



actors'
shakespeare
project

Christopher V. Edwards, *Artistic Director*
Jennifer Babcock Davis, *Managing Director*
Lindsay Williams, *Director of Education*

YOUTH PERFORMANCE PROJECT 2024

JULIUS CAESAR

BY William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY Emily Thibodeau

MAY 2-4



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CAST

In alphabetical order

August Ehrlich – Julius Caesar, Lucius, Octavius Caesar, Citizen

Julian Ehrlich – Cicero, Metellus Cimber, Messala, Citizen

Akamas Habash – Cassius, Marullus, Cinna the Poet, Citizen

Nia Kyte-Zable – Brutus, Calpurnia, Cobbler, Citizen

Jay Nina – Casca, Flavius, Soothsayer, Titinius, Citizen

Trevor Pyne – Mark Antony, Artemidorus, Citizen

Elias Tesfaye – Decius Brutus, Carpenter, Lucilius, Citizen

CREATIVE TEAM

Emily Thibodeau – Director; Set and Prop Design; Sound Design

Ariana Teixeira – Assistant Director; Stage Manager

Charlotte Stowe – Costume Design

Steve Vieira – Lighting Design

Grey Rung – Production Assistant

Jules Talbot – Graphic Design

*"How many ages hence / Shall this our lofty scene be acted over /
In states unborn and accents yet unknown!" - Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1*

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Julius Caesar, returning victorious to Rome from foreign wars, is escorted to the Capitol by enthusiastic citizens for a public celebration. On the way, he is warned by a **Soothsayer** to "beware the Ides of March." At the celebration, the citizens, through **Mark Antony**, offer Caesar the crown. Three times he refuses.

However, a group of conspirators, headed by **Cassius**, is disturbed by the power Caesar has gained and the idea that he might seize total power. To help their cause, they attempt to persuade **Brutus**, a good friend of Caesar and a man well-known for his honesty, that the welfare of Rome demands Caesar's death.

That night, a tormented Brutus debates with himself whether to join the conspiracy. His fear that Rome may lose its freedom wins out over his admiration for Caesar, and at last he agrees to join with Cassius and the others to assassinate Caesar the next day, inflaming the citizens of Rome and inciting a chain of events that lead to civil war.



OUR PRODUCTION

When I first approached Emily, our fearless director for the Winter-Spring youth production, about a potential title, *Julius Caesar* quickly bubbled to the surface. Outside of the obvious fun and challenge of fashioning togas and Roman columns on a shoestring budget, what would it mean to dive into this play with young people in an election year for our own country?

Months later, as we share this production with you, I am so proud of the incredible work that Emily, her assistant director Ariana, and our absolutely fierce band of seven actors have achieved. (Everything you experience in this production, from set, sound, and costumes to choreographed fights, was their collaborative effort ... no small feat!) And I am fascinated to see how you, our audience, experience the piece as active participants - a concept originally proposed by one of our youth ensemble members. There will be moments that you are recruited to share in a conspiratorial evening, or join a crowd of citizens whose emotions have reached a boiling point. In these moments, we invite you to pause and consider the very questions that lie at the heart of this tragedy: What does it mean to be an honorable citizen? How far would you go to do what you believe is right for your country? How easy is it to be swept into a mob mentality and lose your own moral compass?

I often wonder if Shakespeare could truly imagine for "how many ages hence" his work and these questions would endure. Thank you to a phenomenal cast and creative team, and to you our intrepid audience and co-conspirators, for the "lofty scene" that will unfold tonight.

Lindsay Williams, Director of Education



THANKS

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... and many individual donors.

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