SOUTHERN **SHAKESPEARE** COMPANY

presents

A Taste of Old Rome:

Julius Caesar

Dinner Theatre



November 17

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The MOON

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A Taste of Old Rome: **Julius Caesar** *Dinner Theatre*

Character Relationships

(It's Complicated)





"Et tu, Brute?"

CAESAR

Calpurnia

"…this is my answer: not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more."

"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!"



Brutus

Portia



Octavius



Mark Antony

"Beware the Ides of march!"



Lucius



Soothsayer



Eros

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves"



Cassius



Casca



Cinna



Decius Brutus



Metellus Cimber

Serves — Friends, Allies — Conspirators ····· Married

Directors' Notes

"Give me a bowl of wine. In this I bury all unkindness . . ."
– Brutus, *Julius Caesar IV.iii*





During the time in which the play is set, the Roman Empire had grown to epic proportions thanks to the military prowess of Julius Caesar and his legions. These victories, however, have left the Senators of Rome fearful of his control of the armed forces and rather evident popularity among the people of Rome.

In our production, we have endeavored to remain faithful to the Bard's text but, in our abridged adaptation, we have made a conscious decision to portray all of the Senators who don't wish to see this egotistical man as their de facto King. . . as women.

They use their strength, fortitude, and powers of persuasion to compel Caesar's closest friend, the "honorable" Brutus, to assist them in their plot to assassinate Caesar.

We hope that this version of *Julius Caesar* invites you to see the parallels between Shakespeare's play and politics playing out around the globe without imposing any singular interpretation on you.

Phil Croton
Laura W. Johnson

Special Thanks to

Angel de Armandi for his work vocal coaching our Chorus, our AMAZING volunteers, the SSC staff, Marina Logan, and our friends at The Moon!

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Cast Bios

**Unless indicated with an asterisk, cast members play multiple roles besides the primary, named role listed.*



Angel de Armendi (Eros) loves theatre: reading, acting, directing, writing. It has always been a gateway to introspect into the deeper questions of life and human relations. He has collaborated locally with Mickee Faust in his early years in Tallahassee, Theater with a Mission under the direction of Ben Gunther, Theatre Tallahassee directing the musical of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, played Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as directing and acting with Tallahassee Hispanic Theater since its founding by Alejandra Gutierrez. He was commissioned to compose the music of *La Maldicion*, which premiered earlier this year in Cuba, a highly acclaimed production that explores magical realism.



Ryan Burk (Julius Caesar*) is happy to be playing the role of Julius Caesar. With over 25 years of theatre experience, this has become one of his favorite shows along with *Noises Off*, *The Eight Reindeer Monologues*, and *A Christmas Carol*. When Ryan is not acting he is an avid pickleball player and enjoys the Tallahassee Senior Games. In his professional life, Ryan is a financial advisor. Ryan would like to thank his mom Andrea, wife Kelley, and his friends and family for their undying support of him and the arts.



Wesley Crownover (Brutus*) is a student in his junior year at FSU's School of Theatre. He is overjoyed to be part of this production at SSC, and to bring one of the Bard's great works to your dinner table.



Megan Cunningham (Cinna) is beyond excited to be performing in her first production with SSC. You may have seen her in various productions around Northeast Florida, including *Heathers* at The Island Theater and the upcoming short film "Genre" by Royce Freeman. When she's not performing, she enjoys tabletop gaming and the culinary arts. @megtheliz



Mikey de la Ossa (Lucius) is performing in his first Shakespearean production. He currently performs with FSU's improv group, 30in60, so *Julius Caesar* at The Moon is a nice somber change. He hopes to take on more dramatic roles in the future.



Jade Krystal Dyer (Cassius) is a senior BA Theatre student at FSU. She is from Ft. Lauderdale, FL and previous credits include *Sweet Charity* (Ensemble), *The True Story of The Three Little Pigs* (Prudence), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena). She thanks her friends for their overwhelming love and support as well as the wonderful team here at SSC.



Duncan Hoehn (Soothsayer) is pleased to be back with SSC, where his previous productions have included *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It,* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Previously, he was also active with Capital City Shakespeare in productions of *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as *Romeo and Juliet* at the Monticello Opera House. Most recently, he appeared as Dr. Dodds in *The Freedom of the City* with the Irish Repertory Theater.



Robin Jackson (Casca) acts as Director for The Bardlings, Camp Shakespeare, and MLC Drama Camp and teaches at Temple Israel Preschool. Previous credits include performing with Artspot: Educational Theatre, an international touring children's theatre company. Local credits include SSC's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Margaret) and the Irish Repertory

continued

Cast Bios *continued*

Theater's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily). She holds degrees in Musical Theatre from Florida School of the Arts and the University of Central Florida.



Laura Johnson (Decius Brutus, Assistant Director) is a professional producer, director, and stage/film actor, appearing in numerous commercial, television, and film roles and as the on-air talent/host for the Multistate Powerball. Laura currently serves on the Board of Directors for the SSC. Having worn so many different hats as a part of this extraordinary Company, Laura is thrilled to be working side by side with Phil, Stephen, and Sam for this--Tallahassee's FIRST Shakespeare dinner theatre production--and with this most dedicated and talented cast and crew. Thank you to Scott and Julie Carswell for creating for us, our "home," and to all of you for taking this quantum leap with us to Rome.



Jessica Lowe-Minor (Calpurnia) is very excited to be part of this production of *Julius Caesar*! Lowe-Minor is a graduate of FSU's School of Theatre and appeared as Peter Quince and Snug in recent SSC productions of *A Mini Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also performed in SSC's *As You Like It* (Celia) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Ensemble), as well as in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen) with the Irish Repertory Theater.



JonPaul Menendez (Octavius) is a senior at FSU. He performed as Demetrius in last spring's *A Mini Midsummer Night's Dream* and is excited to once again perform for SSC. He plans to continue seeking out theatre and acting opportunities after he graduates in December.

Geoffrey Place (Mark Antony) is ecstatic to be performing for the first time with the SSC and is incredibly grateful to be given the opportunity to dive back into acting since moving to Tallahassee in 2018. A native of New Orleans,



Geoffrey has acted since early grade school, ultimately meeting his wife while performing at Louisiana State University. Geoffrey was last seen performing as the Steward in *Into the Woods*. Geoffrey currently pursues his other passion as a staff attorney clerking with an appellate judge at the First District Court of Appeal, having graduated from the FSU School of Law in 2021. He would like to eternally thank his wife, his son, his sister, and the rest of his family, all for giving him the support and ability to pursue what he loves, and the courage to do so.



Mila Sumrall (Metellus Cimber) is a sophomore at FSU studying theatre and psychology, as well as a local actor and comedian. She is the Vice President of 30in60 Sketch Comedy and the recipient of the Dean Gil Lazier Student Scholarship in the School of Theatre. She is so excited to be doing her first show with SSC! Previous roles include Margaret White in *Carrie*, Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*, and Claire in *Proof*.



Faith Verbsky (Portia) is a senior Theatre major at FSU from Navarre, FL. *Julius Caesar* is her first production with SSC, and she is thrilled to be a part of it. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continued love and support.



Mattie Ward (Citizen/Chorus) is elated to return to SSC for this dinner theatre production! She recently performed as Bottom in SSC's past two productions of *A Mini Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other recent local theatre credits include: *Into the Woods* (Mysterious Man) with Wanderlust, *Noises Off* (Selson) with Theatre TCC!, and A *Farce of Nature* (Sonny) with Theatre Tallahassee. Mattie also regularly performs in film and television. See Mattie Ward on IMDb.

Production Staff

Producer ..... Bianca Montague
Director ..... Phil Croton
Assistant Director ..... Laura Johnson
Stage Manager ..... Stephen Smith
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Sam Smith
Set Design, Build, and Painting..... Robert Copper
Set Build ..... Hannah Hennessy
Costume Designer ..... Katy Fedore
Sound Design ..... Stephen Hodges
Sound Operation..... Joe Ralston
Lighting Design ..... Todd Randall
Video Production..... Toby Holcomb
Production Support ..... Lucas Alwell

Lucas Alwell (Production Support)

Phil Croton (Director) joined SSC in 2015 to play Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Since then he has worked in the Education Department, acted in numerous productions, co-written a new play, adapted Shakespeare's works, co-directed The Bardlings productions and summer camps, acted as Producer on multiple plays, and visited most of the Tallahassee schools presenting workshops or as Shakespeare Man, but for this production of *Julius Caesar* he returns to perhaps his happiest place… directing. He hopes you enjoy the evening and the immersive event that has been created!

Robert Copper (Set Design, Build, and Painting) is thrilled to be a part of the return of Free Shakespeare in the Park and to be a part of the vision for this set. Copper Moon Studio has been around since 1982 when Bob began making cast paper sculpture. Over time, the things he has done have changed and expanded to include bronze sculpture, murals, and scenic painting. Of course, he continues to do fine art, as well. You can find his work at coppermoonstudio.weebly.com or contact him at coppermoonsculpture.com.

Katy Fedore (Costume Designer) is a Tallahassee-based costume designer, whose work has been seen for several years now on the stages of the SSC. She has had the pleasure of costuming most recently *Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night*, and *Macbeth* for the Shakespeare in the Park Festival at Cascades. Her work has also been enjoyed on many local stages including Theatre TCC!, Making Light Productions, Theater with a Mission, and Tallahassee Hispanic Theater. She is very much looking forward to costuming *Antony and Cleopatra* in 2023, and hopes to see you all there!

Hannah Hennessey (Set Build) first worked with SSC for spring 2022's *Much Ado About Nothing*, her first professional carpentry job. She is very excited to be working behind the scenes in theater. She has a lot of experience in performance and only started working in technical theater since she began attending FSU School of Theatre last fall.

continued

Production Staff *continued*

Stephen Hodges (Sound Designer) is a musician and professional city planner. He has created soundscapes for the SSC's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Toby Holcolm (Video Production) is a creative in music and media. He acted as creative director of Emotion Media for 5 years winning over clients with catchy creative, inventive edits and motion graphics. In 2005 Toby shifted his creative focus to his original music and his band grOund. He recently returned to a career in visual media while he imagines new musical pursuits. Toby enjoys helping new brands tell their stories through creative picture and sound to help them achieve their content-goals.

Bianca Montague (Producer) was named the Executive Director of Southern Shakespeare Company in March of 2022 after serving for nearly eight years as the Co-Director of the Bardlings program and for two years as the Director of Communications. Her first production as Executive Director was SSC's 2022 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She is looking forward to SSC's 2022-2023 Season and thanks you all for joining us for *A Taste of Rome: Julius Caesar Dinner Theatre*.

Joe Ralston (Sound Operation)

Todd Randall (Lighting Design/Board Operation) is happy to return to SSC, where his previous productions as lighting designer include *Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2015: *Comedy of Errors*, 2016: and the AEA Stage Manager for the 2017 production of *As You Like It*. Other credits include Production Stage Manager for Martha Graham and the Martha Graham Dance Company, Production Stage Manager for the national tour of The Pointer Sisters Ain't Misbehavin'!, Lighting Director and live event Production Manager for Disson Skating's Figure Skating Spectacular TV series airing on NBC and ABC until 2017. He resides in Monticello, FL where he's Technical Advisor for MADCO Productions.

Sam Smith (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth-year student at FSU, graduating in December with a BA in Theatre and a BA in Psychology. She is from Fort Pierce, FL. This is her second production with SSC, and she is endlessly ecstatic. Previous credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *Othello* (Stage Manager). She thanks her mother, her brother, and her friends for all their loving support.

Stephen Smith (Stage Manager) is excited to work with the SSC once again. Stephen has previously stage-managed the SSC's productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* (2022) and *A Mini-Midsummer Night's Dream* (2020/21). When not working in the theatre you can find Stephen's creative works on improvingliteracy.org/kidszone where he is the writer for a comic book series dedicated to helping children learn reading skills to cope with dyslexia.

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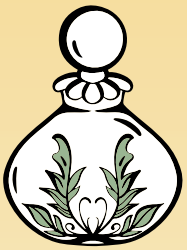
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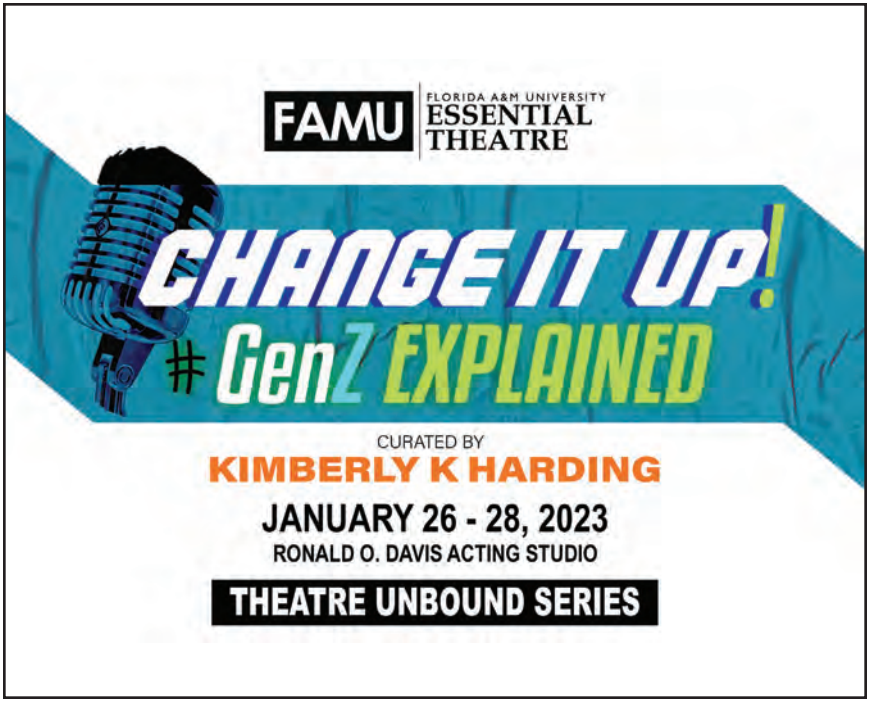
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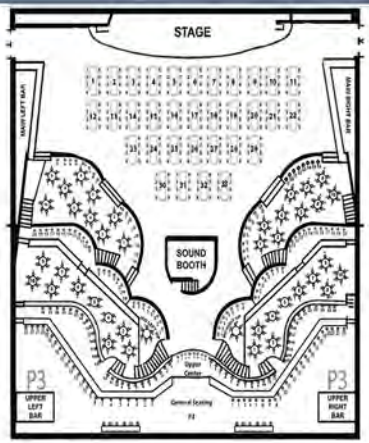




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The Moon was designed for event diversity and flexibility. The Moon is Tallahassee's Community Arts Center.

The Moon opened with a pop-rock group The Producers, and within three weeks hosted "nonsmoking" Dance Nights, a classical performance by Leonidas Lipovetsky, jazz with Sypro Gyro, country with John Anderson, R&B with The Manhattans, and Big Band by Guy Lombardo.

The Moon has been home to such headliners as Dionne Warwick, Hall & Oats, The Temptations, Bonnie Raitt, John Prine, Joe Cocker, Willie Nelson, George Strait, Kenny Chesney, The Judds, Billy Dean, Jimmy Buffet, BB King, George Clinton and more.

In addition to our diverse programming of events, hundreds of benefits have been hosted at the Moon, including fundraisers, galas, and events for worthy causes throughout our region.

Some of the longrunning charitable organizations that have hosted their benefit events at The Moon include; Springtime Tallahassee, Carmen Cummings Sickle Cell Gala, The Pyramid Players, Big Bend Cares, Big Bend Hospice, Alzheimer's Benefit, City Church services, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Word of South Festival, Lloyd Music Festival, The Urban League Gala, Capital City Press Skits, Tom Joyner Live Shows, The American Red Cross, Legislative Black Caucus, Habitat for Humanity, Fraternal Order of Police, FAMU Annual Homecoming Alumni Galas, The Governor's Inaugural Ball and many more.

Contact: Scott Carswell; Scott@MoonEvents.com; 850.878.6900