



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

BY
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY
BRONWYN
STEINBERG

SEP 27 TO OCT 19



TWELFTH NIGHT

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY
RICHARD
BEAUNE

SEP 28 TO OCT 19



VERTIGO STUDIO THEATRE

WWW.THESHAKESPEARECOMPANY.COM



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Shakespeare Company acknowledges the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 Region of Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy tribes of Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai; The Tsuut'ina Nation and the Stoney Nakoda tribes of Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney and we acknowledge that The City of Calgary is also home to the Northwest Métis and to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

THE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Ambrose University, our key partner in this production

Josh Bailey, Set Builder

Erin Mackey, Head of Wardrobe

John Knight, Fight Consultant

Our funders: The City of Calgary, The Province of Alberta, RBC, & donors like you!

Theatre Calgary

The Vertigo Theatre Team: Jack Grinhaus, Kristen Dion, Katelyn Morishita, Laura Couch, Lyall Jovie

The Vertigo Theatre Box Office & Front of House Teams,

and our **Studio Theatre Crew:** Chris Redl, John Jacobson, Andy Roy, Adam Kostiuk, Samuel Lawrence, Jack Robinson, John Malahay & Anna Morley
...and many more who helped us create this event.



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WORDS FROM OUR PARTNER



Shakespeare is beautiful, and hilarious, challenging on an intellectual and emotional level, and, when it comes to the comedies, a pretty good time. For all that, it can also be really scary to tackle for a young actor. As a cultural institution, “The Bard” is often held to an impossibly high standard. So, what better partner for the Ambrose University theatre students could there possibly be than The Shakespeare Company? This theatre company has staked its reputation on the idea that Shakespeare is accessible, compelling, and, perhaps most importantly, entertaining! Led by the direction of Richard and Bronwyn; our students have had the rare opportunity to work alongside other professionals on not one, but two wonderful productions. This is real world, hands on, professional experience. What an invaluable opportunity! One which I know

our students have embraced to its fullest throughout rehearsals and will continue to do so in the performances.

On behalf of Ambrose Arts, I would like to extend my thanks to all of the artists involved in these productions, and especially to Richard Beaune for forming this partnership with us.

*John Knight
Area Coordinator,
TheatreAmbrose Arts*

FROM THE ARTISTIC PRODUCER RICHARD BEAUNE

Thank you so much for joining us for this, my inaugural season as Artistic Producer for The Shakespeare Company.

I'd like to thank the board of directors and the previous leadership of the company (particularly Haysam Kadri and Meg Farhall) who made this opportunity possible. I also want to thank our producing partners for this season: Ambrose University and Prime Stock Theatre, whose support is integral to our ability to bring you this programming. I'd also like to thank our other key supporters, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, RBC and the City of Calgary. We also have private donors – you

“I want to honour the generous welcome that I received from the Calgary theatre community by exploring stories that hinge on arrivals.”

know who you are, and I'm grateful for all of the continued support. If you're not currently a supporter, but want to be, just visit our website at www.shakespearecompany.com where you'll find buttons to donate and/or subscribe.

I'm calling this season Act 1: *The Arrival*. I want to honour the generous welcome that I received from the Calgary theatre community, by exploring stories that hinge on arriv-

als. This theme led me to *The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Games of Love and Chance*. You'll see that all three of these plays hinge on important arrivals. I also want to celebrate the magic of actors this season, and in particular their ability to transform. That's why I wanted to present our first two plays in rep. Calgary hasn't seen a lot of repertory theatre, so I'm thrilled to be bringing it here to offer something new.

Something else that's new this year is a new translation of a French classic. I can't wait to share this delightful comedy with Calgary audiences after it was so warmly received in Red Deer a few years ago.

Something that isn't new to The Shakespeare Company is our dedication to emerging artists. By highlighting three young artists from the Ambrose University program, we're helping to bridge the gap between student and professional theatre artists. We hope that you appreciate their work as much as we do, and we hope that you enjoy this full season of comedy as we arrive at a new phase in the history of The Shakespeare Company.

Richard Beaune (he/him)
Artistic Producer, The Shakespeare Company

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AND VIEW UPCOMING
SHOW DATES!**



DIRECTING COMEDY OF ERRORS

What a joy it's been to dive into what may very well be Shakespeare's silliest play! In talking with Richard about doing these shows in repertory, I became very excited about featuring true actor magic in a theatrical experience that brings light, joy, and unabashed silliness. Our small ensemble transforms into many characters, and I knew that I wanted to bring the audience right into the heart of these magical transformations. This is a play in every sense of the word—pretty much the opposite of realism—and I wanted to frame the story in a way that shares and maximizes the fun of putting on a performance. I also wanted to create a world that would encourage the ensemble and myself to really “go for it” in a highly physical style of comedy that would



highlight just how accessible this story is for all audiences. But how to do all this? Well, I always like to go to the text and see what images stand out for me in what the characters say and do. While trying to understand the “errors” he keeps getting caught up in, Antipholus of Syracuse supposes



that he's landed in a place that's full of some kind of magic—a town of jugglers and tricksters. Meanwhile, Dromio is about as classic a clown character as you can find, and there are “bits” in the script that read exactly like vaudeville. So, we have jugglers, magicians, clowns... the world of *The Comedy of Errors* is basically a carnival! Then Richard told me that he had this idea that for both shows we might start with a group of Depression era traveling players, and I thought that was a perfect frame for a group that comes in and performs this show in the style of circus

“I wanted to frame the story in a way that shares and maximizes the fun of putting on a performance.”

performers. I started talking to our brilliant designers, and we were off! I'm so deeply grateful to our amazing team of actors, designers and crew for making all my carnival dreams come true, and to Richard for inviting me along for the ride. I hope that all of you enjoy the ride too, and welcome to our carnival of errors!

Bronwyn Steinberg
Director, *The Comedy of Errors*

DIRECTING TWELFTH NIGHT

I'M so glad that I finally get to direct this wonderful play, and that I get to do it in rep with *The Comedy of Errors*!

Both of these plays are so funny, and so similar. But finding the subtle differences has been a real treat. I'm grateful to Bronwyn for sharing this experience with such generosity and flexibility. I'm grateful, too, for the terrific production team. And most

“Working in rep is a particular hill to climb for an actor, and this team has shown up.”

of all, I'm grateful for this company of actors who have been working so hard to pull this off. Working in rep is a particular hill to climb for an actor, and this team has shown up. When you add the fact that three of our actors are still students at Ambrose University, the degree of difficulty grows and I've been so impressed with their ability to face these challenges with courage, grace and humour. Simply put, they make me laugh. I hope that you will join with me in taking great pleasure in all of this hard work, and all of this silly comedy.

Richard Beaune (he/him)
Director, *Twelfth Night*



THE CAST



The Comedy of Errors - Luciana,
Courtesan
Twelfth Night - Olivia

Music Captain

ALIXANDRA COWMAN

Previous acting credits include *Songs For A New World*, *Bright Star*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Chickens* (Rosebud Theatre); *Alberta Kitchen Party* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*, *The Outsiders* (StoryBook Theatre); and *Flibbertigibbet's Story Exhibit* (Quest Theatre). Alixandra is also an award-winning sound designer and composer. Her sound and music has been heard in productions with the Stratford Festival, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, Vertigo Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, and more. This Christmas, she will be acting, playing music, and sound designing *Charlotte's Web* at Alberta Theatre Projects - her 3 favourite things! Alixandra can usually be found strumming some instrument or another in whatever beam of sunlight she can find, a cup of coffee within arm's reach. Love and gratitude to Conrad and Clarence for the endless support.



The Comedy of Errors - Antipholus
Antipholus
Twelfth Night - Sir Andrew

DANIEL FONG*

For The Shakespeare Company: *The Tempest*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Twelfth Night*, *DiVerseCity*
Elsewhere: *Romeo & Juliet* (Bard on the Beach); *Forgiveness*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Shakespeare in the Park* (Theatre Calgary); *The Three Musketeers* (Citadel / Arts Club); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (Rosebud Theatre); *US* (The Globe); *Alberta Kitchen Party*, *The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe*, *Fortune Falls*, *The Circle* (ATP) Other: Daniel was the recipient of the Stephen Hair emerging artist award in 2020. Daniel is supported by his amazing wife Nadia, his friends and loving family. @thedfong



The Comedy of Errors - Duke, Pinch
Twelfth Night - Feste, Antonio, Priest

REBECCA HANSON

Rebecca is honoured and thrilled to be working with the Shakespeare Company performing her first Shakespearean genre productions. Rebecca is in her second and final year at Ambrose University, as a theatre student, completing her diploma. Her notable credits include *Beauty and The Beast* (Cornerstone Christian School), *Cinderella and Anastasia* (Born 2 Be Arts Academy), and *The Comedy Project* (Ambrose University). She would like to say thank you to her friends, family, the people who gave her training and opportunity to thrive in the industry, and God who has been her strength and help through it all. She is excited to learn about the ways of Shakespeare and his work throughout her rehearsal and performance experiences.



The Comedy of Errors - Emilia, Luce, Merchant
Twelfth Night - Valentine, Maria, Officer

KRISTIN IOSIFELIS

Kristin is thoroughly excited to be working with the Shakespeare Company! Kristin is a second year (technically third year) Theatre student at Ambrose University and feels incredibly blessed to be working with the amazingly talented (like seriously talented!) cast and crew! Kristin has been acting for many years, having graduated from Central Memorial High School's PVA: Theatre program - Select credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), and *Shakespeare's Dog* (Terry). Lastly, she would like to thank Barrett Hileman and Val Lieske for always believing in her and for teaching her just about everything she knows about theatre!



The Comedy of Errors - Adriana
Twelfth Night - Viola

HELEN KNIGHT*

After a delightful time with *Midsummer Night's Dream* this past Spring, Helen is delighted to be rejoining The Shakespeare Company in their repertory cast. Helen is a two-time Betty Mitchell award winner, and has worked with Theatre Calgary *Meteor Shower*, *Vertigo Theatre Sleuth*; *Murder in the Studio*, Alberta Theatre Projects *The Wedding Party*; *The Virgin Trial*; *The Last Wife*, *Soulpepper Theatre The Virgin Trial*, *Lunchbox Theatre Last Christmas*, *A Good Marriage*, and *Ghost River Theatre Tomorrow's Child*. Helen has also toured her own works - *FUGLY*; *The Art of Kneading*

- around Calgary, Edmonton, and Toronto. Thanks to O for your ongoing enthusiastic support. And thank you to Bronwyn, Richard, and the entire cast and crew for making these two plays such a fun and breathless ride.



The Comedy of Errors - Angelo, Officer
Twelfth Night - Miss ToBI Belch

JESSICA RAMISCH

Jessica currently in her second and final year as a theatre student at Ambrose University, where she has been training to become a professional actor. Her notable credits include *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* (The Walterdale Theatre), *Cry Baby the Musical* (Leduc Drama Society), *Beauty and the Beast* (Festival Place), and *The Comedy Show* (Ambrose University). She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her, and Barrett Hileman for teaching her that if things seem impossible, just push through the hard things, and that's how they become possible.



The Comedy of Errors - Dromio, Dromio
Twelfth Night - Captain, Malvolio, Sebastian

JOEL DAVID TAYLOR

Joel David Taylor is thrilled to be performing with such an amazing team of artists! Joel is an alumnus of Mount Royal University and holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Alberta. Previous credits for The Shakespeare Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Heavy Burden*, *Othello*. Other selected credits include: *Beautiful Man*, *Smoke*, (Downstage Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Little Women* (swing. Theatre Calgary). Film and TV: *Heartland*, *Foul*, *Tribal*, and *Hell on Wheels*. When not acting you can find Joel fiddling with the guitar or playing far too much Magic the Gathering. Joel wants to thank his friends, family, and partner Helene for their constant love and support.



The Comedy of Errors - Egeon, Balthazar
Twelfth Night - Orsino

LAYNE ZAZALAK

Layne is very excited to be working with The Shakespeare Company this season playing Duke Orsino, Egeon, Balthazar and Officer 3. He's been playing, clowning and laughing across this province for over a decade and is so excited to share his passion for the stage with anyone who will listen. Recent credits include *Ra'ov* (OBP Musical), *Falstaff* (Prime Stock Theatre), *Orlando* (Prime Stock Theatre), *Wilbur* (42nd Street Productions). Along with being an actor Layne is an aspiring novelist, playwright and regular member of the RPG live play group Anotherworld Table-top on twitch.

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THE CREW



Twelfth Night -
Director

RICHARD BEAUNE HE/HIM*

Richard has been creating theatre across Canada for nearly 40 years as an actor, director and most of all a collaborator. He trained at Toronto Metropolitan University, George Brown College, The Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium (in Ohio) and received his MFA in Theatre (acting and directing) from York University. He was the Artistic Director of Simple Truth Theatre, Keystone Theatre, and Prime Stock Theatre, and is currently the Artistic Producer for The Shakespeare Company. He has performed in every province and territory in both English and French and his shows have garnered rave reviews and multiple awards including a Dora Mavor Moore Award and a Canadian Comedy Award. He has worked in a wide variety of styles in venues ranging from Canada's largest festivals (Stratford and Shaw) to parks and unexpected found spaces. He loves to defy expectations, but ultimately his goal in life is to make you smile.



Set Designer

MADELINE BLONDAL

Madeline is a set and lighting designer from Calgary. Recent design credits include *The Dark Lady* (Lunchbox Theatre), *Cottagers and Indians* (Lunchbox Theatre), *After Faust* (RISER and Invisible Practice), *Smoke* (Tiny Bear Jaws), *Ministry of Mundane Mysteries: Sound Off* (Outside the March), *Hireath* (Bright Young Things), *En Attendant...Godot* (L'UniThéâtre) and *Enchanted Antlers '21, '22 and '23'* (Theatre Prospero). Recent assistant credits include *Cymbeline* (Stratford Shakespeare Festival) and *Meteor Shower* (Theatre Calgary). Madeline holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Alberta in Drama (Theatre Design). You can find her online at madelineblondal.com.



Props Master

MARIA DANSHIN

Maria is a textile artist from Siberia, where she completed her formal art education. Her lifelong passion for theatre was inspired by her mother's 20-year career in a costume department. With a unique blend of skills in sewing, sculpting, and woodworking, Maria found her calling in prop making. Today, she is a full-time mascot maker at Street Characters Inc., where she brings her creative vision to life. @danshin_forest



SKYLAR DESJARDINS

Skylar is delighted to be sharing *The Comedy of Errors* and *Twelfth Night* with you. This is Skylar's first production with The Shakespeare Company. Skylar has worked as a production manager and technical director for the past 5 years for such companies as Handsome Alice Theatre, StoryBook Theatre, Jupiter Theatre and Ghost River Theatre. They currently work as the production manager and

Production
Manager/
Technical Director



Stage Manager

technical director for LunchBox Theatre. They would like to thank their partner, Michael, for their support.

BRADEN GUIDO

Braden is a Red Deer based Stage Manager who has been working around Central Alberta since 2016. He has worked in a variety of formats, from black box shows, to outdoor Shakespeare festivals, to puppet shows live-streamed to kids across Canada. He also works as the Technical Director of Tree House Youth Theatre, a process focused program helping kids aged 9-17 to devise and create their own shows while teaching them the fundamentals of technical theatre and stage management. This is Braden's first show in Calgary with The Shakespeare Company, and he hopes you enjoy *The Comedy of Errors* and *Twelfth Night* as much as he enjoyed being a part of this process and working with such a talented team of artists. He'd also like to thank his fiancée Piper for her constant love and support.



Assistant Stage
Manager

GRACE LU SHE/THEY

For The Shakespeare Company: Assistant Stage Manager for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Elsewhere: *Rocky Horror Show- Riff Raff*/ sound design (Misfit/Morpheus) *The Peacock Season* (Morpheus) *We Are Pussy Riot* (Holy Fools) +12 year Loose Moose company member, she also performs with the 404s improv troupe at conventions all over Western Canada. Actor, improviser, writer, designer, sound addict, 2SLGBTQIA+ advocate, cosplayer, she sends her love & thanks to her friends & family for their support. Protect Trans Kids.



Assistant Director

SARA MATSSON SHE/HER

The Shakespeare Company debut. Sara Mattsson is a Swedish born artist who is honoured to be practising her craft across Turtle Island. She was last seen on stage in Primestock Theatre's productions of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry IV Part 2*. Sara loves theatre for its community building and knowledge sharing powers, and for its ability to create space for feelings from the darkest dark to the most joyful joy. She is fascinated with words in all forms and is currently writing her first full length play with the support of RBC Playwriting Mentorship Program. She is also the co-creator and co-host of the chilling podcast *The Ghost Next Door*, telling thrilling tales from across the world.



Lighting Designer

MAEZY REIGN THEY/SHE

Maezy is a biracial multidisciplinary artist, born and raised in Calgary. They work as a playwright, lighting designer and occasional actor. They are determined to create art that has the representation they never saw growing up, like mentally ill, gender diverse, queer, and racialized main characters. Select lighting credits include *Gaslight* (Assistant Designer, *Vertigo*). *The F Word*, *Climate Change Theatre Action*, *Secret Saloon* (Downstage Theatre). Two

One Acts (Senior's Acting Lab). Maezy is thrilled to be making their debut with The Shakespeare Company! You can keep up with their work @maezy.reign on Instagram. Thank you to Cosmo, Heath, and Goose!



Costume Designer

CATHLEEN SBRIZZI

Cathleen is a Costume Designer and Cutter based in Calgary Alberta. She holds a BA in Costume studies from Dalhousie University and a Certificate in Innovative Pattern Cutting from Central Saint Martins in London. Cathleen has had the pleasure of designing for the Opera, Theatre, local Indie-musicians, Film, and Television. She is the Author and Coordinator of the Canadian Costumers Digital Research Initiative Website: Cathleen.Design



Director -
Comedy of Errors

BRONWYN STEINBERG*

Bronwyn is a theatre director and community builder; she's passionate about making theatre an inclusive space of sharing stories that celebrate the diversity of human experience. She loves working with the classics as well as new plays and is the Artistic Director of Lunchbox Theatre. She was based in Ottawa for 12 years, where she founded the indie series TACTICS. Credits as an award-winning freelance director include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre Calgary), *The Ballad of Georges Boivin*, *The Dark Lady*, *Home for the Holidays* and *All I Want for Christmas* (Lunchbox Theatre), *The Drowning Girls* and *Bang Bang* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *The Revolutionists*, *Miss Shakespeare* and *Desdemona: a play about a handkerchief* (Three Sisters Theatre), and *Twelfth Night* (A Company of Fools). She is also currently developing two new Shakespeare adaptations with collaborators, *The Game of Cardenio* and *Mad Margaret*.



Sound Designer

GREG WILSON

Greg is an Alberta based actor and musician and is thrilled to be back with the Shakespeare Company. Past credits: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III* (The Shakespeare Company), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Storybook Theatre), *Goblin Market* (Pape and Taper), and the audio drama *USS Artemis* (Boathaus Studios). You can find his music under the name Postgrads wherever you stream your tunes.

* "The participation of these Artist (these Artists) is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)."

Don't forget to join The Shakespeare Company
in the spring for The Games of Love and Chance,
Scan to purchase tickets!



THE GAMES OF LOVE AND CHANCE

By Pierre de Marivaux
Translated and Directed by
Richard Beaune

MAY 2 TO MAY 17
VERTIGO STUDIO THEATRE