



# Shakesperience



The 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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*, *Anthony 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 1 & 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.

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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 Colaiani 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 Kecskemeti 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

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### 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





Robbinsville High School  
Raven Players present  
**Love is Out  
for the Count**



*“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-Gialloreto

**Tybalt, Lysander** - James Cavanaugh-Gialloreto

**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  
Monday, May 21, 2018

Manalapan, New Jersey

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 Unravelers 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:** Sheydlina 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**- Lavonnia 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](http://www.2ndfloor.org)



@tornadodrama

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

Ophelia/Ghost of Queen Hamlette - Mali Dun

Stage Manager - Madeline Carleton

Graphic Design - Paul Frank

Faculty Advisor - Terry Solomon

# Shakespeare Experience

Yvonne Theater  
Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ

## 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 Pertuit*
- ↻ **Acting with Intent**  
*Christopher Parks*
- ↻ **Combat Choreography**  
*Christopher Guild*
- ↻ **Shakespeare Aloud**  
*Cam Magee*

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### LUNCH

11:00–11:45

CONCEPTS & CHOICES: Student spokespersons briefly explain concepts and choices shaping group's upcoming performance.

### 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 Pertuit*
- ↻ **Acting with Intent**  
*Christopher Parks*
- ↻ **Combat Choreography**  
*Christopher Guild*
- ↻ **Shakespeare Aloud**  
*Cam Magee*

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### LUNCH

11:00–11:45

CONCEPTS & CHOICES: Student spokespersons briefly explain concepts and choices shaping group's upcoming performance.

### 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