, families must review and discuss the following specific content that is central to the plot and will be portrayed by the student actors:

- **Adult Relationships & Seduction:** The entire plot is driven by an adulterous affair. The character Anatole is a "seductive hedonist" who is secretly married and manipulates Natasha. The character Hélène is described as "promiscuous" and unfaithful.
- **Choreographed Stage Intimacy:** The roles of Natasha and Anatole will require "moments of lip-to-lip contact and/or embracing". These moments are non-sensational, plot-driven, and will be handled safely and professionally by a trained intimacy choreographer, with performer consent and boundaries as the top priority.
- **Suicide Attempt:** The character of Natasha portrays a non-fatal suicide attempt by poisoning in Act II, as a result of her despair and social ruin.
- **Simulated Violence:** The show contains "The Duel", which will be staged with hand to hand stage combat and stage revolvers which will not be fired.

- **Pervasive Substance Use:** The show's official cautions list "Alcohol". Its consumption is a key part of the aristocratic, "pleasure-loving lifestyle" and is portrayed frequently by several main characters.
- **Complex Mature Subtext:** The show, drawing directly from Tolstoy, contains complex adult characterizations. This includes the relationship between the siblings Anatole and Hélène, which is based on mature and "crucial" subtext from the novel.
- **Prologue Language:** The opening number contains the lyric, "Hélène is a slut." This is repeated four times in the number.