



PRESS RELEASE
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Syracuse University Department of Drama presents:

The Two Gentlemen of Verona
A Comedic Tale of Love, Friendship, and Follies of Youth

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Elizabeth Ingram

ARTHUR STORCH THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE
Opens: February 19 Closes: February 28

(Syracuse, NY)—In this early comedy Shakespeare cheerfully travesties love and friendship as two best friends fall for and fall out over the same woman. A precursor to Shakespeare's later great comedies (this is the first of the Bard's plays to feature a woman disguised as a man), the seeds of Shakespeare's developing genius are on full display in this farcical romp. Presented by the Department of Drama in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* runs February 19 - 28. For tickets, please call 315-443-3275 or visit www.vpa.syr.edu/drama.

Though written more than 400 years ago, Director Elizabeth Ingram says audiences will identify with its young characters' search for identity and love.

"It's a play about the impulsive nature of youth, the consequences of daring choices, and lessons learned about loyalty and love," said Ingram. "The characters are very young, over the top, and everything that happens to them is deeply serious. This is where much of the humor lies."

An air of romance fills the production. "There are fight scenes, music and dancing, colorful sets, and a fairytale-like quality that all ends happily ever after, we hope," notes Ingram. "We've had such a wonderful time working on this - the student cast and crew and other faculty who are serving on the artistic team."

Shakespeare's third comedy and eighth play debuted on Broadway in 1958. In 1971, the play was adapted by John Guare and Mel Shapiro into a rock musical that premiered in 1971. It ran for 614 performances and had eight Tony Award nominations, winning for Best Musical, and won eight Drama Desk Awards.

Though its earliest known performance occurred at Drury Lane in 1762, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is believed to have been first performed between 1594 and 1595. In the Elizabethan era there was a huge demand for new entertainment and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* would have been produced immediately following the completion of the play. Because Shakespeare never published any of his plays, the play did not appear in print until it was

published by Shakespeare's fellow actors John Hemminges and Henry Condell in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death.

SYNOPSIS

Bosom buddies, Valentine and Proteus, make their way from Verona to Milan. Valentine's father is sending him to take a position in the Duke of Milan's court, and Proteus follows him reluctantly, not wanting to leave his beloved Julia. While in Milan, both men fall madly in love with the Duke's daughter, Silvia, who is betrothed to Thurio, a wealthy courtier. Through a series of betrayals, Valentine is banished, Silvia is jailed, and Proteus becomes a confidant of the Duke as he pursues the still unavailable Silvia. Meanwhile, Valentine joins a band of outlaws and Julia disguises herself as a pageboy, intending to search for Proteus and win him back.

TICKETS

Tickets for the Syracuse University Department of Drama's production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students and seniors. \$7 rush tickets are available at the door, one hour before curtain. Wednesday, February 24 is "Pay What You Can Night" for valid SU ID holders. For tickets and more information, contact the Department of Drama box office at 315-443-3275 or visit <http://vpa.syr.edu/drama>.

PLAYWRIGHT

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's preeminent dramatist. His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Most of his known work was produced between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, considered some of the finest works in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights. Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright in his own day, but his reputation did not rise to its present heights until the nineteenth century. The Romantics, in particular, acclaimed Shakespeare's genius, and the Victorians worshipped Shakespeare with a reverence that George Bernard Shaw called "bardolatry". His plays remain highly popular today and are constantly studied, performed and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.

ARTISTIC

Elizabeth Ingram (*Director*) is an associate professor of Acting in the Department of Drama, a Designated Linklater Voice Teacher, and Schubert Chair. Elizabeth has directed *The Greeks*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Le Misanthrope*, *Blood Wedding* and *Rookery Nook* for the Department of Drama. For many years she was an actress in England appearing in the West End Theatre, leading repertory theatres in England and Scotland, and television. In the USA she has acted in modern and classical plays at Syracuse Stage, Actors

Theatre of Louisville, The Women's Theatre, and Shakespeare & Company. Elizabeth especially enjoys playing roles in Shakespeare's plays, in which she has performed in 12 different productions.

Nathan Hurwitz (*Composer/Arranger*) joined the SU Department of Drama faculty in 2006 after a lengthy career as a conductor/arranger. With a BFA from NYU, an MA from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Hurwitz has studied acting (Stella Adler), directing (Jack Garfein), and conducting/orchestration (Lehman Engel). Broadway credits include: *Blood Brothers*, *Dream* and *Phantom of the Opera*. International productions include: *Phantom*, *West Side Story* and *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. National tours include: *Blood Brothers*, *Company*, *The Who's Tommy* and *Annie*. Regional work includes: The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre and The Pittsburgh Public Theatre. For the Department of Drama, Nathan has musical directed *Urinetown*, *Little Women*, *My One and Only*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Steel Pier* and *Oklahoma!* He has directed and musical directed *Lucky Stiff* and *The World Goes Round*. For Syracuse Stage, Nathan has musical directed *A Christmas Carol* and *Menopause: The Musical*, and he appeared as the Rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Later this season, Nathan will be the musical director for *I Love You Because*.

David Wanstreet (*Choreographer - Milan Dance*) is an assistant professor in the Department of Drama, teaching Dance in the Musical Theatre program. His past SU productions as choreographer/director include *Steel Pier*, *My One and Only*, *Chicago*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Damn Yankees* and *Anything Goes*.

Felix Ivanov (*Fight Choreographer*) choreographed the combat, movement and character dance scenes for over three hundred Russian drama and puppet theatres, motion pictures and television. His stage movement and combat choreography has also been seen at many American venues including The Acting Company, Lincoln Center Theatre, The Metropolitan Opera, New York Theatre Workshop, The Wooster Group, Pearl Theatre, Cherry Lane Theatre, Soho Repertory Theatre, Soho Playhouse, Guthrie Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Festival in Cleveland, and The Shakespeare Theatre in the Washington, D.C. Presently, Felix is an assistant professor in the Department of Drama. He has previously taught at The Juilliard School, The Actors Center, Brooklyn College, SUNY Purchase, Rutgers University, The Hartt School, and The North Carolina School of the Arts. He is a graduate of the prestigious Schukin Theatre School at the Vakhtangov Academy Theatre and the Stasov Musical School (violin) in Moscow, Russia.

Malcolm Ingram (*Voice & Dialect Coach*) teaches voice and acting in the Department of Drama, where he has previous directed *The Way of the World*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Henry V*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Maid's Tragedy*, *Our Country's Good*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *Sir Patient Fancy*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Malcolm is also an actor with a long career in the U.K. as well as many professional productions in this country. Recent appearances include Mr. Laurence in *Little Women* at Syracuse Stage, a Narrator in a *Beyond the Score* presentation of *Pictures at an Exhibition* with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and three roles in *Pinter's Mirror* (three one-act plays by Harold Pinter) at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA.

CAST

Rachel Baker (*Pantina/Outlaw*) is a senior from Northbrook, IL. Recent credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma-Sarah), *Rabbit Hole* (Nat), *The Chris and Alex Show* (Chris), *I Sing* (Pepper), *The Bird and the Two Ton Weight*, and her one-woman cabaret *The Baker's Life*.

Jon Baldauf (*Eglamour/Court Dancer*) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Marion, OH. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he performed in *Chicago*, *Cymbeline*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He was last seen in SU drama's *Oklahoma!*

Farasha Baylock (*Lucetta/Court Dancer/Musician*) is a sophomore Acting major who hails from New York City. In the past year she appeared in *Fables* and *The General of Hot Desire*. She is also a poet and one-half of music's duo "The Fly".

Sean Coyle (*Court Dancer/Outlaw*) is a sophomore Acting major from Collingswood, NJ. Credits: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Dentist), *Into the Woods* (Wolf/Rapunzel's Prince), *Pirates of Penzance* (Samuel), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Tito), *Romeo & Juliet* (Benvolio). SU credits: *Fables* (Ensemble) and *Zastrozzi* (Bernardo).

Mara Dale (*Court Dancer/Musician*) is a sophomore Acting major. She was last seen in *Tales of Whimsy* and *Fables*.

Sammi Lappin (*Julia*) is a junior Acting major from Boston, MA. Previous SU credits include: *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (Van's Sister), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne understudy) and *Keep Your Eyes on Your Own Paper* (Phoebe). Other favorite credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *Metamorphoses* (Myrrha) and *The Heidi Chronicles* (Susan).

Kenny Metzger (*Valentine*) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Trumbull, CT. Previously he appeared in *Oklahoma!* (SU Drama), *The Man Who* (Black Box Players), *I Love Him* (SU Drama's 2009 New Playwrights Festival), and *Rocky Horror* (Starving Artists).

Shawn C. Nabors (*Court Dancer/Outlaw*) is a sophomore Acting major from Brooklyn, NY. He was recently seen in *Fables* directed by Felix Ivanoff, and as Adam/Solomon in *The General of Hot Desire* directed by Kristin Kelly.

Justin Nichols (*Speed*) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Tewksbury, MA. Previous SU credits include Ike Skidmore in *Oklahoma!*, Walker in *Steel Pier*, John in *The Way of the World*, and an understudy for *The World Goes Round*. Other favorite roles include Japer in *Edwin Drood* (Lyric Stage Company), Jaime in *The Last 5 Years* (Sippican Harbor Productions), and a moose in *Core C: The Musical*.

Carlos Palencia Junior (*Thurio*) is a senior Acting major. He was last seen as Robert in *A Case of Anxiety* as part of *Tales of Whimsy*, the fall one-acts directed by Tim Davis-Reed. Other Syracuse credits include: Vittorio in *Servant of Two Masters*, Protagonist in Beckett's *Catastrophe*, Omar in *Real(ity) Life* (SU's New Playwright's Festival), *365 Days/365 Plays*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Later this spring, Carlos will appear as Steve in *Duke's Family*, a senior thesis film for SU's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Alanna Sophia Rogers (*Ursula/Court Dancer/Outlaw*) is a junior Acting major from Chicago, IL. She recently appeared in *As You Like It* at the Globe Theatre in London. Other credits include Mavis in *The Rimers of Eldritch* (SU Drama), Kate in *Ribcage* (Black Box Theatre), Peg in *Bobrauschenbergamerica* (Northwestern University), and Undah in *A Little More Pesto, Please*

(Wilmette Community Theatre). Alanna is also a novice playwright, and her play *The Fraying Persian* was chosen for SU Drama's 2009 New Playwrights Festival.

Jon Schoss (*Lance*) is a junior Acting major from Ossining, NY making his SU Drama debut. Last semester Jon studied at the Globe Theatre in London. Previous credits include Jake Keefe's *Keep Your Eyes On Your Own Paper*, *Post Comment* (2009 New Playwright's Festival), and the role of Cakes in *Riddler's Corner*.

Jordan Hunter Siegel (*Antonio/Outlaw*) is a junior Acting major from Lincolnshire, IL. He was a member of Piven Theatre's Young People's Company. Syracuse credits include Sidney in *Where's My Money* and C.R. Pig in *Disco Pigs*, both with Black Box Players. He recently performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Danny Skinner (*The Duke*) is a junior Acting major from Dallas, TX. His SU credits include Howard in *Boy Gets Girl*, Dad/Roger/Jim/ Buddhist Priest in *The Water Children*, and Ensemble Member in *The Fever*. He performed the role of Oliver in *As You Like It* at the Globe Theatre in London. At Dallas Shakespeare Festival he performed as the Man in *Green Show*, and as the Nurse and Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet: A Short*.

Liz Tancredi (*Silvia*) is a junior Acting major recently returned from a semester at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London where she performed in *As You Like It*. Past roles include Cora Groves in *The Rimers of Eldritch* (SU Drama), Herself in the original piece *Little Person*, and Emma in *...Or Forever Hold Your Peace* (SU's 2009 New Playwright's Festival).

Jasmine Thomas (*The Hostess/Court Dancer/Outlaw*) is a sophomore Acting major from Baltimore, MD. Previous roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Shakespeare Factory Players, and she was recently seen in SU Drama's *The Bald Soprano* as Mary the maid.

Luke Wygodny (*Proteus*) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Chicago. Past roles include understudy for Peter in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Syracuse Stage), Matt in *Dog Sees* and Matt in *I Love Him* (Black Box Players), swing in *The Rimers of Eldritch* (SU Drama), John Proctor in *The Crucible* and Cinderella's Prince in *Into The Woods* (Deerfield High School). Luke is also a singer/songwriter and just finished his EP: *Collecting Sea Glass*.

www.myspace.com/lukearonywygodny

CANINE

Zinger McArdle (*Crab*) leaped at the chance to sink his teeth into the meaty role of Crab, the only canine role in Shakespeare's canon. A 9-year-old Border Terrier from Camillus, Zinger was last seen as Toto in the Syracuse Stage production of *The Wizard of Oz*. In his younger days, he participated in the canine sports of agility and obedience, but now he finds a nap on the couch with Dad, a tennis-ball toss with Mom, and a few laps around the backyard more to his liking. Zinger also enjoys volunteer work for Sunshine Friends, Inc., an organization that provides animal-assisted therapy and activities to nursing homes and other facilities. He thanks SU Drama for this incredible opportunity to meet new friends and to feel the thrill of the stage under his paws once again. Zinger sorely misses his brother Dan—now away at college, who "brought [him] up as a puppy"—and he dedicates this performance to him.

DESIGNERS & STAGE MANAGER

Seurkee Cho (*Scenic Designer*) is a senior scenic and lighting designer from South Korea. Past credits include assistant set designer for *The Rimers of Eldritch* and assistant set designer for *The World Goes Round*.

Bethany Post (*Costume Designer*) is a senior dual-majoring in Theatre Design/Technology and Psychology from Belmont, MA. Previous credits include assistant costume design for *Steel Pier* (SU Drama), assistant scenic design for *Arabian Nights* (SU Drama), and assistant costumer/wardrobe mistress for the 2008 season at the Theatre at Monmouth.

Robin Dill (*Lighting Designer*) is a senior from Walnut Creek, CA dual-majoring in Theatre Design/Technology and Mechanical Engineering. Recently he designed lighting for *Aesop's Fables*, a collaboratively-created piece directed by Felix Ivanov, and *The Bird and the Two Ton Weight* written by Darcy Fowler and directed by Brian Nocella, an SU Abroad production performed in Lockerbie, Scotland as well as London, England in the Spring of 2009. Additional credits include lighting assistant for *The World Goes Round* and *Arabian Nights*, and he served as master electrician for the Black Box Players for their 07/08 season.

David Huber (*Sound Designer*) is delighted to be back for his second season at Syracuse Stage as the assistant audio engineer. He has designed for Swine Palace Productions, Hangar Theatre Lab Company, SU, the Syracuse Stage Children's Tour, and, most recently, Cortland Repertory Theatre. Design credits include *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, *Home*, *1000 Cranes*, *Speak Truth to Power*, *Marisol*, *The Possibilities*, *Tell it Underwater*, and assistant designer for *Hair* at Swine Palace, *Steel Pier* at SU, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at the Hangar Theatre.

Kayliane Burns (*Stage Manager*) is a senior stage management major from Syracuse, NY. Her previous credits include assistant stage manager for *Rookery Nook* (SU Drama), stage management intern for *Fiddler on the Roof* (Syracuse Stage), stage manager for *Women and Wallace* (Black Box Players), assistant stage manager for *Steel Pier* (SU Drama), and stage manager for *The Song from the Sea* (the 2009 Syracuse Stage Children's Tour). She also assisted for many years with Salt City Center for the Performing Arts.

Sarah Oziemkowski (*Projection Designer*)

VPA AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

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Directed by Elizabeth Ingram

Music Composed and Arranged by Nathan Hurwitz

Choreography by David Wanstreet

Fight Choreography by Felix Ivanov

Voice & Dialect Coaching by Malcolm Ingram

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February 19 - 8 p.m.

February 20 - 8 p.m.

February 21 - 2 p.m.

February 24 - 8 p.m.

February 25 - 8 p.m.
February 26 - 8 p.m.
February 27 - 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
February 28 - 2 p.m.

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