



TENNESSEE  
**Shakespeare** CO.  
neighboring  Shelby Farms Park

2025-26 SEASON

FREE SHOUT-OUT SHAKESPEARE SERIES

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READING SERIES

**THREE SISTERS**

by ANTON CHEKHOV

**TARTUFFE**

by MOLIÈRE

**BLITHE SPIRIT**

by NOËL COWARD

**THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**

comedy by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**CHRISTMAS GEMS:**

**A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES**

adapted, with original music,  
from DYLAN THOMAS by MYRA PLATT

**THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE**

adapted from SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE  
by STEPHANIE SHINE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LITERARY SALON

**UNDER AN IRISH MOON:  
TALES AND TUNES FROM  
LADY GREGORY'S HEARTH**

FREE SHOUT-OUT SHAKESPEARE SERIES

**ROMEO AND JULIET**

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**THE CHILDREN'S LITERACY GALA**

Lauren Gumm (Ophelia) in *Twelfth Night*, 2024

DAN McCLEARY, FOUNDER AND PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MICHAEL R. MARSHALL, BOARD PRESIDENT

E. FRANK BLUESTEIN, CO-FOUNDER

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must  
GO  
ON  
AND SO SHOULD YOU



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## CONTACT US:

Tennessee Shakespeare Company  
7950 Trinity Road  
Memphis, TN 38018-6297  
(901) 759-0604  
contact@tnshakespeare.org  
www.tnshakespeare.org

# SEASON ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## OUR SEASON SPONSORS

FedEx Corporation and Mr. Frederick W. Smith, ARTSmemphis, Tennessee Arts Commission, James R. Humphreys, Nancy R. Copp, Evans Petree PC, Pat and Ernest Kelly and family, J. Walker Sims and the Sims Family Charitable Trust, Kathryn and Jim Gilliland, Anne and Mike Keeney, Independent Bank, Pete Pranica, First Horizon Foundation through an ArtsFirst grant, AutoZone, the Dunbar Abston Fund for Sustainable Excellence, the Barbara B. Apperson Angel Fund, and the Jack Jones Children's Literacy Fund

## OUR SEASON PARTNERS

Bartlett Performing Arts Center, Benjamin Hooks Public Library Friends, Cities of Bartlett, Collierville, and Memphis, Davies Manor, Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Memphis Juvenile Justice System, Memphis V.A. Medical Center, Memphis-Shelby County Schools, Overton Park Shell, Overton Square, Raleigh Library, Reverie, Shelby County Election Commission, St. George's Episcopal Church, Tom Lee Park, University of Memphis' Department of Theatre & Dance, and Wiseacre Brewery

## OUR VOLUNTEERING FRIENDS

Brenda and E. Frank Bluestein, Louise and Jim Calandrucchio, Nancy R. Copp, Brenda Dattel, Margaret Hatter, Pat and Ernest Kelly, Bernie McIlroy, Carolyn and Hiram Shepard, Studio Two, and TSC's Volunteer Organization

## WE THANK OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS:



Cultivate. Create. Participate.



This Season is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee.

# ABOUT TN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Tennessee Shakespeare Company is the first and still only professional, not-for-profit theatre and education organization in Memphis dedicated to producing live, diverse performances of William Shakespeare's plays, as well as works of social significance by classical, Southern, and modern playwrights/composers; and to providing innovative education, training, and outreach programming.

In 2017, we purchased our first performing arts facility, which is being renovated into the state's only permanent home for professional, year-round Shakespeare performance, education, and training.

Across 17 seasons, we have achieved over 735,000 points of contact through 75 productions in 45 community venues; have educated over 300,000 students in 130 area schools; have served the health needs of 1,100 veterans at the Memphis V.A. Medical Center; and have brought Shakespeare and creative writing to nearly 700 youths in three county detention centers. The most recent Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, facilitated by ARTSmemphis, revealed that TSC had an economic impact on our surrounding area of approximately \$2.8 million in the last year. Our Education and Outreach Program has achieved a high regional and national profile, and partners annually with most local school systems.

TSC's vision is to sustain a classical, professional theatre in Memphis that nurtures artists creatively and financially; and encourages audiences to exaltation, curiosity, and wonderment; a center for the community dedicated to re-discovering our faith in life by increasing our awareness of reality and expanding our imagination through an emphasis on the performance, education, and training of William Shakespeare's works.

We believe William Shakespeare and his stories are for everyone – as diverse as the characters with whom he populates his plays. We believe the plays of Shakespeare should be central to every child's formal education. We believe Memphis and Tennessee deserve a sustainable world-class, professional Shakespeare company.



Lauren Gunn (Dromio) and  
Michael Khanlarian (Antipholus)  
in *The Comedy of Errors*, 2024.  
Photo: Joey Miller

## TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO TSC:

Go to [www.tnshakespeare.org](http://www.tnshakespeare.org)

or

Text "TSCDonate" to 44-321

or

contribute via Venmo at @tnshakespeare

or

Contact Dan McCleary at (901) 759-0604 or

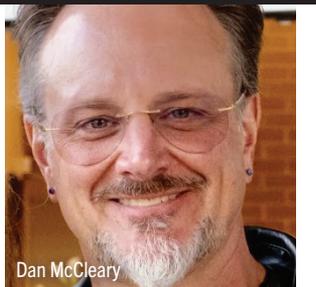
[danmccleary@tnshakespeare.org](mailto:danmccleary@tnshakespeare.org)

Thank you!

# WELCOME TO OUR 18<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!



Michael R. Marshall



Dan McCleary



E. Frank Bluestein

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Tennessee Shakespeare Company and our 18<sup>th</sup> performance season! We are honored that you are joining us.

This season, we are making you a promise on stage. It's a good-news story for Memphis, and it's unique in the United States.

Tennessee Shakespeare Company will produce for you and your family more classical and Shakespeare titles in 2025-26 than any other regional, professional theatre company in the country.

If that sounds like a big statement, it is. And it's true. Even during a time when all of TSC's historically-earned federal grants have been either cancelled or eliminated, we will not reduce our classical offerings for you or our schoolchildren, our military veterans, our detained teens, or our underserved communities.

Instead, we are doubling our Free Shout-Out Shakespeare Series productions with *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*. We will still tour *Macbeth* to our schools. We are launching a new Classical Comedies reading series featuring *Tartuffe*, *Three Sisters*, and *Blithe Spirit*. We will give you a new double-bill of holiday one-acts from Dylan Thomas and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock!), as well as the literary genius that launched a country's independence with our St. Patrick's Day Salon. And we will give you a fun, songful experience of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Plays and stories are called "classical" because each of us can see ourselves in them; and they are stories for all time, they are entertaining, and they have healing power. When you choose to come to the theatre, you aren't coming to see us on stage. You're coming to see yourself, to widen your possibilities, to think differently, to seek inspiration, to question, to enjoy yourself in your community. Even in a season filled with comedy, these are serious endeavors for us here.

If you are so moved to join us in our commitment to classical performances, expansive outreach, and resilient education work through over 20,000 points of contact this season, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Tennessee Shakespeare Company via one of the forms highlighted on page 5 in this playbill.

Thank you for being here, and thank you for helping us remain an intrepid, good-news story in Memphis.

With deep appreciation,

Michael R. Marshall  
Board President

Dan McCleary  
Nancy R. Copp Producing Artistic Director  
and Co-Founder

E. Frank Bluestein  
Co-Founder

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

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*(d. 2024)*

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*Past President*

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*(d. 2025)*

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*(d. 2024)*

Margaret Wellford Tabor

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Audrey Taylor  
*(d. 2012)*

George Walters  
*(d. 2019)*  
*Founding President*



Zoe and Mike Marshall. Photo: Joey Miller



Walker and Arnie Sims. Photo: Joey Miller



Pete Pranca and Rose Mieras. Photo: Joey Miller

# 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FREE SHOUT-OUT SHAKESPEARE SERIES

## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
directed by STEPHANIE SHINE

*Sponsored by Evans Petree PC in Memphis  
and The Shakespeare Fund of Theater  
League of Kansas City*

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 19

The victorious soldiers returning to Messina only thought they were laying down their arms. Head-strong Benedick and his men come heart-to-heart with the witty Beatrice and her women in the Italian countryside for a sun-dappled battle of romance which finds peace only when the village "Ass" is conscripted. Ideal for the outdoors, families, and picnics, Shakespeare's romantic comedy plays gleefully in 90 minutes without intermission.

# CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READING SERIES



curated and directed by DAN McCLEARY  
sponsored by PETE PRANICA, and JAMES R. HUMPHREYS  
on the TABOR STAGE

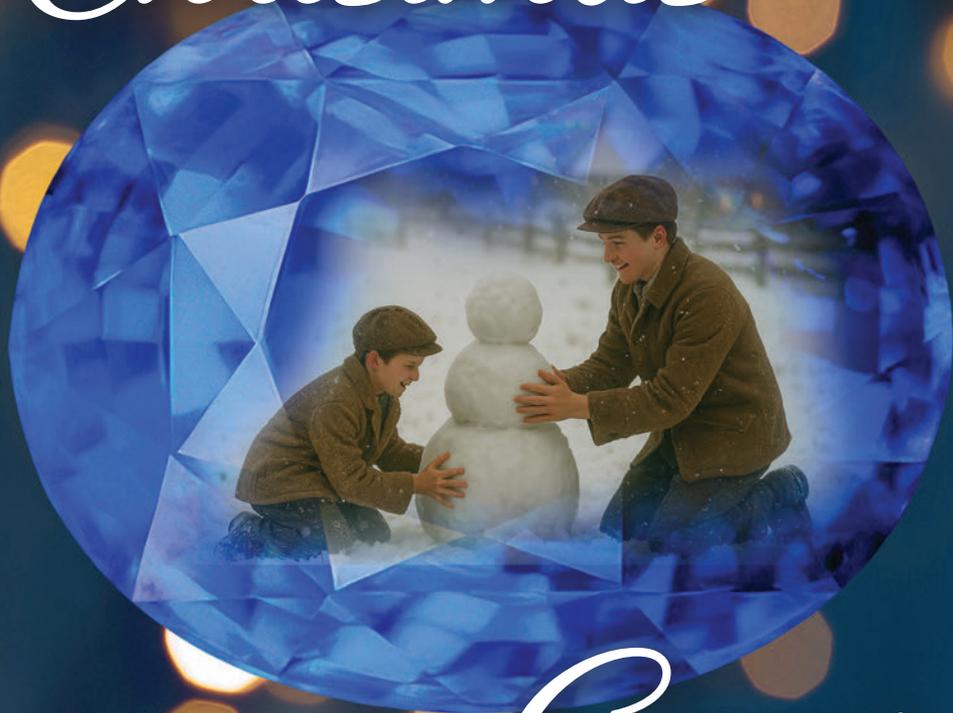
***THREE SISTERS*** by Anton Chekov (1900): SUN, NOVEMBER 2 at 3:00 pm

***TARTUFFE*** by Molière (1664): SUN, NOVEMBER 9 at 3:00 pm

***BLITHE SPIRIT*** by Noël Coward (1941): SUN, NOVEMBER 16 at 3:00 pm

Join some of our favorite TSC actors for a breezy, cocktail-enhanced experience of three of the world's most enduring comedies. You will enjoy intimate readings of Chekhov's delightfully existential hunger for life's meaning without repast, Molière's audaciously-rhyming and furniture-eating satire of religious hokum and secular pretension, and Coward's sophisticated farce launched by a surprising séance that results in one man's two wives battling it out between this world and the next.

# Christmas



# Gems

## *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

adapted, with original music, from DYLAN THOMAS by MYRA PLATT  
and

## *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

adapted/directed from SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE by STEPHANIE SHINE

*Sponsored by Kathryn & Jim Gilliland, and Anne & Mike Keeney on the Tabor Stage*

DECEMBER 5 - 21

FRI-SAT at 7:30 pm/SUN at 3:00 pm/PREVIEW is DECEMBER 5

*A Child's Christmas in Wales* is a modern classic sure to enchant all ages in this new production that captures youthful memories of a magical time of falling snow, a frozen sea, family, and... presents! And in a topsy-turvy adventure featuring a not-quite-golden Christmas goose, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are at their merriest in Doyle's sole homage to the spirit of the holiday season — with a gem of a discovery.



# THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

comedy by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
directed by DAN McCLEARY  
on the TABOR STAGE

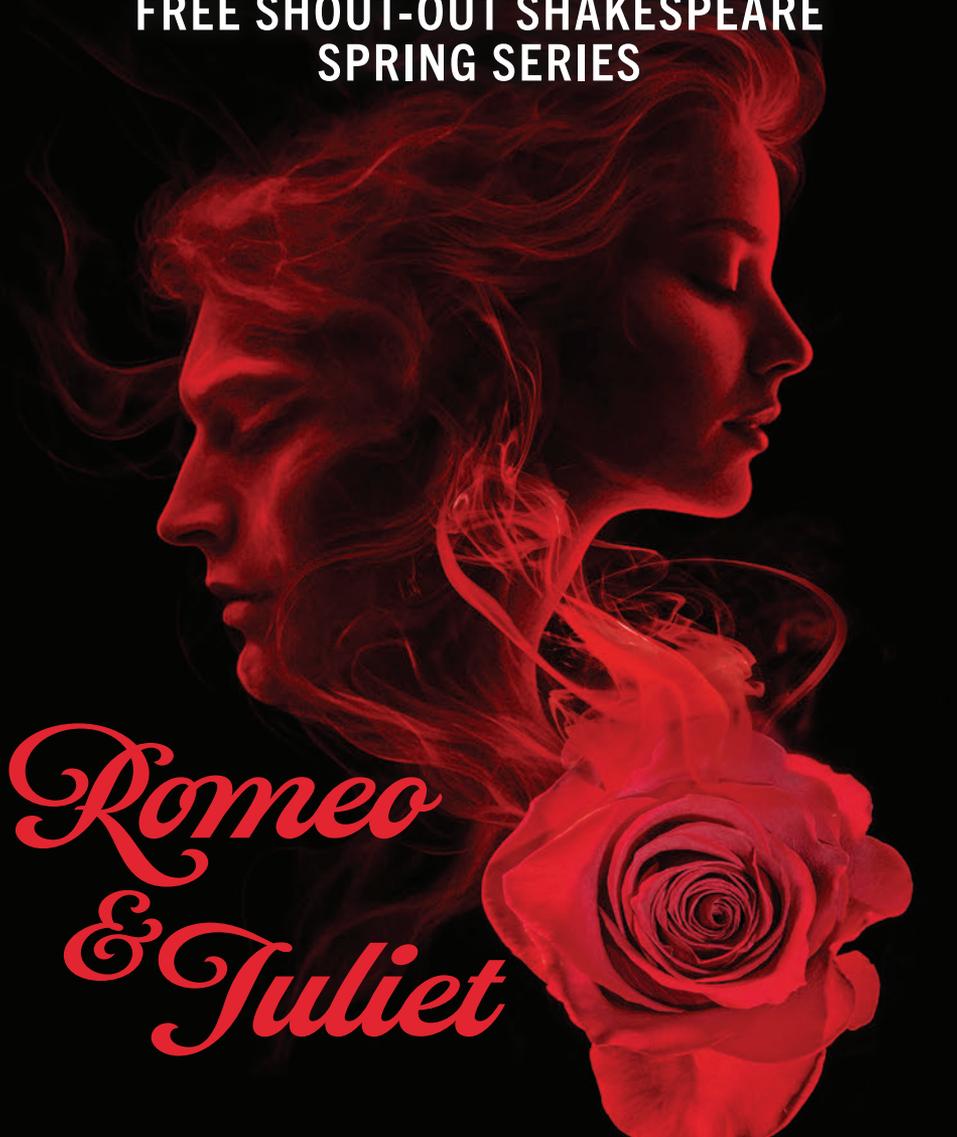
*Sponsored by The Sims Family Charitable Trust, James R. Humphreys, and Pat & Ernest Kelly*

**JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

**FRI-SAT at 7:30 pm/SUN at 3:00 pm/PREVIEW is JANUARY 30**

On Valentine's Day night during World War II, a Manhattan radio station decides at the last minute it would be a good national morale-booster to replace regularly scheduled programming with a live performance of Shakespeare's ribald love story with its acting company that thought it had been released for the night (already in their cups or out the door). You get to see the backstage noir version of Shakespeare's inducement to the wooing Kate-and-Petruchio comedy; and then the on-air performance, which the rest of the world will only hear (thank goodness). And the music of Rodgers and Hart, Sinatra, and Crosby? Too darn hot.

# FREE SHOUT-OUT SHAKESPEARE SPRING SERIES



## Romeo & Juliet

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
directed by SARAH HANKINS

*Sponsored by Evans Petree PC*

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 29, 2026

Do you know why the Capulets and Montagues are fighting? Nobody else does either. Who must be sacrificed to stop the violence? Shakespeare's story begins as one of his great comedies but ends in perhaps his gravest tragedy. Laced with sword fights, dancing, timeless poetry, and the world's most famous young couple, *Romeo and Juliet* outdoors is a theatrical event not to be missed. Or learned. This production plays without intermission in 90 minutes. Bring your children and a picnic!



*St. Patrick's Day Literary Salon*

## ***Under an Irish Moon: Tales and Tunes from Lady Gregory's Hearth***

curated and directed by STEPHANIE SHINE on the Tabor Stage

*Sponsored by Pat and Ernest Kelly, and James R. Humphreys*

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 at 3:00 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 at 7:00 pm

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with music, Irish dancing, cocktails, and the poetic verse that inspired Ireland's literary revival and spurred its fight for independence. Lady Augusta Gregory, co-founder of the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre, was the turn-of-the-century's influential dramatist and poet who supported the likes of W.B. Yeats, J.M. Synge, Robert Browning, Lord Tennyson, and Henry James.



# *The Children's Literacy Gala* on the TABOR STAGE SATURDAY, APRIL 11 at 6:00 pm

At our annual party, you can enjoy a variety of culinary delights, open bars, a one-time-only performance, fun auctions, and the presentation of our fourth annual Teacher of the Year Award. You will be helping us raise over \$200,000 toward our Education and Outreach Programs, which provides nearly 20,000 points of contact with Shelby County students, detained teens, military veterans, and under served communities. 8-ticket Platinum/6-ticket Gold/4-ticket Silver Table Sponsorships available with tiered benefits. Contact Stephanie Shine for details at (901) 759-0604. Please join us!

# Student Matinees on the Tabor Stage

## *Fall Semester 2025*

### **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Wednesday, October 1  
at 10:00 am

### **MACBETH**

Wednesday, October 29  
at 10:00 am

Thursday, October 30  
at 10:00 am

### **CHRISTMAS GEMS**

Wednesday, December 10  
at 10:00 am

Thursday, December 11  
at 10:00 am

## *Spring Semester 2026*

### **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**

Wednesday, February 4  
at 10:00 am

Thursday, February 5  
at 10:00 am

### **ROMEO AND JULIET**

Wednesday, February 25  
at 10:00 am

Thursday, February 26  
at 10:00 am

**Book your tickets for  
only \$10 per student!**

Contact Sarah Hankins  
at (901) 759-0604 or  
[SarahHankins@tnshakespeare.org](mailto:SarahHankins@tnshakespeare.org)

Robby Matlock (Orsino) in *Twelfth Night*, 2024.

# TICKETING

Purchase Online: [www.tnshakespeare.org](http://www.tnshakespeare.org) Phone: (901) 759-0604  
 Box Office: Tues-Fri from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, and one hour prior to curtain.

## The Owen and Margaret Wellford Tabor Stage

ADULT      STUDENT (+/-22 w/ID)      SENIOR (62+)

### ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING / ROMEO AND JULIET***

|                          |         |         |         |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Tabor Stage performances | \$22.00 | \$10.00 | \$15.00 |
| All other performances   | FREE    | FREE    | FREE    |

*First-come/first-seated; bring a chair*

### ***CHRISTMAS GEMS / THE TAMING OF THE SHREW\****

|                        |         |         |         |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Preview performances   | \$22.00 | \$22.00 | \$22.00 |
| All other performances | \$44.00 | \$24.00 | \$39.00 |

### ***UNDER AN IRISH MOON SALON / CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS SERIES***

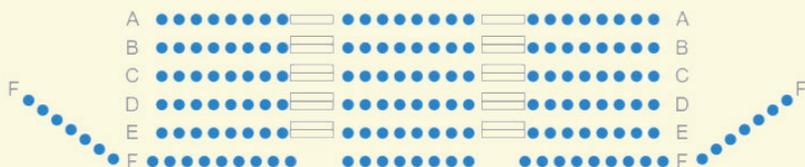
|              |         |         |         |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Each reading | \$29.00 | \$22.00 | \$26.00 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|

### ***CHILDREN'S LITERACY GALA***

|  |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Benefiting our Education and Outreach Programs |          |          |          |
| Early Bird single tickets thru March 15        | \$125.00 | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Single tickets after March 15                  | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |

*For Platinum (8 seats), Gold (6 seats), and Silver (4 seats) parties, please contact Stephanie Shine at (901) 759-0604.*

## THE TABOR STAGE



\*Friday night performances of *Christmas Gems* and *The Taming of the Shrew* are FREE WILL KIDS' NIGHTS: up to 4 children 17 years and younger may attend for free when accompanied by at least one, full-price-paying Adult Guardian; while seats last. Must be purchased either by phone or in-person.

No refunds/exchanges. House opens 30 minutes prior to curtain. Credit Card charges require a \$2.00 per-ticket fee. Casts and schedules subject to change with notice. Free parking and covered drop-off at front door for Tabor Stage performances.



Erin Amlicke (Joan) in *Saint Joan*, 2025. Photo: Joey Miller.

# PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE 2025/2026

## PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE

|                        |                 |      |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|
| COME FROM AWAY         | AUG 15 - SEP 14 | 2025 |
| THE WIZARD OF OZ       | NOV 14 - DEC 21 | 2025 |
| JAGGED LITTLE PILL     | JAN 23 - FEB 22 | 2026 |
| JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR | APR 24 - MAY 17 | 2026 |
| SWEENEY TODD           | JUN 12 - JUL 12 | 2026 |

## THE CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE

|                              |                 |      |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS | SEP 12 - OCT 5  | 2025 |
| JUNIE B. JONES THE MUSICAL   | NOV 7 - DEC 20  | 2025 |
| A TUNA CHRISTMAS             | NOV 21 - DEC 21 | 2025 |
| JOB                          | JAN 30 - FEB 15 | 2026 |
| SEUSSICAL                    | MAR 13 - APR 12 | 2026 |
| PRIMARY TRUST                | MAY 8 - MAY 31  | 2026 |

## NEEWORKS@THEWORKS

|               |                 |      |
|---------------|-----------------|------|
| TRAGEDY SOUND | JUL 11 - JUL 27 | 2025 |
| SEX/WORK      | JAN 9 - JAN 25  | 2026 |



BOX OFFICE: (901) 726-4656  
VISIT [PLAYHOUSEONTHE SQUARE.ORG](http://PLAYHOUSEONTHE SQUARE.ORG)

## WHO'S WHO



**MATTHEW ALTER (DON JOHN/VERGES IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES* AND *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*; APPRENTICE)**

Credits include: international tour of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* (Ali Baba), national tour of *Treasure Island* (Ben Gunn/Billy Bones/Tom Morgan), *Our Town* (George Gibbs), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *The Mousetrap* (Trotter), *Art* (Marc), *Boeing*, *Boeing* (Robert), *The Tempest* (Ferdinand), and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Monty Navarro). Matthew is a graduate of Rice University with degrees in Theatre and Mathematics.



**MARQUIS DIJON ARCHULETA (DON PEDRO/WATCH IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES*, HORTENSIO IN *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*; SENIOR ARTIST-MANAGER)**

TSC: Macbeth in *The Macbeth Initiative*, Caesar in the Free Shout-Out Shakespeare Series production of *Julius Caesar*, Laertes in *Hamlet*, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. He is also a Master Teacher in *The Romeo & Juliet Project*. Acting: Sweeney in Cutler Bros. Theater's production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.



**MARIAN CLAIRE BARBER (MARGARET/CONRAD IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READING SERIES* AND *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*; APPRENTICE):**

Marian Claire enjoys working in the costume and scenic shop, and playing her instruments. Lipscomb University credits: *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Crazy For You*, *Big Fish*, *Mamma Mia!* Playhouse on the Square: *Waitress*, *Punk Rock Girl*; and she was a teacher for their Youth and Adult Musical Theatre Class.



**FRANK BLUESTEIN (CO-FOUNDER)** is the 1996–1997 Disney National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year and the 1994 Tennessee Teacher of the Year. *USA Today* named Mr. Bluestein



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as one of the top forty teachers in the United States in 1998. Until his retirement in 2013, he served as chair of the Germantown High School Fine Arts Department; as artistic director of the school's theatre, the Poplar Pike Playhouse; and as executive producer for Germantown Community Television, the school's nationally acclaimed television production center. Graduates from his program include *Saturday Night Live* star Chris Parnell; film, television, and stage actress Missi Pyle; Emmy-winning casting director Scott Genkinger (*Desperate Housewives* & *NYPD Blue*); NPR reporter Debbie Elliott; TSC's Dan McCleary; and Blue Man Group actor Wes Day. Mr. Bluestein is a past winner of the American Theatre Association's John C. Barner Award, and has served as an arts advisory panelist for numerous organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to acting as a senior advisor for TSC, he currently serves as executive director of the Tennessee Arts Academy, a leading state-wide professional development institute for arts teachers located in Nashville. Mr. Bluestein spent several years as director of shows at Opryland, USA, and he most recently wrote and directed the national touring production of *Beale Street Saturday Night* starring blues legend Joyce Cobb. In 2013, he was inducted into the Educational Theatre Association's Hall of Fame in Minneapolis and in 2021 he was named by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee as a recipient of the Tennessee Governor's Arts Award, Tennessee's highest honor in the arts.



**JEREMY BUKAUSKAS (FRIAR FRANCIS IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES*, GREMIO IN *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*)** TSC: *The Comedy of Errors* (Duke Solinus), *The Romeo and Juliet Project* (Lord Capulet). Regional: *Trumpet in the Land*, *The White Savage*, *The Music Man*, *All Shook Up!*, *Sword of Peace*, *Pathway to Freedom*, *The Wiz*. Educational Theatre: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Tartuffe*, *Peer Gynt*, *As You Like It*, *Lovers and Executioners*, *God of Hell*. Jeremy earned his M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi.

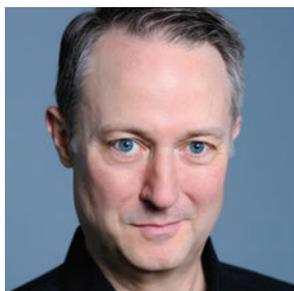


**ANTON CHEKHOV (PLAYWRIGHT OF *THREE SISTERS*)** was born in 1860 in Taganrog, Russia, the grandson of a serf, the son of a struggling merchant, and became both a successful physician with a wide-ranging practice and a prolific writer. By the time he created *Three Sisters* in 1900, he had already transformed the short story and was remaking theatre with a quiet revolution aided by the renowned Moscow Art Theatre. Chekhov gave modern drama a new framework: subtext, ensemble, and truth in the everyday. Scholars often referred to Chekhov as one of the seminal figures in the birth of early modernism in the theatre. His other plays that are produced annually include *Uncle Vanya*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *The Seagull*.



**ANDREW CHRISTENSON**  
(ASST. STAGE MANAGER FOR  
*MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*,  
ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL*  
*COMEDIES & COCKTAILS*  
READING SERIES) TSC:

*The Romeo and Juliet Project*  
(Sampson/Paris), *Twelfth Night*  
(Fabian/Valentine; Asst. Stage  
Manager), *Macbeth* (Asst. Stage  
Manager), *The Comedy of Errors*  
(Asst. Stage Manager/messenger).  
Other performance credits:  
*Escanaba in Da Moonlight*, *The*  
*Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*,  
*Little Women*, *The Seagull*, *Miracle*  
*on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, *Annie Get Your Gun*.  
Stage Management: *Emerge 360*,  
*Silent Sky*, *Murder Ballad*, *Emerge*  
*Student Dance Concert*. Andrew  
is a local Memphian and a recent  
University of Memphis graduate,  
earning a B.F.A. in Theatre with  
a concentration in Performance.  
Andrew was a member of TSC's  
2024-25 Classical Theatre  
Apprentice Program.



**CHRIS COTTEN (ENSEMBLE**  
**IN CLASSICAL COMEDIES &**  
**COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES)**

is excited to be back at TSC  
with an opportunity to share the  
stage with wife, Lorraine. TSC: *To*  
*Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Winter's*  
*Tale* (reading). Playhouse on  
the Square/Circuit Playhouse: *A*  
*Bronx Tale*; *Natasha, Pierre, and*  
*the Great Comet of 1812*, *The*  
*Curious Incident of the Dog in the*  
*Night-Time*, *Once*, *The Bridges*  
*of Madison County*, *Billy Elliot*,  
*Sanders Family Christmas*. Theatre  
Memphis: *You Can't Take It With*  
*You*, *The Clean House*, *As You*  
*Like It*, *A Chorus Line*, *Sherlock*  
*Holmes: The Final Adventure*, *A*  
*Christmas Carol*. Majestic Theater  
(MA): *Once*. Barter Theatre (VA):  
*Eleanor: An American Love Story*.  
Education: M.F.A. in Theatre in  
Directing, University of Memphis.  
Love, as always, to James and KT.



**LORRAINE COTTEN**  
(ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL*  
*COMEDIES & COCKTAILS*  
READING SERIES)

is thrilled  
to be back at TSC, where she  
has acted in *Saint Joan*, *The*  
*Importance of Being Earnest*, *The*  
*Taming of the Shrew*, and *It's a*  
*Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*;  
and co-directed *Romeo and Juliet*  
(2015). Playhouse on the Square:  
*The Prom*, *Gentleman's Guide*,  
*Left Hand Singing*, *Memphis the*  
*Musical*, *Shakespeare in Love*, and  
*Tuck Everlasting*, among others.  
Theatre Memphis: *Addams Family*.  
Germantown Community Theatre:  
*Next to Normal* and *Smoke on*  
*the Mountain*. Regional credits:  
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park,  
the New Jersey Shakespeare  
Festival, Arkansas Rep, Barter  
Theatre, Tiffany Theatre (LA),  
Perry Street Theatre (NY Theatre  
Workshop), and New Dramatists  
(NY). Education: M.F.A. in  
Directing from the University of  
Memphis. Love to Chris, James,  
and Katy.



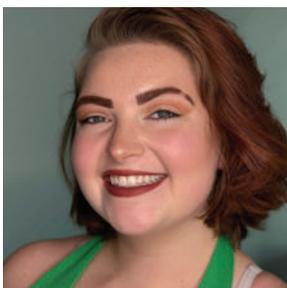
Raven Martin, Charles R. Ratcliff II, Christine Strong, and Michael Khanlarian in *The Comedy of Errors*, 2024. Photo: Joey Miller.



Dan McCleary and Lauren Gunn in *The Grace of Grace: Shining a Light Through Shakespeare's Broken Villains*, 2025. Photo: Joey Miller.



**NOËL COWARD (PLAYWRIGHT OF *BLITHE SPIRIT*)** was born in 1899 in Teddington, England, and began performing as a child before turning to writing plays in his early twenties. Over the next five decades, he became one of Britain's most prolific and recognizable theatre figures, known for sharp dialogue, unforced humor, and an instinct for timing both on stage and off. He wrote more than 65 plays and musicals, and he acted in nearly 90 stage productions and films. In 1941, during the height of WWII, he wrote *Blithe Spirit*, a comedy about death and marriage that ran for nearly 2,000 performances in London and gave audiences relief through laughter. His other popular plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, and *Present Laughter*.



**CU CUKALE (PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER):** Stage Management credits: *King Lear* (Island Shakespeare Festival), *A Lucky Chance* (Island Shakespeare Festival), and *Seussical the Musical* (Youth Theatre Northwest). Director: *Mean Girls the Musical* (Broadway Bound Children's Theatre). Acting: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Borachio), *Sweeney Todd* (ensemble), and *A Chorus Line* (Judy Turner).

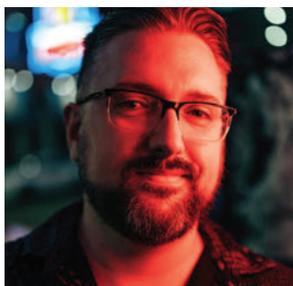


**SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (AUTHOR OF *THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE*)** was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1859 and became a physician and prolific writer. In 1887, with *A Study in Scarlet*, he introduced Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, characters who would come to define detective fiction and inspire readers to look for reason

and evidence across 56 short stories. Beyond Holmes, Doyle wrote historical novels, science fiction, and essays, and late in life became a public advocate for spiritualism.



**NICK ERICKSEN (LUCENTIO IN *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*)**  
American Shakespeare Center: *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Pirate Ballad of Bonny and Read*.  
Illinois Shakespeare Festival: *The Tempest*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Toss Me a Tempest*.  
Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *Witch*.  
Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*.  
Vagabond Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*.



**JEREMY ALLEN FISHER (PRODUCTION/FACILITIES MANAGER; TECHNICAL DIRECTOR; LIGHTING DESIGNER)** has been with Tennessee Shakespeare Company since 2013, designing 30+ productions. An 18-year veteran in the entertainment business with multiple degrees and certifications, Jeremy is a member of Local USA 829 United Scenic Artists with experience in all aspects of lighting. Founding his design firm in 2019, he has worked on projects of all sizes across the country. He is the Resident Lighting Designer for Opera Memphis and Youngblood Studio. He recently redesigned Ballet Memphis' annual production of *Nutcracker* and completed several major public art installations at St. Jude Children's Hospital, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, and Oregon State University. Since moving to Memphis in 2011, Jeremy has completed 200+ lighting designs in the city, been nominated for 12 Ostrander Awards with four wins, and in 2017 was awarded the TAC Individual Artist Award for his work in Lighting Design.



**LADY AUGUSTA GREGORY (FEATURED WRITER IN UNDER AN IRISH MOON SALON)** was born in 1852 in County Galway, Ireland. She was the co-founder of the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Lady Gregory was largely responsible for her country's literary revival, an awakening that would prove the birth of Ireland's fight for independence. A friend and supporter of W.B. Yeats, J.M. Synge, Robert Browning, Lord Tennyson, and Henry James, Lady Gregory was an inspired dramatist, poet, and correspondent.



**LAUREN GUNN (BEATRICE/ WATCH IN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, ENSEMBLE IN CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES, ENSEMBLE IN THE TAMING OF THE SHREW; EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MANAGER/ SENIOR RESIDENT ACTOR/ FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER)** TSC: *Saint Joan, The Grace of Grace: Shining a Light through Shakespeare's Broken Villains, Twelfth Night, The Comedy of Errors, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Tempest, Cyrano de Bergerac, Macbeth, Henry VI, Romeo and Juliet, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, and Ada and the Engine.* Southern Arena Theatre: *Boeing Boeing, I Hate Hamlet.* New Stage Theatre: *Constellations, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Crimes of the Heart, A Christmas Carol, Cat in the Hat.* Fish Tale Group Theatre: *Voice of Freedom Summer.* Lauren is delighted and honored to continue serving military Veterans at the Memphis V.A. Medical Center with TSC's Feast of Crispian-South program. She is a member and associate instructor with Dueling

Arts International. Education: University of Southern Mississippi (M.F.A.).



**SARAH HANKINS (DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS; DIRECTOR OF *MACBETH INITIATIVE* AND *ROMEO AND JULIET PROJECT*; ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES*)**

is a director, AEA actor, teacher, and theatre administrator with a strong focus on collaboration, physical theatre, and heightened language. For TSC, Sarah directed *Saint Joan* in 2025 and will direct our touring productions this season of *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* for the second time. Sarah was most recently Artistic Director at Triad Stage, a professional regional theatre in North Carolina, prior to which she was a freelance theatre artist in NYC. Sarah is also the former Artistic Director of the NYC eco-theatre Green Theatre Collective, as well as a former Associate Artist at Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. Sarah has taught theatre education programs from Maine to Florida for students ranging from kindergarten to college,

including teaching and directing at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Greensboro College, Guilford Technical Community College, University of North Carolina Greensboro, and Guilford College. Sarah is a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's M.F.A. Directing program, and of Davidson College.



**STUART HEYMAN (LEONATO IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES*, BAPTISTA IN *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*)** TSC: *The Comedy of Errors* (Balthasar/Officer), *The Tempest* (Gonzalo), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Ragueneau), *As You Like It* (Adam), *The Comedy of Errors* (Duke Solinus), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Lefew), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Baptista), *Othello* (Brabantio), *As You Like It* (Corin). Theatre Memphis: *Dracula* (Van Helsing). Circuit Playhouse: *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Alf) and *Tom Sawyer* (Doc Robinson). Desoto Family Theatre: *My Fair Lady* (Henry Higgins) and *Oliver!* (Fagin). Germantown Community Theatre: *Man of La Mancha*

(Cervantes/Quixote). New Moon Theatre: *The Homecoming* (Teddy). Stuart is a founding member of TSC.



**JOE JOHNSON (MUSIC COMPOSER FOR *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*)** TSC: *Saint Joan*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *The Tempest*, and many other shows elsewhere. Joe is a

composer, sound designer, musician, and incessant doodler of circles. He enjoys making the absurd and bizarre feel like home. Visit [semiaveragejoe.com](http://semiaveragejoe.com) for more.



**LOGAN McCARTY (ADMINISTRATIVE & BOX OFFICE MANAGER)** TSC acting credits: *The Tempest*, *Macbeth Initiative*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Romeo and Juliet Project*,

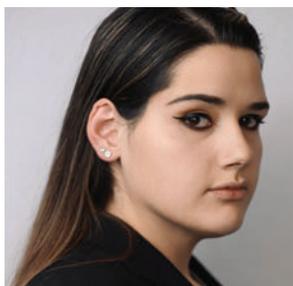
and *Hamlet*. Theatre Memphis: *A Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. New Moon Theatre: *Quills*. Playhouse on the Square: *Peter Pan*. Southern Arena Theatre: *Boeing, Boeing*. Logan was a member of Tennessee Shakespeare Company's inaugural Classical Theatre Apprentice Program in 2023-2024 and is the Associate Artistic Director of Brick by Brick Players Theatre Company in Minneapolis, MN. Education: University of Southern Mississippi, B.F.A.



**DAN McCLEARY (TSC FOUNDER AND PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR; DIRECTOR OF CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES AND THE TAMING OF THE SHREW)**, a native of Memphis, last year directed TSC's Shout-Out production of *The Comedy of Errors* as well as *Grace of Grace: Shining a Light Through Shakespeare's Broken Villains* (which he also created). For TSC, he also has directed/acted in *As You Like It* (playing Jaques), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (playing Cyrano), *The Trouble Begins at*

*Eight: Mark Twain, Ada and the Engine*, *Blue Roses of Tennessee Williams* (playing Tennessee with his son, Collins), *Julius Caesar*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Glass Menagerie* (playing old Tom), *The Taming of the Shrew* (playing Sly), *Richard III* (playing Richard), *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Ernest Hemingway in Key West*, Flannery O'Connor's *Georgia Gothic*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the all-female *Julius Caesar*, *Othello*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *Themes from a Midsummer Night* with IRIS Orchestra, *Classical Creations in Quarantine*, and *Shakespeare's Election of Coriolanus*. Other regional theatre directing credits: *The Servant of Two Masters*, his adaptation of Anaïs Nin's *Henry and June*, *Vita & Virginia* (Sackville-West and Woolf), *My Own Stranger* (Anne Sexton), and *The Fiery Rain* (Edith Wharton/Henry James/Morton Fullerton) at Shakespeare & Company, where Dan was Associate Artistic Director. He also has directed at Seattle Shakespeare, Orlando Shakespeare, and Georgia Shakespeare. He has played over 120 roles on stage, including Coriolanus (thrice), Richard III (twice), Macbeth (twice), Falstaff, Marc Antony, Caliban, Brutus, Petruccio, Hotspur, Bottom, Master Ford, Stephano, Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus, Cassio, Bertram, Demetrius, Silvius, Herman

Melville, Porfiry, Charles Dickens, The Gentleman Caller, Hannah from Hamburg in *La Cage*, and Bertha Bumiller et. al. in the *Greater Tuna* series. Dan is a published poet, and the creator/director/actor of the plays *Speak What We Feel: Shakespeare's Radical Response to a Radical Time*; *Unto the Breach*; *Quintessence: Shakespeare in Performance*; and *Classical Creations in Quarantine*. *Memphis Magazine* has named him among the "Who's Who in Memphis" for seven years, including 2025. Dan presented his TEDx Talk "Shakespeare in Kindergarten, or Let Fall Rome" in Memphis in 2020, and the Germantown Arts Alliance honored him with its 2009 Distinguished Arts and Humanities Medal for Performing Arts. He holds a B.A. in Advertising and Journalism from Temple University, has served on the Boards of Herman Melville's Arrowhead and the City of Germantown's Telecommunications Commission, and he is the dad of 15-year-old twin musicians/athletes/Scouts/honors students, Sullivan and Collins.



**MICKI McCORMICK (ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) TSC:** technical director for Shout-Out productions of *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Tempest*, and sound engineer for *The Grace of Grace: Shining a Light Through Shakespeare's Broken Villains* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Design Credits: Assistant for Opera Memphis's *La Bohème* and *La Calisto*. Electrician for Opera Memphis' *The Rising and the Falling* and the University of Memphis' *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Ostrander winner (2022) for the University of Memphis' production of *A Bright Room Called Day* for Excellence in Sound Design.



**CHARLIE W. MEEKS (BENEDICK/WATCH IN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING)** Cumberland Theatre: *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Macbeth*. Emerald Coast Theatre Company: Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville*, *Treasure Island*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, and *A Christmas Carol*. West Virginia Public Theatre: *Narnia the Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Barter Players: *Robin Hood*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Cry Wolf! Tecumseh!* Outdoor Theatre: *Tecumseh!* Education: West Virginia University (M.F.A.).



**MILLA MEIMAN (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER FOR CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES, CHRISTMAS GEMS, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, ROMEO AND JULIET, AND UNDER AN IRISH MOON; INTERN)** is a recent graduate of Bard College. Her acting credits include *The Tempest*, *Advanced Placement*, *Heathers*, *Pippin*, *Macbeth*, *Clyde Must Die*, *The Crucible*, and *Titus Andronicus*. LoneTree Live: *24 Hour Plays Memphis*.



**MOLIÈRE (PLAYWRIGHT OF TARTUFFE)** was born Jean-Baptiste Poquelin in Paris in 1622. He walked away from a secure future with his prosperous family in order to form a theatre company at age 21 and soon became known by his stage name

of “Molière.” After years touring the provinces, he returned to Paris and became the leading comic playwright of 17<sup>th</sup> century France. His plays combined sharp social observation with physical comedy, and they exposed hypocrisy and vanity, while entertaining both court and public -- although with controversy. *Tartuffe* was suppressed and censored due to opposition from the archbishop of Paris, and other members of the church and upper-class society, over its portrayal of someone who is outwardly pious but is truly deceitful and greedy (the *Imposter* of the play’s sub-title). Among his plays that continue their popularity are *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Learned Ladies*, *The Miser*, *The Misanthrope*, and *The School for Wives*.



**MYRA PLATT (ADAPTER OF A CHILD’S CHRISTMAS IN WALES)**

is a part-time lecturer of Topics in Youth and Theatre. She was the founding Co-Artistic Director (with Jane Jones) of Book-It Repertory Theatre. Book-It was the recipient of Seattle’s 2010 Mayor’s Arts Award and Washington State’s 2012 Governor’s Arts Award. In 2010, she and Jane received a

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation Anniversary grant, as well as the 2010 Women of Influence recognition from *Puget Sound Business Journal*. In 2008, Myra and Jane were honored to be named by the *Seattle Times* as an “Unsung Hero and Uncommon Genius” for their 20-year contribution to life in the Puget Sound Region. As director, adapter, actor, and composer, Myra helped Book-It produce nearly 100 world-premiere stage adaptations and over 30 education touring productions. Most recently, she adapted and directed the new musical *Howl’s Moving Castle* (music by Justin Huertas), *Behold the Dreamers*, and *The Brothers K: Parts I and II*. She directed *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2014 Gregory Award for Outstanding Production and *The Seattle Times* Footlight Award). Past credits include: Adapter/Director credits: *Little Bee*, *The Financial Lives of the Poets*, *The River Why*, *Night Flight* (an operetta with music by Joshua Kohl), *Red Ranger Came Calling* (a musical with Edd Key), *The House of the Spirits*, *Giant*, *Plainsong*, *Cowboys Are My Weakness*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (2002 original production), and *Roman Fever*. Directing credits: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, *Persuasion*, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, *Sweet Thursday*. Adapter credits: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (2017 with Malika Oyetimein), *The Art of*

*Racing in the Rain*, *Owen Meany’s Christmas Pageant* (with Jane Jones). Acting credits: *Prairie Nocturne*, *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears*, *The Awakening* (West Garland Los Angeles Award), *Howards End*. Outside of Book-It, Myra has performed at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman, New City Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, among others. She originated the role of Candy Kendall in *The Cider House Rules, Parts I and II*, directed by Jane Jones and Tom Hulce.



**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616) (PLAYWRIGHT OF MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, MACBETH, ROMEO AND JULIET, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW)** served, posthumously, as the meeting ground around which many of the creators of the U.S. Constitution gathered for intellectual, compassionate debate. While Locke and Bacon and recent revolutions provided partial blueprints for an experimental democratic Republic here, it was Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, *Henry VIII*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear*, and even his comedies, that offered common language, a multiplicity of perspectives, a

poetic inclination that projected to a life beyond today, and a reasoned hope if only by a stark omission of narrative. That omission in the plays, other than in the cosmic *Lear*, was a healthy national government. It was perhaps this omission that John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and John Adams et. al. grasped as a requirement of our country's governing framework -- one of transparency, accountability, and checks and balances so that no one person or group could wield power alone. When Alexis de Tocqueville toured the U.S. in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, he observed that nearly every pilgrim's hut sheltered a bound copy of William Shakespeare's plays. Indeed, President Lincoln, whose adoration for *Macbeth* is well-publicized, paraphrased Portia from *The Merchant of Venice* in his written summation of his public 1862 proclamation that anticipated a national abolition of slavery: "The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking anything. Will you not embrace it?" The plays of William Shakespeare are our country's gathering place. Lest we forget.



**KAITLYN SHAMLEY (DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER)**

is a lifelong Memphian and has a passionate interest in music history and the ancient Mediterranean. Her time as a Rhodes College student sparked a desire to foster an appreciation and understanding of past cultures and their artistic works. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and visiting museums. Education: Rhodes College (B.A. in History).



**Laura Shatkus (Kate in THE TAMING OF THE SHREW)**

Regional and Chicago credits: *The Elephant Man* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Ripcord*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *1984* (The Hippodrome State Theatre); *The Tempest*

and *Romeo and Juliet* (North Dakota Shakespeare Festival); *As You Like It* (The Classical Edge); *Macbeth* (Muse of Fire); *Intimate Apparel*, *Amadeus*, *All The Way*, and *The Fall of the House* (TheatreSquared); *Damascus* (Florida Repertory Theatre); and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Talk Radio* (The Gift Theatre), among others. Film: *Red Camellia* (currently in post-production), *The Threesome* (with Zoey Deutch), and *The Magician's Raincoat* (in which she plays a wicked witch). Laura is thrilled to be making her TSC debut and is grateful to be working with this passionate ensemble of Shakespeare-lovers.



**ETHAN SHAW (CLAUDIO/WATCH IN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, ENSEMBLE IN CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES AND THE TAMING OF THE SHREW; APPRENTICE)**

Credits include: *Cymbeline* and *Twelfth Night* (Theatre at Monmouth, ME); *King Lear*, *Company Cabaret*, and *A Christmas Carol* (Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Edward III* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Company, CA); and

*A Christmas Carol* (Lyric Repertory Company, UT). Ethan has a B.F.A. with honors from Utah State University's acting program with minors in music and chemistry.



**STEPHANIE SHINE+** (DIRECTOR OF *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, *CHRISTMAS GEMS*, AND *UNDER AND IRISH MOON: TALES & TUNES FROM LADY GREGORY'S HEARTH*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READING SERIES*; ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC PRODUCER) in 16 seasons with TSC has directed *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Emily Dickinson: I Dwell in Possibility* (which she co-created with Denice Hicks), *Henry VI: Wars of the Roses*, *Macbeth*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Henry V*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Southern Yuletide*, *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits*, *Shake(s)*, *Rattle, and Roll*, *Shakespeare Said It*, *Lend Me Thy Sword*, 12 productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, and 15 Literary Salons. On stage at TSC, she has

played the Abbess in *The Comedy of Errors*, Countess in *All's Well That Ends Well*, the female roles in *Unto the Breach*, and Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Prior to joining TSC, she was Artistic Director of Seattle Shakespeare Company, a position she enjoyed for 13 years. Other directorial credits include *King Lear* and *As You Like It* for Houston Shakespeare Festival, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Comedy of Errors* for Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the award-winning one-woman internationally-touring Marilyn Monroe Biopic, *Marilyn: Forever Blonde*, and several new works for Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre. Her production of *I am of Ireland* (which she also conceived and adapted) opened Book-It's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season in 2014. As an actor, she has performed with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, NYC's Theatre for a New Audience, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, ACT, The Empty Space, and Seattle Children's Theatre, among others. Roles include Juliet, Rosalind, Lady Macbeth, Beatrice, Regan, Feste, Kate, Bianca, Dionya, the Princess of France, Hero, Perdita, and the Chorus in *Henry V*. The Germantown Arts Alliance honored her with its 2016 Distinguished Arts and Humanities Medal for Performing Arts. She is the mother of four exceptional people: Conor, Cahilan, Sullivan,

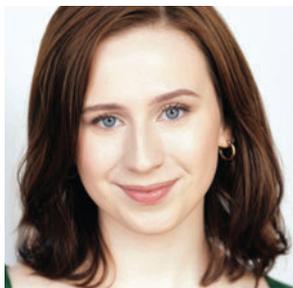
and Collins. Education: graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts; B.F.A in Acting from the University of Washington's Professional Actor Training Program; M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Memphis.



**TAYLOR SLONAKER** (BALTHASAR/DOGBERRY IN *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, ENSEMBLE IN *CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READING SERIES* AND *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*; APPRENTICE) is an actor, director, and educator. She trained at Shakespeare & Company (Lenox, MA) and the Circle in the Square Theatre (New York, NY). Favorite roles include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The Rooted Voyageurs (Lysander/Mustardseed/Flute), *Julius Caesar* at Elsewhere Shakespeare (Brutus), and *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Ghent Playhouse (Lauren). Other credits: *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*.



**LESLIE SWEENEY (BOOKKEEPER)** has enjoyed a long career in finance and accounting that has included working in public accounting and the not-for-profit sector. In her free time, she enjoys playing competitive bridge and watching the Memphis Grizzlies. Education: Rhodes College (B.A.), University of Memphis. Leslie is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas.



**NATALIE TANGEMAN (HERO/ SEXTON IN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, ENSEMBLE IN CLASSICAL COMEDIES & COCKTAILS READINGS SERIES AND THE TAMING OF THE SHREW; APPRENTICE)** Favorite roles include Northwestern: *As It Is in Heaven* (Hannah), *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really*

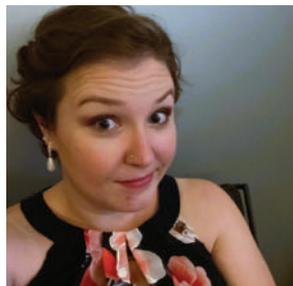
(Renfield), Dave Malloy's *Beowulf* (Grendel's Mother/Academic 2), *John Proctor is the Villain* (Beth); and Actors' Theatre of Columbus: *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet).

Natalie is a performer, educator, and director having worked with Griffin's Tale Children's Repertory Theatre and Seesaw Theatre. Natalie is a graduate of Northwestern University with majors in Theatre and Psychology and an emphasis in Theatre for Young Audiences.



**DYLAN THOMAS (AUTHOR OF A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES)** was born in Swansea, Wales, in 1914 and began writing poetry as a teenager, leaving school at age 16 to work as a reporter before devoting himself fully to literature. Known for his musical use of language and vivid imagery, Thomas became one of the most distinctive poetic voices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, first broadcast on radio in 1952, captures childhood memory with humor, nostalgia, and lyrical detail. Thomas' work in poetry, stories, and broadcasts, continues to

celebrate the rhythms of ordinary life and the music of the spoken word. His other notable works include the poem "Do not go gentle into that good night" and the play *Under Milk Wood*.



**ALLISON WHITE (RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER/ COSTUME SHOP MANAGER)**

has been the resident costume designer and costume shop manager at TSC for the last four seasons. TSC design credits include *Saint Joan*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Ada and the Engine*, *Macbeth*, *Henry VI: The War of the Roses*. Her other design credits include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Germantown Community Theatre); *The Mousetrap*, *Blithe Spirit*, *You Can't Take It With You* (Theatre Memphis); *Pippin*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *The Day is Long to End* (University of Florida); *Caroline, or Change* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre); *The Secret World of Og* (Sarasota Youth Opera); *Smokey Joe's Café*, *All My Sons*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Theatre Raleigh). Allison has an M.F.A. in Costume Design from The University of Florida.



+ member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



Marquis Dijon Archuleta (Dunois) in *Saint Joan*, 2025. Photo: Joey Miller.

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Alex Thompson



Lance Hollingsworth



John Laughlin



Peggy Adler



Sarah Halzfp



Leslie Drummond



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## TSC'S 2025-26 CLASSICAL THEATRE APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Our third class of TSC's seven-month Classical Theatre Apprentice Program began on Labor Day 2025, welcoming five deserving actors/stage managers from around the country to perform, train, and teach with us through March 2026. They were selected through a rigorous audition and interview process from a field of more than 100 applicants.

The CTA Program is focused on experiential, classical stage performance/production training and work designed to help emerging theatre artists launch and sustain their early professional careers. The Program focuses on immersive career development opportunities. Apprentices are guaranteed to act and teach or stage manage in multiple areas in a variety of productions.

Program training is supervised by Producing Artistic Director Dan McCleary and focuses on developing the classical actor in areas of voice, movement, actor-audience relationship, structure of Shakespeare's verse, clowning, dance, fight, auditioning, and the business of marketing oneself as an actor. Training includes master classes, mock auditions, and ongoing specialty training classes with TSC staff.

The Program is managed by Stephanie Shine, and its teachers include Sarah Hankins, Lauren Gunn, Stephanie, and Dan. As of this writing, all of our CTA alumni are either working in theatre or have been accepted into prestigious MFA programs around the country.

Apprentices work and train as TSC employees and receive a monthly salary while in Memphis. They provide their own accommodations and travel. If you might be interested in sponsoring or housing an Apprentice now or in the future, please contact Dan at [danmccleary@tnshakespeare.org](mailto:danmccleary@tnshakespeare.org). You would be caring for a remarkable person who would likely be a friend for life!



TSC's 2025 Classical Theatre Apprentices



Logan McCarty (Algernon) and Elijah Eliakim Hernandez (Lane) in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 2023. Photo: Joey Miller.



Jacqueline Nunweiler, Christine Strong, and Fiona Byrne in *Twelfth Night*, 2024. Photo: Joey Miller.

## OUR DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge our generous donors, those individuals and organizations who have made financial contributions and commitments to Tennessee Shakespeare Company's Annual Fund (for general operations) between July 1, 2024, and September 11, 2025.

Thank you so very much!

*\* indicates a donation to the Barbara B. Apperson Angel Fund and/or the Jack Jones Children's Literacy Fund  
+ indicates a contribution that includes a sponsorship of/donation to our 2025 Children's Literacy Gala*

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Gloria and Edward Felsenthal, 2025 Children's Literacy Gala. Photo: Joey Miller

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Carol A. McCrudden and James W. Mertzlufft

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Benton M. Wheeler

Russell and Cary Whitehead  
*(in memory of Milton T. Schaeffer)*

Iren Zombor

**TSC's season is funded under a Grant  
Contract with the State of Tennessee.**



House Hosts/Volunteers Hiram and Carolyn Shepard at TSC's 2025 Children's Literacy Gala. Photo: Joey Miller.



Nicolas Dureaux Picou (Claudius) in *Hamlet*, 2024. Photo: Joey Miller.

## INVEST IN A PATRON FUND THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

TSC was founded on the principles of creating professional, classical theatre in Memphis and being of service to our Memphis area children. We are fortunate to be the home of three extraordinary Patron Funds that make possible our successful engagement and leadership in these areas.

These Funds have been established by generous families in the names of great Memphians, who love our city, care about our children, value the arts, and embrace Tennessee Shakespeare Company.

If you are interested in helping us expand our efforts to bring more Shakespeare to children, or to bring professional actors to our stages, or to put more of our teachers and books in front of children who need literacy support, then we have three specific opportunities for you.

Your gift will be tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, and we will let our Patron Fund families know of your donation; but the real prize is knowing our shared values are being activated. We are honored to bear that responsibility. Thank you for your financial contribution.



Founding Board member, Barbara B. Apperson

### THE BARBARA B. APPERSON ANGEL FUND

Help us bring as many children as possible to experience live Shakespeare performances and to move the arts closer to the center of every child's formal education. In 2008, Barbara's three loving children (Virginia, Pete, and John) launched this Fund, which has now helped reach over 300,000 children in the name of our beloved founding Board member.



Dunbar and Connie Abston

### THE DUNBAR ABSTON FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE EXCELLENCE

Ensure that TSC hires professionally on stage every year by investing in the actors, designers, and stage managers who are the best at what they create. Dunbar insisted upon that with us. His Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis as an endowment for TSC, was created by his wonderful wife Connie in 2009 as a birthday gift to Dunbar. Our honored friend passed in 2019, and we remember him with love and service. Gifts to this Fund can be made payable to CFGM, noting the "Abston Fund," and mailed to CFGM, 1350 Concourse Avenue, Suite 458, Memphis, TN 38104.



Board member Emeritus, John Paul (Jack) Jones

### THE JACK JONES CHILDREN'S LITERACY FUND

Launched in 2021 by Jack's loving wife Sandra and the entire Jones family, this Fund supports our efforts to teach underserved children in the Memphis area how to read by offering our time, compassion, and books (donated by our partners, The Friends of the Hooks Public Library). TSC's teachers already help students raise their Language Arts grades by an average of one letter in a matter of weeks. Imagine what we can do with more books, more time, and more teachers who care.

## THE MACBETH INITIATIVE

Now in its fifth season, *The Macbeth Initiative* brings in-classroom experiences, teacher-training opportunities, and a 90-minute production of *Macbeth* with a talkback to schools throughout Shelby County and the Mid-South. *The Initiative* provides students with an opportunity to connect with Shakespeare's characters and the play through an interactive class, taught by TSC's Teaching-Artist team, which is comprised largely by the cast. Students are posed questions about the characters' choices and decisions, which prompt conversations about the needs of the individual versus the needs of a community—a discussion that informs their connection to the performance. Our *Macbeth Initiative* tour is performed by professional actors and is often students' first experience with live performance or Shakespeare. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to provide this vital resource at the lowest possible cost to Title I schools and schools in need.

"The Macbeth Initiative was a fabulous experience for my students. It really did help them understand the play more. It made the play come alive for them."

- Cathleen Zeanah, St. Agnes Academy teacher



Jacqueline Nunweiler and Marquis Dijon Archuleta, *Macbeth*, 2024.

## THE ROMEO AND JULIET PROJECT

Launched over a decade ago in response to the Memphis Mayor Wharton's request for creative solutions to teenagers' armed violence, our celebrated *Romeo and Juliet Project* inspires students to get on their feet and perform Shakespeare's text. The play becomes a performance experience rather than simply another book to read in class. By understanding the characters' real-time decisions in times of crisis, students have the opportunity to rehearse alternate responses to the characters' decisions, confronting youth-on-youth violence, suicidal ideation, and grief. *The Project* consists of a series of in-class experiences called playshops and a 90-minute production of *Romeo and Juliet* that tours to their school. By being on-site with students, we meet them in their environment and transform their school into a welcoming place for Shakespeare and performance. Participating students' ELA grades rise by at least a half-letter, and 90% of them report they now see Shakespeare as more relevant than before. *The Project* is made possible, in part, by the Tennessee Arts Commission.



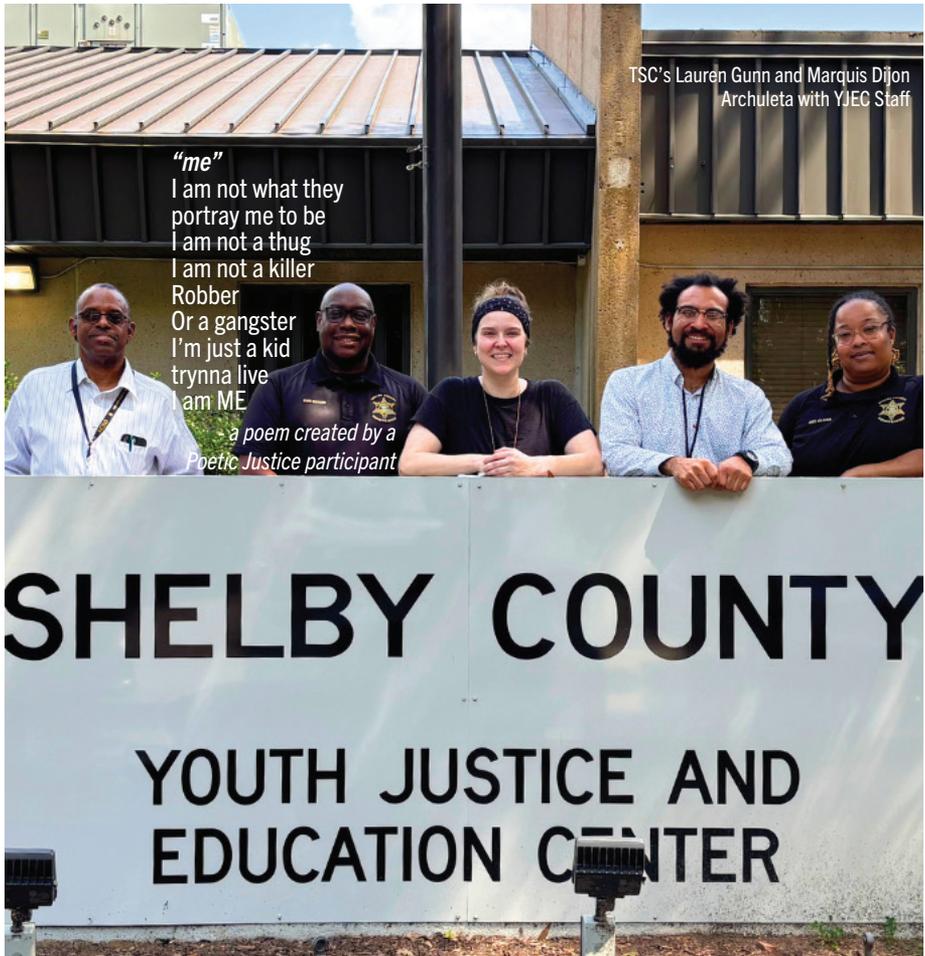
"TSC's Project is the best experience students can have - especially with Shakespeare. It gets them excited about the play as opposed to dreading it."

- Ginny Hunter,  
Houston High  
School teacher

The cast of *Romeo and Juliet*, 2025.

## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM

*Juvenile Justice*, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, provides residencies for justice-involved youth and young adults in Shelby County detention facilities. We have served nearly 700 young people, many of whom have faced the possibilities of imprisonment, long-term detention, or foster care. In the past, *Juvenile Justice* provided performance-centered programming around Shakespeare and thought-provoking contemporary works. Four years ago, the Tennessee Arts Commission funded a new project, *Poetic Justice*, which was a summer camp for incarcerated youth focused on creative writing and introducing poetical forms. Based on its success and recent grantor support, we have combined *Juvenile Justice* and *Poetic Justice* in Season 18 to provide four poetry residencies for these young people. Their poems are collected in a chapbook that is published on our website and in a hard copy that lives on in the youth facility libraries. In Summer 2024, the students crafted over 50 poems. We are eager to return to our students for the additional residencies this season and are currently seeking grant and donor support to continue this vital programming.



## THE FEAST OF CRISPIAN-SOUTH PROGRAM

*The Feast of Crispian-South* is the only Shakespeare program working with V.A. Medical Center in-patients in the country. *FoCS* has engaged over 1,100 military Veterans in the past decade with Shakespeare and creative writing. By investigating his plays and language, Veterans take this opportunity to process the challenges of post-deployment life or substance abuse. With a combination of performance and creative writing prompts, we facilitate collaboration, self-reflection, and community in a brave and supportive environment through TSC's lead Teaching-Artist Lauren Gunn. Medical personnel at the VA work together with TSC to provide the best care for the patients. The program is conducted at the Memphis V.A. Medical Center and is recommended to participants by their practitioners. This program is funded in part by FedEx, AutoZone through an ArtsZone grant, and the Tennessee Arts Commission through an Arts Access Grant.

“It’s wonderful to come here and talk about things that really matter. . . this is a place to be yourself and open up to people we wouldn’t meet otherwise.”

- participating Veteran at the V.A. Medical Center



## VOLUNTEER WITH TSC!

Delight with us in our work AND play this year! TSC has a cherished team of Volunteers who lovingly support our mission, year-round, to bring professional classical theatre and education programming to the Mid-South.

Our Volunteers bring their own talents and passions to TSC while creating memories and serving our community (and getting complimentary tickets to shows).

We would love your volunteerism in areas of greatest need for us, including front-of-house/ushering positions for our performances, administrative assistance in our office during the day, putting up posters, and housing our lovely actors.

Interested in finding out more? Please contact TSC Volunteer Coordinator Logan McCarty at [loganmccarty@tshakespeare.org](mailto:loganmccarty@tshakespeare.org) or (901) 759-0604.



Julia Azar and Chandra Myers at TSC's 2023 Children's Literacy Gala. Photo: Joey Miller.



Check-in at TSC's 2025 Children's Literacy Gala. Photo: Joey Miller.



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## STAFF AND OPERATIONS

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Dan McCleary.....             | Nancy R. Copp Producing Artistic Director; Co-Founder                |
| E. Frank Bluestein .....      | Co-Founder   |
| Stephanie Shine .....         | Associate Artistic Producer  |
| Jeremy Allen Fisher .....     | Production/Facilities Manager and Technical Director                 |
| Sarah Hankins .....           | Director of Education and Outreach                                   |
| Kaitlyn Shamley.....          | Development and Communications Manager                               |
| Logan McCarty .....           | Administrative and Box Office Manager                                |
| Lauren Gunn .....             | Senior Resident Actor/Teaching-Artist/Education and Outreach Manager |
| Marquis Dijon Archuleta ..... | Senior Artist-Manager  |
| Leslie Sweeney.....           | Bookkeeper   |
| Micki McCormick.....          | Assistant Technical Director   |
| Milla Meiman .....            | Intern   |
| Studio Two .....              | Season Promotional Designs   |
| Eric Schiavone.....           | Website Design   |
| Bernie McLroy.....            | IT Advisor and Volunteer Extraordinaire                              |

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Dan McCleary in *The Grace of Grace*, 2025.  
Photo: Joey Miller.



Lauren Gunn (Olivia) and Baxter Konstans (Sebastian)  
in *Twelfth Night*, 2024. Photo: Joey Miller.

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