



**October 15-18, 2026**

**245 Porter Lake Dr. Springfield, MA**

**[UUSpringfield.org](http://UUSpringfield.org)**

**FB/IG @unityhouseplayers**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For over 400 years, audiences have enjoyed the work of William Shakespeare. From hilarious comedies, to heartbreaking tragedies, to riveting histories, the Bard has provided a variety of stories full of entertainment and incredible storytelling. How fortunate we are to have a smorgasbord of his stories to share with you! We've mixed together all of his different styles to give you a night of Shakespeare you won't soon forget. And while some of these scenes and shows may seem familiar to you, I assure you the way these are being presented will be unlike anything you have seen before.

We have Brutus and Cassius in their bedroom together. We have Jack Cade leading a modern, populist rebellion. We have *As You Like It* being presented as a classic game show. And oh so much more! These scenes may not be how audiences first experienced them, but I feel as though Shakespeare would have liked them.

And not only are there scenes, but food, drink, entertainment - what a night! As Shakespeare himself wrote in *Henry VIII*, "Good company, good wine, good welcome can make good people."

My first brush with Shakespeare came about 10 years ago when I was in a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* that was set in the 1920s. I was a member of Dogberry's watch, and we portrayed the watch as Keystone Cops. It was delightful and hilarious, and feels strangely similar to the vibes that these scenes have: Shakespeare in a unique and unusual presentation. It's funny how that stuff works out.

Timeless Twisted Shakespeare's Pub could not happen without a lot of creative individuals, and we certainly have a lot in this production! To the scene directors, thank you for bringing your inventive ideas and unique selves to this production. I hope bringing your visions to life makes you smile like it did me. To everyone on the production side, thank you for your hard work in making these visions seen, heard, and realized. To the UHP staff, your help and leadership made sure this all happened; we cannot thank you enough. To anyone who doesn't fit into those categories but helped make this happen, I thank you endlessly too. And last, but not least, the actors. Thank you. You are all so talented and joys to work with. You bring magic to the stage. We are so lucky to know you all.

But anyways, you came here to go on a journey through the work of Shakespeare. If you feel a little lost on the way, no need to fear- I'll be right there with you helping you find your way. Because if this whole process has taught me anything, it's that Shakespeare's work is alive, well, and it is here for everyone. Maybe his style of writing isn't as prevalent anymore. But his themes involving love, family, and power are as common today as they were back then.

Now let's go on a trip with the Bard!

- Joshua Prouser, Producing Director

# SHAKESPEARE 'S TIMELESS TWISTED PUB

## THE CAST

(Actors listed alphabetically. Roles listed in order of appearance)

**Simon Brighenti:** Jack Cade Supporter, Jakes

**Lydia Bussiere:** Jack Cade Supporter, Orlando

**Tessa Dowling:** Messenger, 2nd Murderer

**K. Dymek:** Clifford, Peter Quince/Director

**Allie Eaton:** Jack Cade Supporter, Snug/Lion

**Joshua Farber:** assistant Emcee

**Dorian Gregory:** Jack Cade Supporter, Clarence

**Aria Killough-Miller:** Jack Cade Supporter Tom Snout/Wall

**Elena Kovalchik:** Jack Cade Supporter, Benvolio's Page

**Alain Lamoureux:** Dick the Butcher, Tybalt, 1st Murderer

**Kate LaPlatney:** Jack Cade Supporter, Robin Straveling/Moonshine

**Joanne Lasker:** Touchstone

**Beth Oliveira:** Cassius, Celia

**Joshua Prouser:** Emcee, Capulet

**Fahad Rahmat:** Corin

**Jen Rawlings:** Sir Stafford, Benvolio

**Jeff Tingley:** Assistant emcee, Capulet

**Ace Tayloe:** Cade Supporter, Romeo, Nick Bottom/Pyramus

**Jake Terreden:** Jack Cade

**Tom Thacher:** Lord Saye

**Deanna Weech-Soler:** Brutus, Rosalind

**K. Zdepski:** Jack Cade Supporter, Mercutio, Francis Flute/Thisbe

## VARIETY PERFORMERS

Roving Musicians: Aria Killough-Miller, Ann-Marie Messbauer

Juggler: Josie Seborowski

Inflated Entertainment: Willow Farber, Jillian Van Ness, Robbie Coolong

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Producing Director: Joshua Prouser

Scene Directors: Luke Dowling, Joshua Farber, Becky Lartigue,  
Fahad Rahmat, Kit Thomas, Jeff Tingley

Fight Coordinator: Jeff Tingley

Prop Master & Set Dresser: Joshua Prouser

Stage Manager: Andy Price

Lighting Designer: Avery Richardson

Sound Designer: Mark Weber

Sound & Lights Operator: Mark Weber

House Manager: Darcie Farber

Marketing Coordinator: Eric Boucher

Promotional Videos: Aaron Reynolds

Program Editors: Elisabeth Weber, Eric Boucher

Stage Advisors: Eric Boucher, Elisabeth Weber

Variety Acts & Pub Coordinators: Darcie Farber, Becca Coolong

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Opera House Players

Moonyean Field & The Lady and The Leopard Costume Collection

Suffield Players

Avery Richardson

Bella Turkowski

Paige Stawasz

Phantom Sheep Productions

Rev. Dr. Jason Seymour

UUSGS Board of Trustees and Congregation

Our volunteer ushers, cooks, and Front of House staff

And to you, our audience!

## **ACT ONE**

### **Henry VI Part 2, Act 4 Mashup**

Directed by Luke Dowling

Time & Place: The streets of a city, present day.

### **Julius Caesar, Act 4 Scene 2**

Directed by Kit Thomas

Time & Place: The bedroom of Brutus & Cassius, present day

**Intermission 1:** Variety performers, Entrée, bar open

## **ACT TWO**

### **Romeo & Juliet, Act 3 Scene 1**

Directed by Jeff Tingley

Time & Place: A public street in the city of Verona, 14<sup>th</sup> century

### **As You Like It, Act 3 Scene 2**

Directed by Fahad Rahmat

Time & Place: The Forest of Arden, 1970's

**Intermission 2:** Variety performers, Dessert

## **ACT THREE**

### **Richard III, Act 1 Scene 4**

Directed by Becky Lartigue

Time & Place: A prison cell in the Tower of London, present day

### **A Midsummer's Night Dream, Act 3 Scene 1 & Act 5 Scene 1**

Directed by Joshua Farber

Time & Place: An open, improvisational space, where anything can happen...and probably will.

**Curtain Call & Epilogue**

# MEET THE CAST & CREW



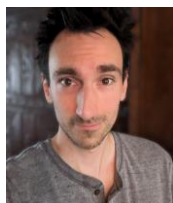
## **SIMON BRIGHENTI (Jack Cade Supporter, Jakes)**

Simon is excited to be performing Shakespeare again. He previously appeared in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Romeo and Juliet*, both at the UU. Also a *Few Good Men* with Suffield Players and most recently *Waiting for Godot* at the Little Garden Theater. He thanks his wife Maria and Tony, Mia and Hannah for their continuing support.



## **LYDIA BUSSIERE (Jack Cade Supporter, Orlando)**

Lydia has been enjoying getting back into theater recently and is excited for their first show with Unity House Players. They recently played Claudius in *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Little Garden Theater). Thanks to all who have come out to support these shows! We hope you enjoy it!



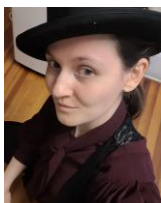
**LUKE DOWLING (Scene Director)** Luke Dowling is a director, actor, and prop maker who pops up sporadically in the Western Mass community theater scene. Recent projects include co-directing Hampshire Shakespeare's 2023 production of *Macbeth* alongside the incomparable Kit Thomas, and appearing on stage as Guildenstern in Little Garden Theater's repertory performances of *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. He is beyond excited to be a

part of this wild night of Shakespeare, which presents a rare opportunity to perform a hilarious scene from an otherwise underwhelming play. Thanks to all of our amazing cast for bringing their talents to bear in this strange and macabre satire!



## **TESSA DOWLING (Messenger, 2nd Murderer)**

Tessa Dowling is excited to be acting again after a decade away. Her last public appearance was as Inigo Montoya in a scene in the Northampton Open Media's crowd source cinema version of *The Princess Bride*. She excels at impromptu kitchen dance parties with her son and husband and loves lurking about the woods of New England.



### **K. DYMEK (Clifford, Peter Quince)**

K. Dymek got their start directing skits with their cousins at family reunions. Now that they are grown, they continue to find ways to engage with performance both onstage and off. Outside of community theatre projects like this one, K. has performed at the Greenfield Poetry Festival, the Salem Arts Festival and as part of the National Poetry Slam.



### **ALLIE EATON (Jack Cade Supporter, Snug/Lion)**

Allie Eaton has appeared in several Shakespeare plays locally, including *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth* at Hampshire Shakespeare, and *The Tempest* at Valley Players. She has also appeared in *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner and *Book of Days* by Lanford Wilson at Greenfield Community College. For fun, she takes classes in theatrical clowning, and for work she teaches English at Springfield College.



### **JOSHUA FARBER (Scene Director; Assistant Emcee)**

Actor, Director, and Drama/English teacher Joshua Farber was raised in Boston's vibrant theater scene and graduated from the BU Theater Institute in 1988. Since moving to the Pioneer Valley in 2005, he has appeared in over 30 regional plays and musicals at Opera House, Greene Room, Hampshire Shakespeare, and others, performed in every one of Unity House Players' 14 seasons, appeared in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* twice, and directed *Romeo and Juliet* and *Godspell* (Unity House) and *Seussical!* and *Into the Woods* (Monson Youth Theater).



### **DORIAN GREGORY (Clarence)**

Dorian Gregory is having great fun discovering community theater. She is a tai chi instructor and the deputy director of the Cooperative Fund of the Northeast. In this watershed year, she has been privileged to study with Gabe Levey, play Gonzalo in the Valley Player's production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, collaborate with Real Live Theatre in the *Birth/Death Project*, and participate in the 2025 inaugural production of *A Christmas Carol Calamity* with the Community Players.



**ARIA KILLOUGH-MILLER (Jack Cade Supporter, Tom Snout/Wall, Strolling Variety Performer)**

Shakespearean physical comedy is proving an unanticipated but delightful new arc in Aria's life-long acting trajectory, having played Trinculo in *The Tempest* with Valley Players this summer and now playing Snout/Wall in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Plus joining a murderous mob for *Henry VI Part 2*. She looks forward to both acting in tonight's scenes and fiddle singing during intermission.



**ELENA KOVALCHIK (Jack Cade Supporter, Benvolio's Page)**

Elena is a sophomore at South Hadley High School, and a member of SHHS colorguard and the Harlequins Theatre Group. Most recently, she performed in a duet as Ponyboy in a Musical Revue, and has been a part of numerous productions for the Michael E. Smith Drama Club (as Freddie Filmore in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Kristoff in *Frozen*, the Narrator in *A Christmas Carol*, and more). She enjoys taking classes at *Broadway Brings Joy* in Holyoke & is excited for her first production with the Unity House Players!



**ALAIN LAMOUREUX (Dick the Butcher, Tybalt, 1st Murderer)**

From a young age we're all trained to steel our resolve in the face of peer pressure, but in the context of your friends convincing you to join productions they're going to be involved with, there's little that can be done to prepare you for that pernicious force. Speak with your loved ones about peer pressure. Speak with your loved ones about theater people.



**KATE LAPLATNEY (Cade Supporter, Robin Straveling/Moonshine)**

Kate is not new to Unity House Players, having been in several shows. She especially enjoyed *THE WOLVES* and *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*, but has been enjoying the new challenge of bringing Shakespeare to the stage. While it's been a few years since she's been in a production, she also stays busy with singing in the UUSGS choir, and participating in improv workshops with Phantom Sheep. She thanks her husband for his endless patience and supporting her silliness.

**BECKY LARTIGUE (Scene Director)**

Becky Lartigue (director, *Death of Clarence*, *Richard III* 1.4) teaches Shakespeare and early British literature at Springfield College, and directs its Honors Program. She's acted in *Defying Gravity*, *She Kills Monsters*, and *Middletown* (among others), and her short plays *Sure* and *Not-So-Brightspace* had their world premieres at the SC Theatre in 2023. For this first opportunity to direct outside her classrooms, she's grateful to the Unity House Players and all the STTP cast and crew.

**JOANNE LASKER (Touchstone)**

Joanne Lasker is happy to be back on stage with Unity House Players. She last performed as Mrs. Van Daan in the *Diary of Anne Frank* at UHP. Other favorite roles include Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* and Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*. When she is not doing Shakespeare, you may find Joanne teaching and practicing as a speech-language pathologist. Warm thanks to her family and to all those who made this production possible.

**BETH OLIVEIRA: (Cassius, Celia)**

Beth is incredibly excited to be getting some use out of her medieval/Renaissance studies minor. She has performed all over Massachusetts and Connecticut in various theaters in various capacities; you may find her onstage, backstage, below the stage, above the stage, front of house, back of house, or wherever there is a need for memes and vibes. Big thanks to her friends, her MOM, and all who enjoy the Bard!

**ANDY PRICE (Stage Manager)**

Andy Price is excited to be a part of UHP at last! He has been involved in local theater for 13 years. His debut as a Stage Manager was for Exit 7's *The Spongebob Musical*, and he'll reprise that role in the upcoming *Shrek, The Musical* next year. He also acts and loves to House Manage at Exit 7. Enjoy the show!



**JOSHUA PROUSER (Producing Director; Emcee; Capulet)**

**Joshua Prouser** has enjoyed bringing Shakespeare to UHP! Previously at UHP, he appeared as Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man*, and directed their production of *Every Brilliant Thing*. He is also a member of Phantom Sheep Players, who regularly performs improv comedy at UHP. He has worked with other local theatre groups such as Opera House Players, Suffield Players, Exit 7 Players, and Dionysus Theatre Company. Enjoy the show!



**FAHAD RAHMAT (Scene Director; Corin)**

Fahad Rahmat has worked with UHP for years and has loved every minute. Previously with UHP, he stage managed *Godspell* (2023), *Head Over Heels* (2024), and *Catch Me if You Can* (2025). He would like to thank and honor his amazing wife, who inspires and challenges him to be a better artist with every show.



**JENNIFER RAWLINGS (Stafford, Benvolio)**

Jennifer Rawlings (She/Her) | Benvolio/Stafford - Jen most recently appeared as Fastrada in Pippin and as the Leading Player in Little Garden Theater's '26 productions of *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. She thanks her mother for her dry wit and love of theater, her father for his comedic chops and support, and her

husband for being there every step of the way and sharing a hobby that mostly involves memorizing lines and collecting increasingly random costume pieces. Enjoy the show!



**ACE TAYLOE (Jack Cade Supporter, Romeo, Nick Bottom/Pyramus)**

Ace Tayloe is getting back into the swing of acting, with upcoming performances as Peaseblossom and Philostrate in Why's It Gotta Be Theater's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this November. Other recent forays include Hamlet in Little Garden Theater's joint *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (along with a few other weirdos...), costuming for *Macbeth* with Hampshire Shakespeare

Company, participating in live-action role playing with New England Interactive Literature, and running for city council in Northampton.



### **TOM THACHER (Lord Saye)**

Performing in his sixth Unity House Players production, but finally getting to utter the words of Shakespeare, Tom feels a weight lifted from his shoulders. He is forever grateful to the cast and crew and especially appreciates not only the memories but also the awesome Halloween decoration he will be taking home from this show.



### **KIT THOMAS (Scene Director)**

Kit Thomas (Director - Julius Caesar) is elated to be working with UHP for the first time! Kit bounces between directing and performing, with her most recent projects including the role of Horatio in Little Garden Theater's repertory productions of *Hamlet*/*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and co-directing Hampshire Shakespeare Company's 2023 production of *Macbeth*

with the brilliant Luke Dowling. Kit is thankful to UHP for providing her with the opportunity to further showcase what may be her life's thesis: that Shakespeare is not only for all of us, but about all of us.



### **JAKE TERREDEN (Jack Cade)**

Jake is very excited to be part of his first show with UHP. He was most recently seen being mistaken for his sister in Infinity Performing Arts production of *Twelfth Night*. Previously he has been a part of Hampshire Shakespeare and Bradley House players. He hopes you enjoy the show!



### **JEFF TINGLEY (Scene Director; Capulet, Assistant Emcee)**

jefftingley learned to swordfight from Salem State, and stage combat from working in The Batman Stunt Show at Six Flags, where he was the Entertainment Trainer for almost 20 years. He also creates comics (Heretic Hex on GlobalComix), is a member of the comedy group Phantom Sheep, Dj's at and runs a goth night (Kontrol) makes balloon animals, and has been a tattoo artist. He is more a collection of side quests than a person.



**DEANNA WEECH-SOLER (Brutus, Rosalind)**

Deanna is excited for her first production with Unity House Players! She recently discovered her love for the bard stage managing a production of *Hamlet* (Little Garden Theater) and is ready to be on the stage herself! She would like to thank her husband for endlessly running lines with her. Also, big shout out to Kit and Fahad for being some of the most fun and easy to work with directors!



**K. ZDEPSKI (Jack Cade Supporter, Mercutio, Francis Flute/Thisbe)**

K. Zdepski last performed as Rosencrantz in the Little Garden Theater's dual productions of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and *Hamlet*. Offstage, K. can be found working under the tallest library in North America, writing and playing theater style LARPs with New England Interactive Literature, and taking as many dance classes as possible. See them next as the Wall in WIGB's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this November.

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# BUBBLES



# WITH A TWIST

bubbleswithatwist@gmail.com



# November 2026

Director: Eric Boucher  
Musical Director: Graham Christian  
Choreographer: Karen McMahon

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**Unity House** is the creative and community arts collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield. We bring people together through meaningful, value-driven artistic expression—asking big questions, uplifting diverse voices, and fostering connection, joy, and growth.

Nestled in the wooded heart of Springfield, MA, we present quality performances and workshops in an intimate, flexible, and tech-forward space. Accessible and innovative, we invite artists and audiences alike to explore, experiment, experience, and enjoy the arts in fresh, inspiring ways.

**Past shows:**

*Godspell*, 2012  
*The Sound of Music*, 2013  
*Oliver!*, 2014  
*West Side Story*, 2015  
*Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, 2016  
*Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, 2017  
*A Little Night Music*, 2017  
*Willy Wonka Junior*, 2018  
*The Diary of Anne Frank*, 2018  
*The Music Man*, 2018  
*Seussical*, 2019  
*Romeo and Juliet*, 2019  
*Les Mierables: School Edition* 2020

*The Wolves*, 2022  
*Matilda*, 2023  
*Godspell*, 2023  
*Head Over Heals*, 2024  
*Into the Woods*, 2024  
*Every Brilliant Thing*, 2024  
*Catch Me if You Can*, 2025  
*HADESTOWN: Teen Edition*, 2025  
*The PROM*, Spring 2026  
*Robot Nature*, Summer 2026  
*Shakespeare's Pub*, Fall 2026

Coming March 2027:  
*Finding Nemo!*

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