



SHORT SHAKESPEARE!

# ROMEO & JULIET

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Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents

# SHORT SHAKESPEARE! ROMEO & JULIET

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Scenic Design  
ALYSSA MOHN

Costume Design  
GREGORY GRAHAM

Lighting Design  
ERIC WATKINS

Sound Design  
& Compositions  
ETHAN KORVNE

Fight Choreography  
RACHEL FLESHER

Choreography  
FRANKIE DiCIACCIO

Verse Coach  
TYLER MEREDITH

Casting  
BOB MASON

Production  
Stage Manager  
DANNY FENDER\*

adapted & directed by MIKAEL BURKE

## THE CAST

### THE HOUSE OF MONTAGUE

Lord Montague  
Romeo, *his son*  
Benvolio, *Romeo's cousin*  
Abraham, *a servant*

### THE CHURCH

Friar Laurence

### THE COURT

Prince  
Mercutio, *Prince's kinsman, friend to Romeo*  
Paris, *suitor of Juliet*

### ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Assistant Stage Manager  
Production Assistant  
Assistant Director  
Intimacy Director  
Costume Design Assistant

BOBBY BOWMAN  
KENNETH LA'RON HAMILTON  
ALEX BENITO RODRIGUEZ  
JACK DeCESARE\*

JONAH D. WINSTON\*

ADEOYE\*  
RASELL HOLT\*  
JACK DeCESARE\*

LUCY WHIPP\*  
GIANNI CARCAGNO  
CHRISTINA CASANO  
COURTNEY ABBOTT  
JANELLE SMITH

### THE HOUSE OF CAPULET

Lord Capulet  
Lady Capulet  
Juliet, *their daughter*  
Tybalt, *Juliet's cousin*  
Nurse  
Gregory, *a servant*  
Sampson, *a servant*  
Peter, *a servant*

RONALD CONNER\*  
CAROLYN KRUSE\*  
FELICIA ODUH  
IAN MARYFIELD\*  
BARBARA FIGGINS  
BOBBY BOWMAN  
DONOVAN SESSION  
DONOVAN SESSION

### MANTUA

Apothecary

ADEOYE\*

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance: **Bobby Bowman** for Mercutio; **Benjamin Jenkins** for Prince, Apothecary, Friar Laurence, Lord Capulet; **Diego Longoria** for Paris, Abraham, Tybalt; **Carlos Olmedo** for Lord Montague, Gregory, Sampson, Peter; **Alex Benito Rodriguez** for Romeo; **Donovan Session** for Benvolio; **Bradford Stevens** for Friar Laurence, Lord Capulet; **Pricilla Torres** for Juliet; **Sarafina Vecchio** for Lady Capulet, Nurse.

\*denotes members of Actors' Equity Association

**THE STORY** For reasons unknown, the Montagues and Capulets have been enemies for longer than anyone can remember. After a brawl in the streets, the Prince declares that the violence between these two families must end—under penalty of death. Romeo Montague is suffering an unrequited love with Rosaline, and so—to help Romeo get over his yearning—his friends sway him to crash the Capulets' party. Romeo sees Juliet, Capulet's daughter, and the two instantly fall in love. Juliet can't get the handsome Romeo out of her mind, and they exchange romantic promises from her garden balcony. The next morning, Romeo convinces Friar Laurence to wed the young couple that same day. Perhaps this union could put an end to their family's ongoing feud...

Just hours after his secret wedding, Romeo is confronted in the street by Juliet's cousin Tybalt, enraged by the Montague's intrusion the night before. Romeo refuses to engage in a fight, but his friend Mercutio eagerly accepts Tybalt's challenge. As Romeo attempts to break the two apart, Tybalt stabs Mercutio with a fatal blow. Filled with rage and grief, Romeo turns on his new cousin-in-law, murdering him.

The elder Capulets demand Romeo's immediate death: the Prince chooses instead to banish the young Montague from Verona. Despite the turn of events, Juliet stands firmly in her choice to love Romeo, and they secretly spend one night together before Romeo's banishment. Early the next morning, Lady Capulet shares the news that Juliet's marriage to the Count Paris is all arranged. Juliet begs her parents to reconsider, but her pleas are met with her father's rage. After her Nurse advises that she forget about Romeo, Juliet leaves to seek the Friar's counsel. Provoked by Juliet's despair, the Friar concocts a desperate plan. She is to drink a potion that will induce a deathlike trance; once her body is laid in the Capulets' tomb, the Friar will send word to Romeo to rescue his wife and return with her to Mantua until their two families can be reconciled.

But the Friar's letter never reaches Mantua, and Romeo learns instead of Juliet's death from a friend. Armed with poison, Romeo returns to Verona and the Capulets' tomb. Then, taking the poison, Romeo dies beside Juliet—who awakens moments later. The Friar arrives too late. Hearing voices close at hand, Juliet refuses to leave her husband. Left alone, she takes her life. Stunned by their tragic losses, the Montagues and Capulets vow, at last, to end their families' hatred.

# PROFILES

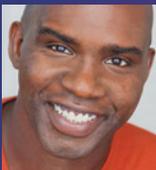


**ADEOYE** (*Prince/Apothecary/ Fight Captain*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *The Comedy of Errors*. **CHICAGO:** *A Christmas Carol, The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* (Goodman Theatre); *The Steadfast Tin Soldier, Lookingglass Alice, The Little Prince, Peter Pan, Icarus, Black Diamond -*

*The Years the Locusts Have Eaten* (Lookingglass Theatre Company); Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theatre. **REGIONAL:** *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* (Shakespeare Theatre Company/ The Old Globe); *All's Well That Ends Well, The Atheist's Tragedy* (Academy for Classical Acting); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Moby Dick* (Alliance Theatre); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Guthrie Theatre/Penumbra Theatre); *Optimism! Or Voltaire's Candide* (Spooky Action Theatre); Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Arizona Theatre Company, Clarence Brown Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City Repertory Theatre. **FILM:** *Chicago Overcoat, #Vengeance Is Mine*. **TELEVISION:** *Detroit 187* (ABC); *Leverage* (TNT); *Prison Break* (FOX). **EDUCATION:** MFA in classical acting, The George Washington University. he/him/his.



**BOBBY BOWMAN** (*Lord Montague/ Gregory*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare in Love*. **CHICAGO:** *Shadows of Birds* (Glass Apple Theatre); *Through the Elevated Line* (Silk Road Rising); *Fair Maid of the West* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Hand to God* (Victory Garden Theatre); *Richard III* (The Gift Theatre); *A Loss of Roses* (Raven Theater). **REGIONAL:** *The Comedy of Errors, Death of a Salesman, King Lear* (American Players Theatre); *Julius Caesar, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); *Merchant of Venice, Richard III* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, Oklahoma City University.



**RONALD CONNER** (*Lord Capulet*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Twelfth Night*, Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks productions of *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* and *Twelfth Night*, Short Shakespeare! productions of *Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night*. **CHICAGO:** Congo Square Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, Pegasus Players, Urban Theatre Company. **REGIONAL:** St. Louis Black Repertory Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Geva Theatre, Olney Theatre, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, Portland Stage. **FILM:** *Chasing the Blues* (STARZ/Amazon Prime); *The Secret Santa* (TLC); *Christmas Again* (Disney Channel). **TELEVISION:** *Southside* (Comedy Central/HBO MAX); *The Chi* (Showtime); *Justified, City Primeval* (FX); *Chicago PD, Chicago Med* (NBC); *Empire* (FOX); *Sirens* (USA). Conner is an ensemble member at Congo Square Theatre.



**JACK DECESARE** (*Paris/Abraham*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks and Short Shakespeare! productions of *Romeo and Juliet*. **CHICAGO:** Porchlight Music Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theater, Congo Square Theatre Company. **REGIONAL:** Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Old Globe. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Justice* (NBC) and various commercials. **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, The Theatre School at DePaul University.



**BARBARA FIGGINS** (*Nurse*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *My Brilliant Divorce* (Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination - Best Solo Performance), *The Shadow of a Gunman, Scenes From The Big Picture, WAR, Doubt, Dancing at*

*Lughnasa* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *Fairview* (Definition Theatre); *Barbecue* (Strawdog Theatre); *Hedda Gabler* (Writers Theatre); *Exit Strategy* (Jackalope Theatre); *The History Boys* (TimeLine Theatre, Joseph Jefferson Award - Best Ensemble); *The Seagull* (The Artistic Home); *Elizabeth Rex, Richard III* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Othello* (A Crew of Patches). **REGIONAL:** *Pipeline* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Henry VIII* (Lakeside Shakespeare). **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Justice* (NBC); *The Chi* (Showtime).



**KENNETH LA'RON HAMILTON** (*Romeo*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *The Lion in Winter* (Court Theatre); *Eurydice* (Writers Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *Much Ado About Nothing* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre); *Superior Donuts* (AthensWest Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (St. Louis Shakespeare); *Macbeth, Twelfth Night* (American Players Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (American Shakespeare Center); *Twelfth Night* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival); *Romeo & Juliet, The Winter's Tale, The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company). **OPERA:** *Fire Shut Up in My Bones, Le Comte Ory* (Lyric Opera of Chicago).



**RASELL HOLT** (*Mercutio*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Romeo and Juliet*. **CHICAGO:** *A Story Told in Seven Fights* (The Neo-Futurist Theater); *Wit* (The Hypocrites); *The Hairy Ape* (Oracle Productions). **REGIONAL:** *Romeo and Juliet, The Brothers Size, Twelfth Night* (American Players Theatre); *Dracula* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *The Royale* (KC Rep); *Airness* (Geva Theatre); *The Realness* (Hangar Theatre); *Skeleton Crew* (American Stage). **FILM:** *Drive Slow* by Terrence Thompson. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago PD* (NBC).



**CAROLYN KRUSE** (*Lady Capulet*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Macbeth, Troilus and Cressida*. **CHICAGO:** *Molly Sweeney, Spinning, Shining City, Lay Me Down Softly, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Dancing at Lughnasa, Scenes from the Big Picture* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *Hurricane Diane* (Theater Wit); *Ada and the Engine* (Artistic Home); *Tale of Two Cities* (Lifeline Theatre); *King Phycus* (Strange Tree); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Next Theatre); *Turtle* (Redtwist); *Henry V, Blood Wedding* (The Hypocrites); *Spring Awakening, Tooth of Crime* (Strawdog Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Arts Lane/Ivanhoe). **FILM:** *Fertile Myrtle*. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago PD* (NBC); *Onion Fusion Election Special* (The Onion/Fusion). **EDUCATION:** MFA in acting, Indiana University-Bloomington; BFA in musical theatre performance, Western Michigan University. **AWARDS:** Joseph Jefferson Award Citation for *King Phycus*.



**IAN MARYFIELD** (*Tybal*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors*. **CHICAGO:** *Indoor Cats* (Red Theater); *Recipe for Disaster* (Windy City Playhouse); *Krugozor* (Theatre Evolve); *All Quiet On The Western Front* (Red Tape Theatre); *Photograph 51, The Originalist* (Court Theatre); *The Nutcracker* (The House Theatre of Chicago); *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* (Haven Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *As You Like It* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks). **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Fire* (NBC). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, Oklahoma City University.



**FELICIA ODUH** (*Juliet*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Measure for Measure*. **CHICAGO:** *The Nacirema Society* (Goodman Theatre); *Alaiyo* (Definition Theatre); *Hand to God* (Paramount Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *Pipeline* (TheatreWorks Hartford).

**TELEVISION:** *Shining Girls* (Apple TV+); *4400* (The CW); *How to Love* (OTV). **EDUCATION:** BA in theatre, Northwestern University. **AWARDS:** 2023 Kilroys Web, 2021 Reva and David Logan Foundation Artist Grant.



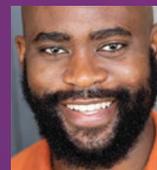
**ALEX BENITO RODRIGUEZ** (*Benvolio*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *The Lifespan of a Fact* (TimeLine Theatre Company); *Anna in the Tropics* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company); *Botticelli in the Fire* (First Floor Theater, Joseph Jefferson Award Nominee - Performer in a Principal Role); *Dory Fantasmagory* (Young People's Theatre of Chicago). **REGIONAL:** *The Crucible, Noises Off, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Our Town* (Asolo Repertory). **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Fire* (NBC). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, University of Illinois Chicago; MFA in acting, Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Rodriguez is a teaching artist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Illinois Chicago.



**DONOVAN SESSION** (*Sampson/ Peter/Dance Captain*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Is God Is* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *The Most Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Magnolia Ballet* (About Face Theatre); *Kill Move* (Something Marvelous Theatre Company); *Non-Player Character* (Red Theatre); *Queer Eye: Musical Parody* (Playground Theatre); *Everybody* (Brown Paper Box Company); *Six Degrees of Separation, Surely Goodness and Mercy* (Redtwist Theatre). **REGIONAL:** Urbanite Theatre. **TELEVISION:** *Work in Progress* (Showtime). **EDUCATION:** BFA in theatre, University of Oklahoma.



**JONAH D. WINSTON** (*Friar Laurence*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Big Fish, Damn Yankees* (Marriott Theater); *Avenue Q, Little Shop of Horrors, Clue, Young Frankenstein, Spamalot* (Mercury Theater Chicago); *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theater); *Parade* (Writers Theater); *Wake Up, Brother Bear* (Chicago Children's Theater). **TOURING:** *The Play That Goes Wrong, Saint-Georges' Sword and Bow*. **REGIONAL:** Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Cleveland Playhouse, Beef and Boards Dinner Theater. **OPERA:** *The Merry Widow, Jesus Christ Superstar, Louder! Longer! Wagner!* (Lyric Opera of Chicago). **FILM:** *Lacy's Christmas Do-Over, Evil Lurks, The Resentful Angel*. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Chicago PD* (NBC), *Discover Indie Film* (Amazon Prime). **EDUCATION:** BA in theatre and vocal music, Butler University; Master of Letters in acting, Flinders University. **AWARDS:** Multiple individual Joseph Jefferson Award Nominations and overall production awards.



**BENJAMIN JENKINS** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *The Comedy of Errors*. **CHICAGO:** *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Court Theatre); *Middle Passage* (Lifeline Theatre); *Fireflies* (Northlight Theatre); *Titus Andronicus* (Haven Chicago); *Feral* (MPAACT); *Choir Boy, Not About Nightingales* (Raven Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.



**DIEGO LONGORIA** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Good Grief, Our Lady of 121st Street* (DePaul University); *Verdi Il Corsaro* (Chicago Opera Festival); *Sunday Night Lab* (Green Shirt Studios). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, DePaul University.



**CARLOS OLMEDO** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **CHICAGO:** *United Flight 232* (House Theatre of Chicago). **REGIONAL:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry VI Pt.2* (Shakespeare & Company). **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Fire* (NBC).



**BRADFORD STEVENS** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *The Language Room* (Broken Nose Theater); *The Hairy Ape* (Oracle Theater); *Trojan Women* (Goodman Theater); *Richard III* (Chase Park Theater); *The Darkness After Dawn* (Factory Theater); *Jesus Hopped The A Train* (Joseph Jefferson Award Nominated - Best Actor), *Soldier's Play* (Raven Theater); *Truth and Reconciliation* (Side Show Theater); *Winterset* (Griffin Theater); *That's Weird Grandma* (Playmakers Laboratory). **FILM:** *Dazzling Cool Cat Jones, Beyond The Door, Get A Job, Office Cat, Walt Brother Walt*. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago PD* (NBC); *61st Street* (FX). **EDUCATION:** MFA in acting, the Theatre School at DePaul University; Second City Conservatory.



**PRICILLA TORRES** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Little Women, The Jigsaw Bride* (First Folio Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare Project of Chicago); *The New Word* (Misalliance Repertory Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *Undiscovered Country, Henry VIII* (Oklahoma Shakespeare); *Spike Heels, Angel Street* (Sharon Studio Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BFA in acting, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. **AWARDS:** 2022 Chicago/Midwest Regional Emmy.



**SARAFINA VECCHIO** (*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Parcel from America* (Irish Theatre Chicago); *The Fair Maid of the West, The Taming of the Shrew* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, Miss Julie, The Misanthrope* (Janus Theatre); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Steel Beam Theatre); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre). **FILM:** *Exit Statement, North of the 10, Finding Hope, Flat Chested, Coyote*. **TELEVISION:** *Chicago Fire, Chicago Justice* (NBC). **EDUCATION:** PGA in teaching Shakespeare, University of Warwick (UK). Vecchio is an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of the Performing Arts and a member of the faculty at Acting Studio Chicago.

**MIKAEL BURKE** (*Director*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Notes from the Field* (TimeLine Theatre); *Tambo & Bones* (Refracted Theatre Company); *Blues for an Alabama Sky, Routes* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company); *The Magnolia Ballet* (About Face Theatre, Joseph Jefferson Award - Best Short Run Production). **REGIONAL:** Yale Repertory Theatre, Forward Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Theaterworks Hartford, Urbanite Theatre, Theaterworks Colorado Springs, Geva Theatre Center, Phoenix Theatre-Indianapolis. **EDUCATION:** MFA, DePaul University. **AWARDS:** Princess Grace Award. Burke is an adjunct faculty member at DePaul University and Roosevelt University.

**ALYSSA MOHN** (*Scenic Designer*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (The Story Theatre); *Herland, Keely and Du* (Redtwist Theatre); *Pineapple* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *I Am Going To Die Alone and I Am Not Afraid, The Clean Up* (Prop Thtr); Annual Young Playwrights Festival 33, 36 (Pegasus Theatre Chicago). **REGIONAL:** Urbanite Theatre, Third Avenue Playworks. **EDUCATION:** BFA, DePaul University.

# STAFF

**GREGORY GRAHAM** (*Costume Designer*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks *DREAM: A Community Reimagining of A Midsummer's Night Dream*. **CHICAGO:** *Blues for an Alabama Sky, Anna in the Tropics, Routes* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company); *The Porch on Windyhill, Garbologists, Fireflies* (Northlight Theatre); *Once* (Writers Theatre); *Is God Is* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *1919* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me, Rent* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice* (Court Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BA in theatre design, University of Illinois Chicago.

**ERIC WATKINS** (*Lighting Designer*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Tambo & Bones* (Refracted Theatre Company); *Nightshade* (Links Hall); *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Steep Theatre); *A Mile in the Dark* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble); *Routes* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination); *The Magnolia Ballet* (About Face Theatre); *Fireflies, Dial M For Murder* (Northlight Theatre); *Sugar in Our Wounds* (Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination), *Hooded: or Being Black for Dummies* (First Floor Theater); *Alajo, Ethiopian America* (Definition Theatre Company); *Machinal* (Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, The Greenhouse Theater Center); *A Swell In The Ground* (The Gift Theatre); *Porcelain* (Prologue Theatre, Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination). **REGIONAL:** *Clyde's* (Theaterworks Hartford); *Baba* (Amphibian Stage); *Ariadne* (Arizona Opera); *Mrs. Harrison* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Don Pasquale* (Fort Worth Opera); *Hansel and Gretel, Show Boat, Falstaff* (Dallas Opera); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Opera Santa Barbara/Kentucky Opera). **INTERNATIONAL:** *Barber of Seville* (Lithuanian National Opera); *Song of Home* (Theatre Lumina, Eastern European tour). **EDUCATION:** MFA in theatrical lighting design, Boston University.

**ETHAN KORVNE** (*Sound Designer/Composer*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Associate Sound Designer for *The Comedy of Errors*. **CHICAGO:** *Tambo & Bones* (Refracted Theatre Company, Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination - Original Music in a Play and Best Sound Design); *Gayme Changers* (About Face Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BFA in sound design, The Theatre School at DePaul University.

**FRANKIE DiCIACCIO** (*Choreographer*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *The Drunken City* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Juno* (TimeLine Theater Company); *The Wedding Singer* (Haven Chicago); *Titus Andronicus* (The Shakespeare Project of Chicago). **NEW YORK:** The Shakespeare Forum, Laguardia Performing Arts Center, The Dare Tactic. **REGIONAL:** The American Repertory Theater, Club Oberon. **EDUCATION:** BA, Northwestern University; MFA, American Repertory Theater/Harvard University. DiCiaccio has recently been a faculty member at Adelphi University and Northern Illinois University.

**DANNY FENDER** (*Production Stage Manager*)  
**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks productions of *DREAM* and *ShakesFest!*, ABLE Ensemble's *Reconnect*. **CHICAGO:** new play workshops for Steppenwolf Theatre Company; *Revolution* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Lookingglass Theatre Company); *Two Trains Running, The Lady from the Sea, The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice, The Mousetrap, Oedipus Rex, King Hedley II* (Court Theatre); *The Music Man, Ah, Wilderness!* (Goodman Theatre). **TOUR:** *Hamilton* (Philip Company Tour). **EDUCATION:** The Theatre School at DePaul University, Interlochen Arts Academy. Fender is one of the owners of The Understudy Coffee and Books, a theatre bookstore and specialty coffee shop located in Andersonville.

**LUCY WHIPP** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *brother sister cyborg space, Night Watch* (production manager, Raven Theatre); *Gender Play, or what you Will, The Magnolia Ballet* (About Face Theatre); *Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes, At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen, Leave Me Alone!* (The Story Theatre); *Kitty and Georgiana: Christmas at Pemberley* (Northlight Theatre); *Routes, Anna in the Tropics* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company). **EDUCATION:** BA in theatre, Loyola University Chicago. Whipp is a Governing Ensemble member with The Story Theatre and the Production Manager at Raven Theatre.



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The Director of this production is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



The lighting designer of this production is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of IATSE.

**EDWARD HALL**  
 Artistic Director  
*Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair*

**KIMBERLY MOTES**  
 Executive Director

**RICK BOYNTON**  
 Creative Producer

**NORA CARROLL**  
 Director of Lifelong Learning & Education  
*Ray and Judy McCaskey Education Chair*

## ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE

**PAIGE WHITSON-MARTINI**  
 Director of Producing

**DANIEL J. HESS**  
 Producer, Artistic Engagement and Experience

**BOB MASON**  
 Artistic Associate/Casting Director

**AISSLIN FRANTZ**  
 Associate Producer

**ALEXIS TAYLOR**  
 Casting and Producing Associate

**ROSE KALEF**  
 Executive Assistant

**KARINA PATEL**  
 Assistant to the Creative Producer

**DELANEY PIGGINS**  
 Arts Leadership Fellow

## EDUCATION

**MERSEDEZ HOOVER**  
 Education Programs Associate

**STEPHEN BENNETT, PHD**  
**REGINA BUCCOLA, PHD**  
**DEON CUSTARD,**  
**PHD CANDIDATE**  
**REBECCA FALL, PHD**  
**MARTINE KEI GREEN-ROGERS, PHD**  
 Guest Scholar Lecturers

**CHRIS ANTHONY, MFA**  
**DEVIN CHRISTOR**  
**GREG GEFFRARD, MFA**  
**MATT HAWKINS, MFA**  
**CHARENCE HIGGINS, MFA**  
**JARRETT KING**  
**KEVIN LONG, MA**  
**SONYA MADRIGAL**  
**KATIE MCKNIGHT, PHD**  
 Educator Artists

**ROXANNA CONNER**  
 Education Consultant

**MELINA LESUS, PHD**  
 CPS Connectivity Consultant

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**KATIE BELL**  
 Digital Marketing Manager

**OLIVIA GEORGE**  
 Graphic Designer

**MIKAYLA SHAW**  
 Marketing Assistant

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 Director of Communications

**EMMA PERRIN**  
 Public Relations and Digital Media Manager

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 Ticketing Services Manager

**SONJA PARDEE**  
 Box Office Supervisor

**NATALIE BRANDY**  
**JAZ FOWLKES**  
**MICAH HAZEL**  
**AURTHUR KING**  
**ASH PIERCE**  
 Box Office Associates

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 Director of Development

**MAKEDA COHRAN**  
 Events Director

**ELIZABETH TEAGUE**  
 Associate Director of Development, Institutional Giving

**CARLOS GARCÍA LEÓN**  
 Individual Giving Manager

**FINLEY JONES**  
 Development Coordinator

**NATHAN WETTER**  
 Donor Services and Data Coordinator

## FINANCE & OPERATIONS

**KATIE TRESNOWSKI**  
 Director of Finance and Administration

### FINANCE

**DAN THOMAS**  
 Controller

**ALYSSE HUNTER**  
 Assistant Controller

**ALEJANDRA SUJO**  
 Accounting Associate

### TECHNOLOGY

**JEANNE DEVORE**  
 Technology Manager

**KEVIN SPELLMAN**  
 Technology and Innovation Specialist

### OPERATIONS

**MARK KOZY**  
 Operations Director

**DANIEL LOPEZ**  
 Facilities Manager

**FELIX ROSS**  
 Custodial Manager

**DWAYNE BREWER**  
**ANTHONY DAVIS**  
**CANO HERNANDEZ**  
**FERRIS ROBERTSON**  
**DELORISTINE WASHINGTON**  
 Custodial Assistants

### GUEST SERVICES

**DEVIN FAUGHT**  
 Front of House Manager

**PHOEBE SILVA**  
 Assistant House Manager

**EMILY ARTHUR**  
**DANI BROWN**  
**MEGHAN CAMERON**  
**SAM CASTILLO**  
**GIULIA CHIAPPETTA**  
**GRACE CUMMINGS**  
**AMANDA FARMER**  
**LEAH JOHNSON**  
**PRECIOUS JOHNSON**  
**OLIVIA LESLIE**  
**PHILIP MACALUSO**

**MAGGIE PERISHO**  
**JESSICA PLUMMER**  
**LESLIE RAMIREZ**  
**JULIA RAVENSCROFT**  
**ALEX ROSAS**  
**NORA RUMERY**  
**KIERNAN WESTRICK**  
**NYJA WHITE**  
**ERIKA WILSON**  
**JADA WOODARD**  
 Guest Services Associates

**TANNER McCORMICK**  
 Lead Concessioner

**OLLIE BIZIAK**  
**SUZIE GLOVER**  
**CHAMAYA MOODY**  
**PATTY ROACHE**  
**JACK SAUNDERS**  
**EMILY STIPETIC**  
**MO WERDER**  
 Concessioners

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**TIFFANY TUCKETT**  
 Director of Human Resources

**GIANNA SCHUETZ**  
 Company Manager and Human Resources Specialist

**AMAL MAZEN SALEM**  
 People Operations Assistant

## PRODUCTION

**MAC VAUGHNEY**  
 Director of Production

**ALEXA BERKOWITZ**  
 Assistant Director of Production

### SCENERY

**TYLER METOXEN**  
 Technical Director

**TOBI OSIBODU**  
 Stage Crew Head

**BRADLEY BURI**  
 Stage Crew Carpenter Head

**PARKER CALLAIS**  
**QUINLAND THOMPSON**  
**AMBER HAHN**  
 Stage Crew

**GRACE WEAVER**  
 Stage Crew Cover

**JACK BIRDWELL**  
 Stage Rigging Crew Head

**CHRISTOPHER CULVER**  
**BOBBY NOE**  
 House Technicians

**NICOLAS CABRERA**  
 Carpenter

**SCOTT GERWITZ**  
 Scenic Charge Artist

### COSTUMES

**RYAN MAGNUSON**  
 Costume Department Manager

**CATHY TANTILLO**  
 Costume Design Assistant

**JENN GIANGOLA**  
 Wardrobe Supervisor

**ASH BERG**  
 Draper/Workroom Supervisor

**JANELLE MANNO**  
 Costume Technician

**TEAGAN ANDERSON**  
 First Hand

**YAS MAPLE**  
 Stitcher

**MADLINE FELAURER**  
 Crafts Artisan

**SARAH COLLINS**  
 Dresser

## LIGHTING AND VIDEO

**ALEC THORNE**  
 Lighting and Video Department Manager

**ARIANNA BROWN**  
 Assistant Lighting and Video Department Manager

**JOAN E. CLAUSSEN**  
 Lighting Crew Head

**RYAN BURKLE**  
 Lighting Programmer

**WILLIAM BORST**  
**EMILY BROWN**  
**DUNCAN HON**  
**ISH PETERSEN**  
**GARVIN VAN DERNOOT**  
 Electricians

## SOUND

**NICHOLAS POPE**  
 Sound Department Manager and Resident Sound Designer

**DAN SCHRECK**  
 Sound Crew Head

**MICHAEL McSHANE**  
 A1

## HAIR AND MAKE-UP

**ASHLEY ADAMS**  
 Hair and Make-up Department Manager

**REBECCA WILSON**  
 Wig Stylist

## PROPERTIES

**ANNA KATHARINE MANTZ**  
 Properties Department Manager

**ANNAMAE DURHAM**  
 Assistant Properties Department Manager

**DAN NURCZYK**  
 Properties Crew Head

**KATIE NOVAK**  
 Properties Artisan

## MAJOR SEASON SUPPORTERS



Mark Ouweleen and Sarah Harding



Pritzker Foundation

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Burton X. and Sheli Z. Rosenberg

The Jentes Family  
 Ray and Judy McCaskey

THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION INC.

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION

Carl and Marilynn Thoma

# WE ASKED THE ACTORS...

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LINE IN *ROMEO AND JULIET*?

Juliet's line, "**Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Aye,' And I will take thy word: yet if thou swear'st, Thou mayst prove false. O gentle Romeo, If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully** —" Falling in love is so big, confusing, scary, and exciting. I love how I can feel Juliet's heartbeat racing.

—ADEOYE

Romeo's line, "**O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright,**" is so romantic and sweet and makes me blush every time I read it. Romeo and Juliet's entire first interaction at the party—I screamed when I realized their lines make up one sonnet. It's the OG "we finish each other's sentences" and is such a dreamy expression of that moment when you realize you have an instant connection with someone.

—FELICIA ODUH

"**Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.**" We live in a society that gives us what we want instantaneously, without us thinking about those around us, or the repercussions our actions might bring. I feel like if more people took a breath, many of the issues we face daily would not be issues at all, and we would live happier, healthier lives.

—JONAH D. WINSTON

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT ACTING THAT YOU MOST ENJOY?

The high stakes drama, specifically in the history plays, and finding my voice in these bodies and characters who've had so much influence on storytelling today.

—RASELL HOLT

I feel the freest when I am on stage. I enjoy the freedom that comes from playing another person, as well as the opportunity to shift someone's perspective of what a Black queer body can do through storytelling.

—DONOVAN SESSION

## QUESTIONS FOR THE RIDE BACK

1. What moments in the play did you find relatable?
2. What does this play teach you about love?
3. How did the adults in the play protect—or endanger—Juliet and Romeo?
4. This production of *Romeo and Juliet* is set in the 1980s. What production elements reinforced the time period? How did that impact your experience of the story?