Shakesperience
RIDER UNIVERSITY

The 12th Annual Shakesperience at Rider University, a festival of learning and Shakespearean performance for secondary school students

May 21 & May 22, 2018
The Yvonne Theater
Welcome to the 12th Annual Shakesperience at Rider

where we continue our tradition of serious fun and celebration of Shakespeare. The festival purpose is to explore and interpret text—and Shakespeare’s texts especially—in rehearsed and spontaneous ways, in small groups and large, with familiar friends and with new ones. Not a drama competition, the featured Shakespearean performances are prepared and presented by secondary students from across the region for the festival. The premise of the festival is that the best way to learn is through hands-on engagement; in this case, to perform Shakespeare is to understand Shakespeare. The very name of the festival combines Shakespeare + experience.

As a prelude to the afternoon Shakespearean performances, we have created a feast of morning workshop experiences intended to be as educative as they are entertaining. Enjoy this day as you revel in each other’s intelligence, talent, and company!

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Special thanks to

Janssen Pharmaceuticals for their generous support of Shakesperience

Additional Thanks to

Dean Sharon Sherman, College of Education & Human Services

The Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, & Counseling

Colleen Martin and Gail Turner

All the teachers, administrators, and parents who support their students’ Shakesperience

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Shakesperience at Rider

may take and use digital images of festival performances and activities for educational and promotional purposes only.

www.rider.edu/shakesperience
(for festival photos and updates)
WHO'S WHO

MISTRESS OF THE REVELS & TEACHING ARTIST
Cam Magee

graduated from The Catholic University with an idea to spend her life with Shakespeare. Washington, DC has given her that opportunity as an actor, teaching artist, and dramaturge. Shakespeare has given her the opportunity to host many Shakespeare festivals. Cam is a teaching artist at the Folger Shakespeare Library (35 seasons) and was a teaching artist with Ford’s Theatre (7 seasons). At the Folger, she hosts the Secondary School Shakespeare Festival in Washington, DC. She is also a company member of Shakespeare For The Young that is dedicated to bringing Shakespeare's stories and poetry to very young audiences through the medium of puppets. Cam has worked as an actor at Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Folger Theatre, Source Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, WSC/Avant Bard, Rorschach Theatre, and the Washington Stage Guild for which she received a Helen Hayes nomination for Mrs. Cheveley in An Ideal Husband. Last season, she appeared as the Angel Islington in Neil Gaiman’s Neverwhere at Rorschach Theatre and Gloucester in King Lear at WSC/Avant Bard. She is currently in rehearsal for The Tempest at WSC/Avant Bard.

Dramaturgical credits include The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth, The Tempest, Hamlet, Much Ado about Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, The Merchant of Venice for The Folger Theatre; King John, Richard III, Edward III, Titus Andronicus, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Antony and Cleopatra, As You Like It, Measure for Measure, Troilus and Cressida, The Taming of the Shrew, Pericles, Twelfth Night, and Cymbeline for WSC/Avant Bard; and Julius Caesar at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore, MD. Cam leads the festival’s Shakespeare Aloud Workshop and hosts the 12th Annual Shakesperience at Rider for the twelfth time.

THEATER & TECHNICAL MANAGER
Gabi Bazinet

is a Senior Musical Theatre BFA and Technical Theatre BA double major at Rider University. Recent stage management credits include Bonnie & Clyde, Die Fledermaus, Live from Lawrenceville: Saturday Night Live, She Plays the River, Upon the Shoulders We Stand, Once On This Island, and Of Thee I Sing; upcoming in Fall 2018, she will be working on Oklahoma. Gabi is the recent winner of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Stage Management award.

COMMENTATOR
Trent Blanton

is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Rider University. A proud active member of Actor's Equity and the Society of Directors and Choreographers, Trent's professional acting credits include: Young Frankenstein, La Cage Aux Folles at Forestburgh Playhouse where he is also an Associate Artist and Resident Director. Acting credits additionally include: The Gun Show, The Goldilocks Zone, and Slippery as Sin (Passage Theatre Company); A Christmas Carol (Actors Theatre of Louisville), 1776 (Ford’s Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera); Fiddler on the Roof (Starlight Musicals of Kansas City & The MUNY of St. Louis); A Christmas Carol, Romeo & Juliet (Alliance Theatre); A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew (Georgia Shakespeare); and Masada (York Theatre NYC). Trent played virtually every major city in North America in the Broadway National Tour of Les Miserables and appeared in the Chinese premiere with Colm Wilkinson at the Shanghai Grand Theatre. Recent directing credits include A Murder is Announced, Oliver!, To Kill a Mockingbird, Baskerville, and Crazy for You (Forestburgh Playhouse); Falstaff (Westminster Opera Theatre); and Once on This Island, She Kills Monsters, and The Theory of Relativity at Rider.

For his direction of Rider's productions of The Crucible and Metamorphoses, Trent received an award for excellence in Directing from the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. Trent holds an MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic University where he was the recipient of the Joshua Logan Fellowship and a certificate in the practical study of the Michael Chekhov Technique with the Michael Chekhov Association.
**Festival Manager**

John Dalesandro

is a 2004 graduate of Rider University with a BA in English and Secondary Education. He is currently enjoying his fourteenth year as a seventh-grade language arts teacher in the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District where the work of William Shakespeare is alive and well in his classroom! John has appeared in and directed numerous stage productions. Some of his favorites include: Carousel, Kiss Me Kate, Into the Woods, Godspell, Arsenic and Old Lace, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. John is excited to return to his alma mater for the twelfth time as a part of Shakesperience!

**Combat Choreographer & Teaching Artist**

Christopher Guild

is very pleased to have this opportunity to share his stage combat experience with others. He has been involved in stage combat for over 20 years and has choreographed hundreds of fights for the stage and film, everything from single fights with 2 combatants to full scale battles of up to 100 combatants. He has choreographed the fight scenes for McCarter Theatre’s Summer Shakespeare performances of Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet. He was the Assistant Fight Director for a production of Henry V at the American Globe Theater in NYC as well as being the Assistant Fight Director/Fight Captain for over 15 years at the NJ Renaissance Kingdom and has choreographed numerous fights for the Bucks County Renaissance Faire. Other fight choreography experience includes stage performances of Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, and independent films Hal (Henry IV, Parts I & 2) and Camelot Legends. In addition to choreographing, Chris has performed in over 1500 staged combats using both hand-to-hand techniques and a variety of weapon types.

**Commentator & Teaching Artist**

Christopher Parks

is the Artistic Director of The Experiential Theater Company, which brings immersive, interactive theater to young audiences throughout the United States, Ireland, and United Kingdom. A playwright and director, Christopher has created Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) plays for Florida Repertory Theatre, Children’s Theatre of Charlotte, Long Island Children’s Museum, Hangar Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, Trike Theatre, Rose Bruford College, Rider University, Young Audiences of New Jersey, Cleveland Playhouse, and the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom. A prolific Shakespearean director, Christopher’s credits include: A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, As You Like It, Winter’s Tale, Othello, and the film Hal (an adaptation of Henry IV, parts I and II) for Muse of Fire Films. In April of 2017, Christopher directed The Tempest here at Rider University. He is a graduate of Mason Gross, School of the Arts at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

**Festival Director**

Kathleen Pierce

founded Shakesperience at Rider in 2007. Before joining the Rider University faculty in the Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, she taught high school English and college writing for over 20 years in New Jersey, California, and New Hampshire. With a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and a master’s in English Education from Rutgers, she currently works in Rider’s Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification and Master of Arts in Teaching programs in the College of Education and Human Services. In addition to working with beginning teachers in their preparation programs, she supervises English language arts student teachers in middle and high school clinical experiences and practice throughout the region. She thanks the friends, teachers, students, and talented university colleagues who graciously and magically create Shakesperience each year.
**TEACHING ARTIST**

**Terry Pertuit**

is an Assistant Professor in Rider’s Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling. Prior to joining the Rider faculty, she was a high school band director and pit musician for various musical performances including *Pippin*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Annie*. She helped create a thriving Upward Bound Program for at-risk adolescents incorporating music, dance, and art curriculum. A native of New Orleans, LA, she is an avid musician with a background in Instrumental Music Education as well as dedicated focus on creativity in counseling. She received her master’s degree in Community Counseling from Southeastern Louisiana University and earned her doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision from The Pennsylvania State University. This is Terry’s fourth year as Teaching Artist leading the Body Percussion Workshop at Shakesperience.

**COMMENTATOR**

**Rebecca Simon**

teaches voice, speech and acting at Rider University where she is the resident voice and text coach. She directed the cabaret, *The Human Heart* and this spring’s mainstage production of *Heathers: The Musical*. She served as the vocal coach for the McCarter Theatre Company’s production of *The White Snake* directed by Tony Award winner Mary Zimmerman. In addition, she is a voice and dialect coach for the Forestburgh Playhouse, Bristol Riverside Theatre, George Street Playhouse, and at Princeton area schools. She is a resident teaching artist for the McCarter Theatre education programs. Rebecca is a proud member of Actor’s Equity. Acting credits include the Broadway National Tours of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Theodore Bikel and *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* starring Michael Bolton. She also toured with The Trans-Siberian Orchestra as a vocalist. New York credits include *Masada* at the York Theatre, *Boulevard X* at Raw Space, *Piper’s Song* at the Gene Frankel Theatre, and *Alcestis* and *Salome*, both with the NYU Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. Regional credits include *The Addams Family*, *Young Frankenstein*, *A Murder is Announced*, and *La Cage Aux Folles* (Forestburgh Playhouse), *Sweet Charity* (Aurora Theatre), and *Les Miserables* (Actors Playhouse). Other directing credits include *Shout! The Mod Musical* for Forestburgh Playhouse. She holds an MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic and a certification in the Colaianni Speech Technique. Rebecca maintains a private voice studio in Pennington where she teaches singing and professional audition technique.

**TEACHING ARTIST**

**Timothy Urban**

holds graduate degrees in voice and recorder performance and early music performance practice as well as a PhD in musicology. He has performed in solo and chamber recitals as both singer and instrumentalist in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Brazil, Austria and Hungary as well as on both coasts of the United States. While on a Fulbright scholarship in Hungary, he performed extensively with the Kecskeméti Renaissance Consort. Dr. Urban is an adjunct assistant professor at both Westminster Choir College of Rider University and Mason Gross School of the Arts, the arts conservatory of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.
Deepest Appreciation to
SHAKESPERIENCE DOCENTS & TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Apama Chowdry

Wendy Davies

Cary Haliburton

Stephen Hodge

Shawn Kennedy

Francesca Massari

Darlene Tirona

About Shakesperience...

Purpose and Structure
The purpose in preparing festival performance is to interpret and explore Shakespeare’s
text and students’ ideas. The purpose of festival itself is to promote learning among
artists and students through language and theater arts.

Rules for Performance
• Prepare and perform one scene or scenes from any of Shakespeare’s plays within
  20 minutes.
• Freely and originally interpret Shakespeare, but do not alter his words. Cut
  passages from text, but do not adapt text in any way or use modern language. Use
  brief modern English “bridges” if necessary.
• Focus on fidelity to Shakespeare and his words. Limit dependence on costumes,
  props, and technical support.
Monday,
May 21, 2018
“Love is Out for the Count” is a compilation of some of our favorite Shakespeare stage fights all tied together by a central theme: the violence of love. In *Romeo and Juliet*, the feud between the Montagues and Capulets is ended by the love between their children. In *Taming of the Shrew*, two sisters who are polar opposites of each other fight for and against marriage. In *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a quartet of teenagers fight for the illusion of love. Each of these shows demonstrate the duality of love and hate.

**Director** - Jordyn David  
**Stage Manager** - Jacob Katz  
**Fight Choreographer** - Rob Aronowitz  
**Faculty Advisors** - Nicole Alagar and Alison Sussman

**Sampson** - Molly McKeown  
**Gregory** - Alyssa Basch  
**Abram, Katharina** - Laura Bradley  
**Balthasar** - Jack Cavanaugh-Gialloretto  
**Tybalt, Lysander** - James Cavanaugh-Gialloretto  
**Benvolio, Bianca** - Allie Brower  
**Capulet, Demetrius** - Tyler DiNinno  
**Lady Capulet** - Ava Malkin  
**Montague** - Shane Maher  
**Lady Montague** - Alexa Sautter  
**Townspeople** - Aashmi Mathew, Gabriela Natale, Abby Gafgen  
**Baptista** - Cara Pergament  
**Hermia** - Lilli Brown  
**Helena** - Alexa Goyden
The Bard and the Bears

As You Like It

Manalapan-Englishtown Middle School
Manalapan, New Jersey
Monday, May 21, 2018

Director: Ms. Kaitlin Losito

Student Directors/
Prop Masters
Jomana Hafez
Rylee Sullivan
Caitlin Sobel

Cast (In order of appearance)

Orlando Gianni Romano
Adam Zara McRae
Oliver Casey Dobbins
Celia Esha Surana
Rosalind Emma Barone
Touchstone Frank Somma
Le Beau Jamison Sevilla
Coach Frederick Mathura Balaji
Charles Olivia Militello
Duke Senior Fallon O'Connell
Amiens Mackenzie Sullivan
First Lorde Jamison Sevilla
Jacques Mathura Balaji
The Neptune High School Shakespeare Uncavelers Present

Macbeth: The Murder of a King

(At rise: The scene is post-apocalyptic Scotland. Tribes have sprung up throughout the land, each under the command of a king. Men and women are camped out trying to get warm, find food, bandage wounds and protect themselves. Sentinels stand watch looking for signs of enemy tribesmen.)

Synopsis: The scene opens with three witches conjuring a spell around a fiery cauldron. They have the curse to see the darkness lurking in the hearts of men. They gather to wait for Macbeth, an ambitious general, who is just returning from the battlefield. His friend and fellow general Banquo accompanies him. The witches hail Macbeth and prophesize that he will not only become Thane of Cawdor but also King. Once Macbeth hears the witches’ prophecy, his desire for power swells, and a murderous vision seeps into his thoughts.

Soon after, Macbeth realizes the first part of the witches’ prediction when two messengers tell him that King Duncan has honored him for his service as the new Thane of Cawdor. As the prophecy unfolds, the seeds of ambition flourish and Macbeth, encouraged by his wife, the Lady Macbeth, plot and carry out the bloody murder of the good king.

Cast of Characters:

Witch 1 ........................................ Meredith Kuster
Witch 2 ........................................ Miloura Michel
Witch 3 ........................................ D’Aja Jones
Macbeth ........................................ Michael Aron
Banquo ........................................ Kenyatte Jay
Ross ............................................. Joanna Cheriza
Angus .......................................... Monique Tavarez
Duncan .......................................... Christopher Kuster
Malcolm ....................................... Miloura Michel
Lady Macbeth ................................ Sariyah Rosario
Macduff ........................................ Philippe Basinang
Porter .......................................... Kenyatte Jay
Lennox ......................................... Miloura Michel
Donalbain ..................................... Laila Wright
Duncan’s Men: Trevor Jones, Joanna Cheriza

Directed by: Jeff Eirich
Advisor: Rosemarie Dwyer
Missing Mothers in Shakespeare

What happens when a mother cannot be with her child? Does a father replace a mother?

Presented by the Cumberland Regional Drama Guild
Directed by Elisabeth Campbell

1.1 The Winter’s Tale

Hermione (mother) – Abigail Elwell
Mamillius – Amethyst Post
First Lady – Geneva Canion
Second Lady – Jaime Heath
Third Lady – Rebecca Wax
Leontes – Chris Cline

1.2 King Lear

King Lear – Eric Chu
Goneril, his daughter – Krista Cline
Regan, his daughter – Elesia Melendez
Cordelia, his daughter – Alison Burke
Albany, Goneril’s husband – Xander Post
Cornwall, Regan’s husband – J’Quan Myers
Burgundy, suitor for Cordelia – Andrew Cuff
King of France, suitor for Cordelia – Max Tucker
MOTHER – Malina Chappius

1.3 Othello

Duke of Venice – Ethan Coombs
Othello – Lawrance Stephenson
Brabantio, Desdemona’s father – Jeffrey Horsman
Desdemona – Danika Blackburn
MOTHER – Brooklyn Richmond

1.4 A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Egeus, Hermia’s father – Xander Post
Theseus, duke – Ryan Nichols
Demetrius, suitor for Hermia – Zach Sloboda
Lysander, suitor for Hermia – Brooklyn Richmond
Hermia – Rebecca Wax
MOTHER – Amethyst Post

Epilogue: The Winter’s Tale

Hermione (mother) – Abigail Elwell
First Lady – Geneva Canion
Second Lady – Jaime Heath
Third Lady – Rebecca Wax
Leontes – Chris Cline
Paulina – Malina Chappius
Tuesday,
May 21, 2018
The Hilltoppers of
St. Mary of the Assumption H.S. Elizabeth NJ

Present

Shakespeare's Comedy Central

Comedy of Errors Act III, scene 2

Antipholus of Syracuse: Chesania Valery

Dromio of Syracuse: Brandon Kent

Merry Wives of Windsor Act IV, scene 2

Falstaff: Imani Jackson

Mistress Ford: Ana Ferreira

Mistress Page: Alanii Rodriguez

Romeo and Juliet Act II, scene 5

Juliet: Sheydline Moise

Nurse: Chesania Valery

Director — Ana Ferreira
Moderator — Kathleen Cirillo
MAD.

(To Be or Not To Be Mentally Ill)
Conceived By: TCHS Aesthetics Theatre Company
Adapted and Directed By: Christina Forshey

Cast:
HAMLET- Tiana Howard
OPHELIA- Bryanna Martinez-Jimenez
MACBETH- Pauline Ammons
LADY MACBETH- Kirsten Maldonado
STEVE HARVEY/JUDGE JUDY- Teyani Carmichael
Doctor- Kashmira Spotwood
Gentlewoman- Nazira Goldware
Announcer- Mark Parker
Claudius- Kidnatiel Perez-Vargas
Gertrude- Ranai Morgan
Banquo- Lavonnaia Ellis
Ensemble- Naiym McCleese, Jabre Miner, Anthony Rodriguez, Kayla Perez, Mariam Shehzad, Tyanna Spalding, Ayouba Swaray, Natalie Torres

Stage Crew: Ziquway Covington, Nyzair Russell, Beyonka Watson

Do you need help?
1-888-222-2228- 24 hour confidential and anonymous helpline for youth and young adults (also known as 2nd Floor);
www.2ndfloor.org
Hopewell Valley Central High School

presents

Hamlette:
Fathers & Daughters
Mothers & Sons

Cast in order of Appearance

Queen Claudia - Maeve Merzena
Hamlette - Julia Immordino
King Gerald - Paul Frank
Polonia - Gurmehar Kaur
Ophelio/Ghost of Queen Hamlette - Mali Dun
Stage Manager - Madeline Carleton
Graphic Design - Paul Frank
Faculty Advisor - Tery Soloman
Monday: May 21, 2018
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 Meet Festival Manager, stow gear, review plans backstage. Deliver signed forms.
Workshops 8:30
- English Country Dancing
  Timothy Urban
- Body Percussion
  Terry Perteit
- Acting with Intent
  Christopher Parks
- Combat Choreography
  Christopher Guild
- Shakespeare Aloud
  Cam Magee

LUNCH 11:00-11:45

Performances
12:00-12:30
Robbinsville High School Raven Players, Robbinsville, NJ: Love Is Out for the Count
12:30-1:00
The Bard and the Bears of Manalapan-Englishtown Middle School, Manalapan, NJ: As You Like It
1:00-1:30
Neptune High School, Neptune, NJ: Macbeth: The Murder of a King
1:30-2:00
Cumberland Regional High School Drama Guild, Bridgeton, NJ: Missing Mothers in Shakespeare
2:00-2:30
The Mistress of the Revels
2:30-3:00
Feedback/T-Shirt Distribution
3:00-3:30
Performance Commentary and Commendations:
Trent Blanton, Christopher Parks, Rebecca Simon

Tuesday: May 22, 2018
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 Meet Festival Manager, stow gear, review plans backstage. Deliver signed forms.
Workshops 8:30
- English Country Dancing
  Timothy Urban
- Body Percussion
  Terry Perteit
- Acting with Intent
  Christopher Parks
- Combat Choreography
  Christopher Guild
- Shakespeare Aloud
  Cam Magee

LUNCH 11:00-11:45

Performances
12:00-12:30
St. Mary of the Assumption High School Hilltoppers, Elizabeth, NJ: Shakespeare’s Comedy Central
12:30-1:00
Trenton Central High School’s Aesthetics Theatre Company
Trenton, NJ: MAD. (To Be or Not to Be Mentally Ill)
1:00-1:30
Hopewell Valley Central High School, Pennington, NJ: Hamlette: Fathers and Daughters, Mothers and Sons
1:30-2:00
The Mistress of the Revels
2:00-2:30
Feedback/T-Shirt Distribution
2:30-3:00
Performance Commentary and Commendations:
Trent Blanton, Christopher Parks, Rebecca Simon