



ASP Closes Out 2023-24 Season With ***Romeo & Juliet!***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 18, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Evan Turissini](#) - 781-552-1605

PRESS DATE: Sunday, May 12 at 2:00pm - [RSVP Here](#).

(BOSTON) – Actors' Shakespeare Project is proud to announce the final title in our 2023-24 Season, Shakespeare's ***Romeo & Juliet***. Directed by Marianna Bassham and presented in the Roberts Studio Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, ***Romeo & Juliet*** marks ASP's first production of the Bard's most well-known tragedy in over a decade.

Shakespeare's most famous duo return in a flurry of forbidden love, exhilarating fight scenes, and (spoiler alert) tragic fate. Brought to life by ASP Resident Artist Marianna Bassham's expert direction, this dynamic and vivid take on ***Romeo & Juliet*** will thrill even those who fell asleep reading it in Sophomore English class.

ASP has been working with Boston-area youth and teachers during this production to explore the themes of youth violence and alienation in the play, and how they can still ring true in 2024.

"The joy of ***Romeo and Juliet*** is knowing that every single audience member who enters the theatre will have some level of familiarity with the characters and the story," said ASP Artistic Director Christopher V. Edwards. "We're really looking forward to bringing this production to life in a way that honors this play's long and rich history, while refreshing some of the well-trodden passages and assumptions many productions can fall into."

Romeo & Juliet stars Evan Taylor and Chloe McFarlane as the titular star-crossed lovers, as well as Artistic Director Christopher V. Edwards making his ASP acting debut as Lord Capulet.

ASP Resident Artist Company members Esme Allen, Jesse Hinson, and Paula Plum are also featured, with Fernando Barbosa, Michael Broadhurst, Peter DiMaggio, Sandra Seoane-Serí, Jules Talbot, and Nicolas Zuluaga rounding out the cast.

The design team will feature Saskia Martínez (scenic/props), Lisa Coleman (costumes), Deb Sullivan (lighting), Abe Joyner-Meyers (sound), and Olivia Dumaine (intimacy). Lisette van den Boogaard is Production Stage Manager, and Jolie Frazer-Madge is Assistant Stage Manager.

Romeo & Juliet will run for four weeks, from May 10 - June 2, 2024 at the Roberts Studio Theatre at the Calderwood Pavilion (527 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116).

Tickets are \$59.50, with limited seating starting at \$20. Student tickets are \$25, available for any patron ages 25 and under. For more information, visit www.actorsshakespeareproject.org.

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ABOUT ACTORS' SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

Actors' Shakespeare Project is an award-winning professional theater company with a Resident Artist Company and extensive education, youth and community programs. ASP works and performs in found spaces, schools, and theaters in Boston neighborhoods. We present and explore the robust language, resonant stories, and deeply human characters in Shakespeare's plays and in other language-based contemporary playwrights. Our work is focused on intimacy, storytelling, language, relationships, voice, risk and artistry within and throughout the Boston area. For more information visit www.ActorsShakespeareProject.org.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Actors' Shakespeare Project deploys the creative energy of theatre artists and the power of language and stories to create shared experiences for our community. Our artistic productions and education programs challenge and interrogate long-held expectations about Shakespeare and classic work; build bridges between diverse viewpoints; and empower people to more deeply empathize with each other.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

MARIANNA BASSHAM (Director) is a Resident Artist with Actors' Shakespeare Project, where acting highlights include *Julius Caesar*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *God's Ear*, and *The Hotel Nepenthe*. Her directing credits include *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* and *Every Brilliant Thing* (SpeakEasy Stage Company). She has won Elliot Norton Awards for her work in *Blackbird* and *People, Places and Things*, also both at SpeakEasy, and has acted all over town since 2001, where highlights include *Twelfth Night* (Commonwealth Shakespeare), *Our Town* (The Huntington, directed by David Cromer) and *Constellations* (Central Square Theater). She teaches acting at Boston Conservatory at Berklee and coaches privately. www.MariannaBassham.com (she/her)

ABOUT THE CAST

ESME ALLEN* (Lady Capulet) is a Resident Artist with Actors' Shakespeare Project. **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *Much Ado About Nothing, The Cherry Orchard, Middletown, The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Regional: Hurricane Diane (The Huntington); *Gloria, Gloucester Blue, North Shore Fish* (Gloucester Stage Company); *Muckrakers, Elephant Man, Amadeus* (New Repertory Theatre), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Dog Paddle* (Bridge Repertory Theater), and *Coriolanus* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company). **Television:** *The Good Wife* (CBS). **Education:** MFA in Acting from The California Institute of the Arts. Esme teaches at Salem State University and Northshore Community College. (*she/her*)

FERNANDO BARBOSA (Friar Laurence/Ensemble). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** debut! **Regional:** *As You Like It* (Catskill Mountain Shakespeare); *Clue* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *The Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing* (Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare); *Peter and The Starcatcher* (Penobscot Theatre Company); *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Rochester Opera House); *Think of Me Tuesday, Native Gardens* (Gloucester Stage Company); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Hub Theatre Company), *All's Well that Ends Well, Cymbeline* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company). **Education:** BFA in Theatre Performance from Salem State University. (*he/him*)

MICHAEL BROADHURST* (Mercutio). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *The Taming of the Shrew*. **Off-Broadway:** *Life Sucks* (Wheelhouse Theatre Company); *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Animus Theatre); *Pride and Prejudice* (Primary Stages). **Regional:** *Gloria* (Gloucester Stage); *Treasure Island* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *The General From America, Twelfth Night, The Book of Will, As You Like It, Measure for Measure, and So Please You* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival). **Film/TV:** "Succession" (HBO), "Julia" (HBO), "The Holdovers" (Dir. Alexander Payne), "Minyan" (Dir. Eric Steele), as well as many commercials. Mike is a founding member of The Living Room Theatre Company in Vermont where he has appeared in many productions, including *The Cherry Orchard, Exit The King, and The Seagull*, among others. Love to R! (*he/him*)

PETER DIMAGGIO (Paris/Ensemble). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** debut! **Boston Credits:** *Once, Shakespeare in Love, Mercury* (Boston University); *Troilus and Cressida* (LAMDA). **Education:** BFA in Acting from Boston University, Certificate in Classical Acting from LAMDA, Theatre Arts degree from Interlochen Arts Academy. Peter would like to thank his mentors, friends, and family for their constant love and support. **Instagram:** @peterdimaggio. **Website:** peterdimaggio.com. (*he/him*)

CHRISTOPHER V. EDWARDS* (Director) is currently the Artistic Director of Actors' Shakespeare Project, making his ASP acting debut. **Actors' Shakespeare Project (Directing):** *The Taming of the Shrew, Let The Right One In, The Bomb-itty of Errors, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Pride & Prejudice, Equivocation, Much Ado About Nothing*. **Selected Regional (Directing):** *Fences* [2023 Berkshire Theatre Critic Award Winner — Outstanding Production], 'ART' (Shakespeare & Company); *Hamlet* (Gloucester Stage Company); *Fences, A Raisin in the Sun* (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company); *How I Learned What I Learned, Fences* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). **Education:** MFA, University of Minnesota. (*he/him*)

ABOUT THE CAST (cont.)

JESSE HINSON* (Apothecary/Ensemble) is a Resident Artist with Actors' Shakespeare Project. **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *The Merchant of Venice, Exit the King, The Tempest, The Winter's Tale, Henry VI, The Comedy of Errors, As You Like It, Pericles, Twelfth Night, Antony and Cleopatra.* **Regional:** *A Case for the Existence of God, Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Shakespeare in Love* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Macbeth, Cymbeline* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *The Thanksgiving Play* (Lyric Stage Company); *Incels and Other Myths* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); and *Photograph 51* (Central Square Theater). Jesse is a Teaching Professor and the Undergraduate Coordinator for the Department of Theatre at Northeastern University. (*he/him*)

CHLOE MCFARLANE (Juliet). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** debut! **Boston Credits:** One Penny Down (Boston University). **Film and Television:** "Mr. Santa" (Dir. Noel Calloway); "Chinese Laundry" (Dir. Giorgio Arcelli). **Education:** Currently pursuing the Theatre Arts B.F.A at Boston University, with concentration in Playwriting, Movement Direction, and Acting. Past education includes Fiorello H. LaGuardia class of 2022 acting major, as well as training at Atlantic Theatre Company, HB Studio, Stella Adler Studio of Acting and The British American Dramatic Academy (BADA). **Instagram:** @chlo.mcfarlane. (*she/her*)

PAULA PLUM* (Nurse) is a Founding Member of Actors' Shakespeare Project. **Actors' Shakespeare Project (Acting):** *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard II, Phèdre, As You Like It, Pericles, Antony and Cleopatra, Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth, All's Well That Ends Well, Measure for Measure, Richard III.* **Actors' Shakespeare Project (Directing):** *Twelfth Night, The School for Scandal, Macbeth.* **Selected Regional:** *Grand Horizons, Barefoot in the Park* (Gloucester Stage Company); *The Inheritance, The Children* [2020 Elliot Norton Award — Outstanding Actress] (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *The Roommate, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* [2017 Elliot Norton Award — Outstanding Actress], *Miss Witherspoon* [2007 Elliot Norton Award — Outstanding Actress] (Lyric Stage Company); *Top Girls, Tartuffe* (The Huntington). Film: "Mermaids", "Malice", "Next Stop Wonderland", and "Irrational Man". **Television:** *Science Court* (three seasons ABC) and co-creator and star of *The Dick & Paula Celebrity Special* for FX. She is the recipient of the 2004 Elliot Norton Award for Sustained Excellence, and the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University. From 2003 through 2019, Paula served as Artistic Director of WGBH's A Christmas Celtic Sojourn featuring Brian O'Donovan. She has been published in American Theatre magazine and is married to actor and fellow ASP Founding Member Richard Snee. (*she/her*)

SANDRA SEOANE-SERÍ (Tybalt). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** debut! **Regional:** *In Her Bones* (WAM Theatre); *K-I-S-S-I-N-G, The Art of Burning* (The Huntington); *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Shakespeare & Company); *Truth or Consequences* (Fresh Ink Theatre); *BLKS* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Romeo & Juliet* (Apollinaire/Teatro Chelsea); *Pipeline* (WAM Theatre/Central Square Theatre). **Film:** "Figure of Speech" (dir. Gordon Chan), "Maria" (dir. Michelle Falcón Fontáñez), "Shift" directed by Daniela Martinez. **Education:** BA in Theater, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Trained at Shakespeare and Company's Summer Shakespeare Intensive. **Website:** www.SandraSeoaneSeri.com (*she/they*)

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ABOUT THE CAST (cont.)

JULES TALBOT (Prince/Ensemble). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *Coriolanus*. **Regional:** *John Proctor is the Villain* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Alice, Pippi Longstocking, The Miracle Worker* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Lyric Back Stage* (Lyric Stage Company); *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Wild Swimming* (Apollinaire Theatre Company); *The Nether* (Flat Earth Theatre). **Education:** BA, NYU. **Website:** www.JulesTalbot.com. (*she/they*)

EVAN TAYLOR (Romeo). **Regional:** *Flight of The Legless Bird* (Chuang Stage). **Education:** BFA in Acting, Emerson College. (*he/him*)

NICOLAS ZULUAGA (Benevolio). **Actors Shakespeare Project:** debut! **Regional:** *how to make an American son* (Common Thread Theatre Collective); *Sävë thë Whälës* (Boston Playwrights Theatre); *Mother May I?* (Boston Center for the Arts), *La Lavadora* (Full Circle Players). **Education:** BFA in Acting, Boston University. **Website:** www.NZuluaga.com (*he/him*)

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

LISA COLEMAN (Costume Design) is making her Actors' Shakespeare Project debut. A costume designer graduating this May from Boston University, she has designed local indie film *Bad Voodoo*, and student short film *Ashes*. Her goals include costume designing for film, television and theatre. (*she/her*)

OLIVIA DUMAINE (Intimacy Direction). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *King Hedley II, How I Learned To Drive, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It*. **Regional Intimacy Credits:** *Beyond Words* (Central Square Theater); *The Normal Heart* (New Repertory Theatre); *The House of Ramón Iglesia, Passing Strange* (Moonbox Productions), *Ada and the Engine* (Central Square Theater), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare & Company), *Everyday Life and Other Odds and Ends* (Sleeping Weazel). **Education:** Salem State University; Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, Theatrical Intimacy Education, Intimacy for the Stage and Screen. Learn more [at her website](#). (*she/her*)

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ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM (cont.)

ABE JOYNER-MEYERS (Sound Design) is an award-winning sound designer, audio engineer, and storyteller based in Boston, MA. Recent mixing credits include *The Brightest Thing in the World* by Leah Nanako Winkler, a world premier production at Yale Repertory Theatre. Other recent production credits include *Sing Street* at The Huntington and *Seven Guitars* at the Actors' Shakespeare Project, for which he received the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Sound Design along with composer Dewey Dellay. His academic research explores how singing and other musical performance has been used in both historical and contemporary productions of Shakespeare. He graduated from Harvard in 2022. (*he/him*)

SASKIA MARTINEZ (Scenic Design). **Actors' Shakespeare Project:** *King Hedley II, How I Learned To Drive, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It, Coriolanus, Seven Guitars*. **Regional:** *The Addams Family, Head Over Heels, Little Women: The Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *HER|alive.un.dead* (Guerilla Opera). **Education:** Boston University. (*they/them*)

GREY RUNG (Props Design) is a New England based Scenic Artist and Production Manager. He earned his BFA in Theatre Production and Design from Westminster University in Salt Lake City, UT. Grey's recent regional credits include: Actors' Shakespeare Project's *King Hedley II* (Associate Production Manager). Salt Lake Acting Company's *Yoga Play, Sankofa, Hairy and Sherri, Frog and Toad*, and *Sleeping Giant* (Scenic Charge Artist). Plan-B Theatre Company's *Fire!* (Electrician), *Go Home Come Back* (Scenic Build/Electrician) and *My Brother was a Vampire* (Stage Manager and Scenic Build/Electrician); Sandy Art's Guild's *Steel Magnolias* (Set Designer); *La Musica Lyrica 2022* (Props Master); and Good Company Theatre's *Man and Moon* (Projectionist).

DEB SULLIVAN (Lighting Design) is a Boston-based lighting designer with Off-Broadway, regional, local and educational credits. Design work has been seen on stages with Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Alliance Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Brandeis University, Cleveland Playhouse, Dorset Playhouse, Gloucester Stage Company, Greater Boston Stage Company, Harbor Stage Company, The Huntington, New Repertory Theatre, The Public Theater/NYSF, Shakespeare and Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Trinity Repertory Company, Two River Theatre, WP Theatre and many others. Member IATSE United Scenic Artists Local 829. www.dlsullivanld.com

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CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Romeo and Juliet

Directed by Marianna Bassham

Presented by Actors' Shakespeare Project (Christopher V. Edwards, Artistic Director)

Actors' Shakespeare Project finishes off our 2023-24 Season with a classic that hasn't graced our mainstage in over a decade: ***Romeo and Juliet***.

Shakespeare's most famous duo return in a flurry of forbidden love, exhilarating fight scenes, and (spoiler alert) tragic fate. Brought to life by Resident Artist Company Member Marianna Bassham's expert direction, this dynamic and vivid take on ***Romeo and Juliet*** will thrill even those who fell asleep reading it in Sophomore English class.

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Cast: Esme Allen, Fernando Barbosa, Michael Broadhurst, Peter DiMaggio, Christopher V. Edwards, Jesse Hinson, Chloe McFarlane, Paula Plum Sandra Seoane-Serí, Jules Talbot, Evan Taylor, Nicolas Zuluaga

Design Team: Saskia Martínez (Scenic Design)
Lisa Coleman (Costume Design)
Deb Sullivan (Lighting Design)
Abe Joyner-Meyers (Sound Design)
Grey Rung (Props Design)
Olivia Dumaine (Intimacy Direction)

Stage Manager: Lisette van den Boogaard
Assistant Stage Manager: Jolie Frazer-Madge

Venue Information: The Roberts Studio Theater at the Calderwood Pavilion
527 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116

Performance Schedule: May 10 - Jun 2, 2024
Fri - Sat at 8pm, Sat - Sun at 2pm.
Weekday Performances - Thurs, May 23 & Wed, May 29 at 7:30pm

Estimated Run Time: 2 hours and 20 minutes including a fifteen-minute intermission.

Ticket Prices: \$59.50, with select \$20 ticketing. \$25 for anyone under 25.

Box Office Information: [Visit this link for tickets.](#)

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