

CELEBRATING 54 YEARS



THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

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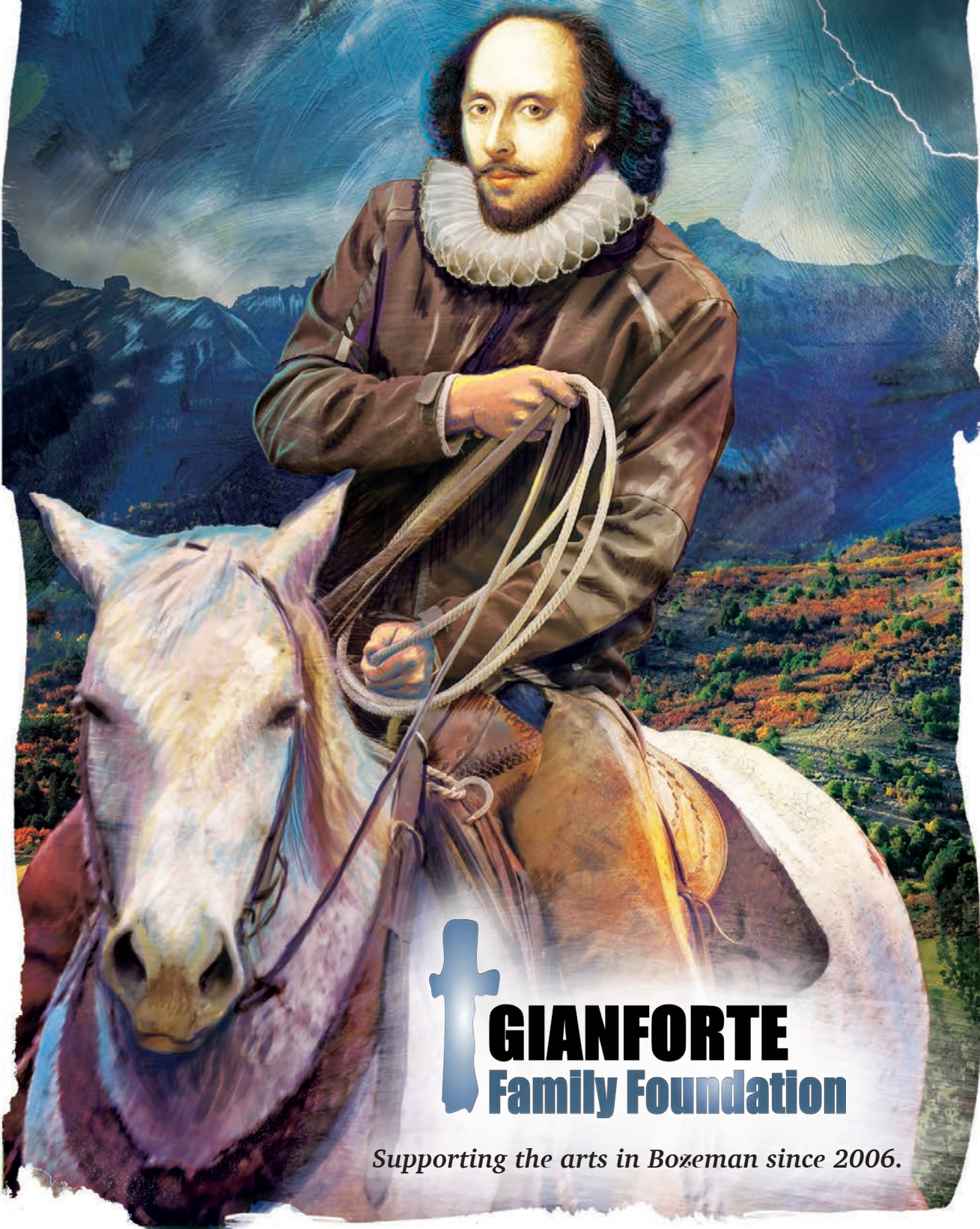
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2026 TOUR SCHEDULE

JUNE

10-13	Bozeman	The Merchant of Venice	8:00pm	MSU Duck Pond
17-20	Bozeman	Much Ado About Nothing	8:00pm	MSU Duck Pond
22	Big Timber	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Lion's Club Park
23	Utica	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Utica Women's Clubhouse
24	Lewistown	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Creekside Pavilion
25	Malta	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Tafton Park
26	Wolf Point	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Faith Lutheran Home Park
27	Sidney	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Veterans Memorial Park
29	Beach, ND	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Beach Swimming Pool Park
30	Glendive	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Hyatt Amphitheater In Makoshika State Park

JULY

1	Ekalaka	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Nursing Home Lawn
2	Baker	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Roger Schmidt Amphitheater
3	Miles City	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Riverside Park
5	Forsyth	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Rosebud County Courthouse East Lawn
6	Colstrip	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	CPRD--Rye Park Pavillion
7	Hardin	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	South Park
8	Billings	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Pioneer Park
9	Billings	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Pioneer Park
10	Fishtail	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Fishtail Family Park
11	Red Lodge	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Lions Park
12	Silver Gate	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Silver Gate Park
13	Powell, WY	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Washington Park
15	Cody, WY	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Canal Park
16	Worland, WY	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Sanders Park
17	Sheridan, WY	The Merchant of Venice	6:30pm	Kendrick Park Bandshell
18	Birney	Much Ado About Nothing	6:30pm	Poker Jim Butte
19	Laurel	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Town Square
20	Roundup	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Roundup City Park
21	Chico	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Chico Main Lawn
22	Gardiner	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Arch Park
24	Columbus	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Heritage Park
25	Big Sky	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Big Sky Town Center Plaza
26	Afton, WY	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Afton City Park (Star View Park)
27	Pocatello, ID	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	ISU Hutchinson Memorial Quadrangle
28	Pocatello, ID	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	ISU Hutchinson Memorial Quadrangle
29	Driggs, ID	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Teton County Courthouse Lawn
31	Dillon	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Legacy Plaza, Montana Western campus

AUGUST

1	Salmon, ID	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center
2	Deer Lodge	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Old Montana Prison Museum
3	Helena	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Anchor Park
4	Helena	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Anchor Park
6	Fort Benton	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	City Park
7	Great Falls	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	University of Providence Campus
8	Great Falls	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	University of Providence Campus
9	Conrad	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Swimming Pool Park
10	Choteau	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Weatherbeater/TASGA Grounds
11	Augusta	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Sun Canyon Lodge
13	Cut Bank	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Cut Bank City Park
14	Kalispell	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Wachholz College Center - O'Shaughnessy Amphitheater
15	Eureka	Much Ado About Nothing	5:00pm	Historical Village
16	Libby	The Merchant of Venice	5:00pm	Libby Elementary School
17	Polson	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Polson Fairgrounds Amphitheater
18	Charlo	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Palmer Park
19	Liberty Lake, WA	Much Ado About Nothing	5:00pm	Pavillion Park
20	Sandpoint, ID	The Merchant of Venice	5:00pm	Lakeview Park
22	Sandpoint, ID	Much Ado About Nothing	5:00pm	Lakeview Park
23	Trout Creek	The Merchant of Venice	5:00pm	Trout Creek Park
24	Seeley Lake	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Double Arrow Resort
25	Anaconda	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Washoe Park
26	Philipsburg	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	Winninghoff Park
27	Missoula	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	The Oval (MSU Campus)
28	Missoula	Much Ado About Nothing	6:00pm	The Oval (MSU Campus)
29	Hamilton	The Merchant of Venice	5:00pm	Sapphire Lutheran Homes
31	Twin Bridges	The Merchant of Venice	5:30pm	Riverside Park, Soccer Field by the Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER

1	Whitehall	Much Ado About Nothing	5:30pm	Main Street Green - Next to Star Theatre
2	Boulder	The Merchant of Venice	5:30pm	Jefferson County Fairgrounds
3	White Sulphur	Much Ado About Nothing	5:30pm	Castle Museum Lawn
4	Livingston	The Merchant of Venice	6:00pm	Blake Pavilion at the Shane Center
5	Pony	Much Ado About Nothing	5:00pm	Pony Park
6	Townsend	The Merchant of Venice	5:00pm	Heritage Park
7	Butte	Much Ado About Nothing	5:30pm	Stodden Park
8	Bozeman	The Merchant of Venice	5:30pm	Grant Chamberlain Park (MSU Campus)

For the most up to date TOUR SCHEDULE GO TO:
ShakespeareInTheParks.org



DIGITAL SUMMER PARKS PROGRAM!

Scan the QR code to view a digital version of the MSIP summer Parks program!



PHOTOGRAPHER ON DUTY...

A photographer may be taking pictures at tonight's performance! If you do not wish to be included in MSIP marketing materials, please email MSIP Dir. of Community Engagement at elizabeth.johnson25@montana.edu



Photo Credit: Shawn Raecke

Dear Friends,

It is with deep gratitude that I welcome you to the 54th season of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.

For more than five decades, MSIP has had the privilege of bringing live, free professional theatre to remarkable communities throughout the Rocky Mountain West. Each summer we gather in parks, schoolyards, and open spaces to share stories that have endured for centuries, stories that challenge us to reflect on our values, our relationships, and the communities we build together.

This season we are excited to share two beloved works from Shakespeare's canon: *The Merchant of Venice*, with its exploration of justice and mercy, love and betrayal, and *Much Ado About Nothing*, a joyful comedy that explores honor, friendship, reputation, and the complexities of love. Though written centuries ago, these plays continue to speak powerfully to circumstances and questions we face today.

Our momentum for this season has been strengthened by the tremendous success of our current **Shakes!** tour, featuring a new adaptation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* titled *Good in Everything*. This program will reach more than sixty elementary schools and communities throughout the region this winter and spring. Seeing young audiences encounter Shakespeare, many for the first time, continues to affirm the importance of making these stories accessible to everyone.

But MSIP's story is not only about the performances themselves. It is about the relationships that have sustained our mission for generations.

The continued investment, friendship, and support of audiences, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners have made it possible for MSIP to flourish while remaining free and accessible to all, engaging rural communities across five states.

Just as importantly, your support has created a remarkable artistic home.

Over the years, thousands of actors, designers, teachers, and production artists have traveled the long roads between our communities, arriving with trucks, costumes, and a stage that rises each evening in the heart of your parks. For many of these artists, MSIP becomes a defining chapter in their creative lives; one shaped not only by the work onstage, but by the warmth and generosity of the communities that welcome us each summer.

I know this personally. I first joined Montana Shakespeare in the Parks as an actor in 2002, and the experience profoundly shaped my artistic life. Over the years, MSIP has provided me the opportunity to grow as an actor, teacher, director, and now as a leader within this organization. Like so many artists who have traveled these roads, I continue to be inspired by the spirit and values of the communities we are honored to serve.

As we prepare for another summer of gathering in your parks, we remain deeply grateful for the friendships and partnerships that have sustained this mission for 54 seasons. Your continued support ensures that these stories and the sense of connection they inspire remain available to everyone.

Shakespeare reminds us in *The Merchant of Venice* that **"the quality of mercy is not strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven."** It is a sentiment that speaks beautifully to the spirit of our communities; places where generosity, compassion, and a belief in shared experiences continue to bring people together.

We look forward to sharing these stories with you, your families, and your neighbors in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

Kevin Asselin
Executive Artistic Director
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks

OUR MISSION

The mission of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is to engage and enrich both rural and underserved communities with professional productions of Shakespeare and other classics and, through educational outreach, to inspire creative expression and appreciation of the arts in young audiences.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

It's my honor to welcome you to the 54th season of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, a nationally recognized program founded on the firm belief that Shakespeare is for everyone. For more than five decades, MSIP – a part of Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture – has been enriching the lives of people in Montana and beyond.

MSIP was born from aspirations to bring the timeless tales of William Shakespeare directly to rural and underserved communities. This summer, that mission continues. The company will perform in 64 communities across five states: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota and Washington. As always, our university is delighted to visit your beautiful communities, from Malta to Birney to Conrad in Montana; to Worland, Wyoming; to Pocatello, Idaho; to Beach, North Dakota; to Liberty Lake, Washington; and many points in between.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' accomplished troupe of performers and staff work tirelessly to connect people, communities and the arts. Ushering Shakespeare's immortal stories of life, love and tragedy into a modern era, MSIP is also dedicated to preserving the cultural traditions of theater and literature.

It's just one way our university lives out its mission. As the state's first land-grant institution, MSU educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities. I invite you to visit MSU in person or online at www.montana.edu to learn more.

Thank you for sharing your community and your love of Shakespeare with us. We hope you enjoy the show!

Sincerely,



Brock F. Tessman
President



DEAN'S LETTER

Greetings!

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' 54th season is upon us! In 2026 we are connecting with new communities and new partners and continuing long-lasting relationships throughout the Intermountain West. I am also inspired by the amazing work MSIP does through their education programs, *Montana Shakespeare in the Schools*, and *Montana Shakes!*, during the school year.

Williams Shakespeare's work, considered through the lenses of MSIP's insightful directors and producers, talented actors and designers, and hardworking staff, connects us to others and to ourselves. By effectively integrating the cultural traditions of theater and literature with contemporary lived experiences, MSIP invites us to explore universal truths and our human condition. In collaboration with community members, teachers, and with the support of donors, MSIP embodies the Montana State University land grant mission of integrating education, creation of knowledge and art, and service to communities.

In addition to serving our community broadly, MSIP's work helps bring people together and build engaged communities, including through our "Share the Stage" initiative.

The MSU College of Arts & Architecture, the home of MSIP, hopes you will enjoy this season's programs and discover the beauty, emotion, triumph, and agony explored through the world-class performances around our wonderful region. We thank you for your ongoing support! We could not achieve all we do without you.

Please take a moment and help us create the new MSU strategic plan by filling out the survey at <https://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/> or through the QR code in this program. Your voice is critical to helping us chart our future!

I hope you are thrilled by the performances this season!



Dean Adams
Dean, College of Arts & Architecture
Montana State University



We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

Accessibility



MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS

is committed to making the experience the best we possibly can for all our patrons. Individuals needing special accommodations should notify Montana Shakespeare in the Parks prior to the performance. Please call or email Liz Johnson at (406) 994-3310, elizabeth.johnson25@montana.edu

THERE ARE TWO AUDIO ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR EACH OF OUR PERFORMANCES:

1. **Personal FM receivers and headphones** are available to borrow from the merchandise table.
2. **A FREE app may be downloaded** so that you can listen to audio from the show on your own personal device. (Please remember to bring your own headphones!) Follow these instructions:
 - a. Download the AudioFetch app on your personal device (both iOS & Android compatible)
 - b. Connect your device to the WiFi network: Shakespeare! (no password required)
 - c. Open the AudioFetch app to listen to the audio!



audiofetch





FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY



ART

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CONGRATULATIONS
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IN THE PARKS
On Your
54th SEASON!

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OUR NEXT CHAPTER

WRITING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN.

DON'T JUST IMAGINE MSU'S FUTURE—
Help create it.

Your voice matters. Show up, speak up, and
contribute your ideas for MSU's new strategic plan.



www.montana.edu/strategicplan



About Us

The College of Arts & Architecture supports MSU's land-grant mission to integrate education, creation of knowledge and art, and service to communities. We offer the creative experience to all MSU students through classes, music ensembles, lectures, art shows, films, visiting scholars, and more. In our small, hands-on, studio-based classes students learn from award-winning faculty to develop their skills and become working professionals in their fields.

Opportunities

Incoming and current student **scholarship opportunities available!** Students in all majors can join the Spirit of the West Marching Band and receive scholarships up to \$8000 over 4 years.

A wide variety of **student clubs and groups** to participate in, including 18 music ensembles

4 Schools with 12 Undergraduate Majors and Options

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<https://art.montana.edu>

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- Art Education
- Liberal Arts Studio

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<https://arch.montana.edu>

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<https://sfp.montana.edu>

- Film Option
- Photo Option
- Integrated Lens Based Media

Music

<https://www.montana.edu/music>

- Music
- Music Education
- Music Technology

and 6 student art guilds.

Any student can participate in a **study abroad program** at MSU! Students also have access to **paid internships** to hone their craft and receive course credits.

Our graduates find **jobs in a wide variety of**

fields including freelance work, artist studios, architecture firms, education, films, and music venues, as well as the corporate world of digital media, technology, marketing, and design. Our students also continue on to graduate school at MSU and across the nation.

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Founded in 2014, the Artistic Director's Circle honors those who provide Montana Shakespeare in the Parks extraordinary support by making an annual commitment of \$1,000 or more.

Artistic Director's Circle donors receive special benefits including:

- Exclusive invitations to special events including *Behind the Scenes*, the annual *Dream Event*, and the *Elise Event*
- Special recognition in the Summer Parks Tour program
- Exclusive updates during MSIP's three annual tours

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 Broose & Penny Johnson, Bozeman, MT
 Joslyn Family, Middleton, WI
 Temia Keel, Bozeman, MT
 Katherine Kiefer, Arlington, MA
 Bill Klenn & Elizabeth Madden, Bozeman, MT
 Amy Kotsenas, Big Sky, MT
 Audrene Kunda, Big Timber, MT
 -In memory of Bob Dyer & Vince Kunda
 Ron & Charlene Loge, Dillon, MT
 Douglas MacIntyre, Bozeman, MT
 Tim & Kathy Marcinko, Bozeman, MT
 Susie McDonald & Roger Jenkins, Bozeman, MT
 Henry McHenry Jr, Charlottesville, VA
 Craig & Susan Melder, Billings, MT
 Drs. Bob & Linda Merchant, Billings, MT
 Scott Mitchell & Barb Bryan, Billings, MT
 Donna Murphrey, Bozeman, MT
 Linda Musser, Augusta, MT
 Patrice Nield, Great Falls, MT
 Ninepipes Lodge, Charlo, MT
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 Cara Priem, Bozeman, MT
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 Mary Lou Reed, Coeur D Alene, ID
 Kim & Ruth Reineking, Missoula, MT

Continued on next page

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Suzanne Wilson, Big Timber, MT
-In memory of Elise Donohue
Dick & Jan Young, Bozeman, MT

LEAD ACTORS \$200 - \$399

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Clyde Aspevig & Carol Guzman-Aspevig,
Bozeman, MT
Sue & Tim Bailey, Billings, MT
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Jeff Blascyk, Sheridan, WY
Robert & Constance Blyth, Idaho Falls, ID
Dan Bourne, Kalispell, MT
Cairo Bowen, Colstrip, MT
Danielle Boyke, New Berlin, WI
Martin Newell-Large & Heather Brandt,
Spokane, WA
Tammy & Jeff Brown, Spokane, WA
Judy & Tom Brundage, Thayne, WY
Mark Piskolich & Pam Bucy, Helena, MT
Joanne Bunnell, Bozeman, MT
Eileen Carney, Libby, MT
DW Chandler, Great Falls, MT
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Esther & Zach Eller, Helena, MT
Andrew & Paulette Epple, Bozeman, MT
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Kim & Linda Fagenstrom, Great Falls, MT
Joe Faifer, Bozeman, MT
Mike & Kathy Farmer, Polson, MT
Emily Faulkner, Sandpoint, ID
Feast Wine Bar & Bistro, Bozeman, MT
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Deirdre Flaherty, Missoula, MT
Mark Ewanic & Julie Flammang, Butte, MT
Freefall Brewery & Audrey's Pizza, Bozeman, MT
Rebekah French, Great Falls, MT
-In memory of Elaine French



Alvaro Freyre, Helena, MT
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Marian Geil, Anaconda, MT
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Jim & Mary Jo Hamling, Lewistown, MT
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William T. Harper, Mesa, AZ
-In memory of Marlehna Harper
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-In honor of Kalen Harriman Watson
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Yvonne Hauwiller, Bozeman, MT
Susan Hayes, Bozeman, MT
Scott Heinz, Polson, MT
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-In memory of Brysons & Tones
Colleen Hinds, Heron, MT
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-In memory of Dorothy Duggan Kuntz
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Anne Leininger, Lewistown, MT
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Lively Times, Ronan, MT
Barbara Lodman, Lewistown, MT

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Dylan, Ryker, Violet & Willem Peebles,
Choteau, MT
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Tom & Leslie Peterson, Bozeman, MT
Dean & Trudi Bishop Peterson, Judith Gap, MT
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J.R. Reger, Billings, MT
Dr. Kerry Reif, Bozeman, MT
Heidi Riddle, Saint Ignatius, MT
Kathy & Lee Robison, Mc Allister, MT
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Robert & Pamela Sanderson, Billings, MT
Hannah & Matt Sanger, Pocatello, ID
Larry & Joanne Schrupp, Colstrip, MT
Christine Schultz, Hamilton, MT
Kristin & Brian Schweppenheiser, Sandpoint, ID
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Mike & Margee Smith, Lewistown, MT
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Fallon, Stephen & Killian Stanton, Clancy, MT
Rosamond Stanton, Livingston, MT
David & Patti Steinmuller, Bozeman, MT
Tonya Stevens & Randy Babbitt, Bozeman, MT
Andrea & Donald Stierle, Missoula, MT
Karel & Janet Stroethoff, Missoula, MT
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Abigail Uhrich, Billings, MT
Nancy Van Maren, Billings, MT
Art & LeAnne Viall, Kinsey, MT
Tracy & Tom Vranizan, Troy, MT
Jocie Waldron, Clancy, MT
Jack & Fay Weber, La Habra Heights, CA
Dan & Kathleen Wetstein, Bozeman, MT
Greg & Rita Williams, Ekalaka, MT
Gayla Wortman, Cascade, MT
-In memory of Dick & Lela Wortman
Bonnie & Mike Zell, Bozeman, MT
Rudy Zulkiewicz, Kalispell, MT



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 Matt & Kerri Anderson, Belgrade, MT
 Julie Anderson-Kerr, Bozeman, MT
 Andrikopoulos Family, Bozeman, MT
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 -In honor of BJ Stensland
 M. Arnold, Helena, MT
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 Ken & Sharee Ballinger, Missoula, MT
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 Anne Banks, Bozeman, MT
 Brian & Lisa Bechtold, Missoula, MT
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 Michael Beltramo & Jane Spiegel, Los Angeles, CA
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 Patricia Brown, Billings, MT
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 Maureen & Joseph Carmichael, Libby, MT
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 The Carrier Pigeons, Fort Benton, MT
 Rich Hohne & Missy Cashman, Bozeman, MT
 -In honor of Kevin Asselin
 Central Montana Foundation, Lewistown, MT
 Barbara Cestero, Bozeman, MT
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 Robin Childers & Amy Gentry, Missoula, MT
 Allan & Cindy Childs, Powell, WY

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 Peter & Carol Clark, Ranchester, WY
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 John & Lorraine Conlan, Butte, MT
 Jo Cook, Powell, WY
 Madeline Cooper, Roundup, MT
 Richard & Virginia Cross, Red Lodge, MT
 Will & Sharon Crough, Great Falls, MT
 Frances Crowley, Bozeman, MT
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 Sharon Ditterline, Bozeman, MT
 Anne Dobney, Anaconda, MT
 Patricia Doherty, Bozeman, MT
 Patrick & Mary Dougherty, Missoula, MT
 Sandra Doyle, Helena, MT
 Teri Dudzinski, Bozeman, MT
 Suzanne Duff, Liberty Lake, WA
 Mike & Vonda Dyrda, Helena, MT
 Kay & Carl Eccleston, Anaconda, MT
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 Nancy Fisher, Joliet, MT
 -In memory of Marilyn Weber
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 Don & Luann Fortenberry, Lewistown, MT
 Susan Fox, Helena, MT
 -In memory of Murphy Fox
 Catherine Frazer, Absarokee, MT
 -In memory of Ray Frazer
 Linda Fredenberg, Kalispell, MT
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 -In memory of Dr. Martin & Mrs. Jean Freese
 Frye Ranch LLC, Ekalaka, MT
 Gahagan & Family, Absarokee, MT
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 Bill Gardner & Anne Tews, Lewistown, MT
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 Patrick Geary, Sheridan, WY
 -In honor of Rita Geary
 Richard Gercken, Massillon, OH
 Pieter Gerrits, Bozeman, MT
 -In honor of Lumin Wakoa
 Getman Family Trust, Longmont, CO
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 Autumn Gottschlich, Lakeside, MT
 Mary Lou & Hans Gougar, Idaho Falls, ID
 Bruce & Peggy Graving, Butte, MT
 Mikey Gray, Bozeman, MT
 Benjamin Graybill, Great Falls, MT
 Jeff & Yvonne Gritzner, Florence, MT
 The Guevara's, Belgrade, MT
 Liz Gundersen, Helena, MT
 Paul & Nadine Haffeman, Great Falls, MT



Tiffany Hague, Deer Lodge, MT
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 Killam Family, Belgrade, MT
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 Lasso The Moon Toys, Helena, MT
 Russ Lawrence, Hamilton, MT
 Craig & Jennie Lee, Bozeman, MT
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 -In memory of Beverley S. Rollins
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 Barbara & Hank Lischer, Nye, MT
 Beverly C. Livingston, Eureka, MT

Continued on next page

THESPIANS CONT.

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 Patty Mazurek, Helena, MT
 Padraic McCracken & Nisan Burbridge, Helena, MT
 Marcia McCrum, Livingston, MT
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 -In honor of Royal Ward
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 Twylla McPherson, Glendive, MT
 Means Family, Hardin, MT
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 James Melnis & Joyce Swartzendruber, Bozeman, MT
 Richard & Kathy Melville, Park City, MT
 Tom & Lenore Mihara, Polson, MT
 John & Debra Miller, Roscoe, MT
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 Pat & Brenda Mischel, Glendive, MT
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 Ginny & John Moody, Sandpoint, ID
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 Pat & Jan Munday, Butte, MT
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 Mary Murphy, Bozeman, MT
 Dana Nehring, Helena, MT
 Clarke Nelson, Great Falls, MT
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 -In memory of Claude W. Nichols
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 Eleanor Nolan, Big Sky, MT
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 John Michael O'Farrell, Butte, MT
 Steve Olson, Basin, MT
 David Oshima, Coeur D Alene, ID
 F Taylor Pape, Missoula, MT
 Denelle Pappier, Hamilton, MT
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Parson, Arlee, MT
 Thomas & Nancy Patterson, Chicago, IL
 Patricia Peach, Helena, MT
 Celeste Peterson, South Jordan, UT
 Don & Wendy Peterson, Polson, MT
 Michele Piazza, Bozeman, MT
 -In memory of Richard J. Jaworski
 Mom, Luke, Aeh & Henley, Missoula, MT
 Maddy & Chris Pope, Bozeman, MT



Douglas Potter, Coeur D Alene, ID
 Jeff, Amy, Nat and Nicole Potter, Bozeman, MT
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 Aaron Pruitt, Bozeman, MT
 Lloyd & Dianne Pugh, Carmen, ID
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 -In honor of Sharon Lee Templeman
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 Stan & Daryl Todd, Kalispell, MT
 Thomas Tollefson & Jane Moses, Billings, MT
 -In memory of Norman Maclean
 Lisa Trankley, Bozeman, MT
 Pat Tucker & Bruce Weide, Hamilton, MT
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 M.H. & Julie Van Keuren, Billings, MT
 Marvin & Kerry Vaughn, Lewistown, MT
 Sue Vogelsinger, Sagle, ID
 Carol Walker, Lewiston, ID
 Rob Reynolds & Lireva Wall, Eureka, MT
 Tom Walter & Cindy Clarke, Red Lodge, MT
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 Terry Ward, Ramona, OK
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 Vaille Weeks, Great Falls, MT
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 WGM Group, Missoula, MT
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 Michael & Karla Wienczek, Corvallis, MT
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 Oma & Dave Williams, Havre, MT
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 Sande Wilson, Helena, MT
 Criag & Juliet Winger, Roundup, MT
 Jeffrey Wolk, Glen, MT
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 E.F. Zagrodnik, Salt Lake City, UT
 -In memory of Jesse Dornan
 John & Becky Zehntner, Blackfoot, ID
 -In memory of Cathy Childs

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 Jane Amdahl, Clancy, MT
 Shawn and Staci Auck, Hobson, MT
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 Kim Ball, Bozeman, MT
 Leslie & Bert Bartle, Bozeman, MT
 Mimi Basden, Kalispell, MT
 Robin & Thomas Beatty, Great Falls, MT
 Charlotte & Tim Belton, Sheridan, WY



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 Patricia Bentley, Billings, MT
 Sara Berg, Helena, MT
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 Jim & Lisa Blackburn, Seeley Lake, MT
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 Francis & Sandi Blake, Big Timber, MT
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 Sarah Bond, Helena, MT
 Charles Bowen, Bozeman, MT
 Craig & Beverly Bowers, Bayview, ID
 Max Brand, Billings, MT
 Jessica & John Breneman, Kalispell, MT
 Christine & Pete Brown, Helena, MT
 Kelly Brown, Kalispell, MT
 Mary & Mark Bryson, Clancy, MT
 Craig Buehler, Lewistown, MT
 Bryan & Karen Buerkle, Bozeman, MT
 Bob & Katie Bump, Dillon, MT
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 Dan Center & Jean Placko, Bozeman, MT
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 Jim & Virginia Court, Billings, MT
 Andrew & Emma Covarrubias, Helena, MT
 Darren & Shawna Crawford, Lewistown, MT
 David & Kristi Crawford, Bozeman, MT
 Leslie W. Crawford, Billings, MT
 M. Ione Crummy, Missoula, MT
 -In memory of Bernard & Frances Crummy
 Patrick & Linda Cunningham, Glendive, MT
 Stephanie Cunningham, Livingston, MT
 Terri Currid, Billings, MT
 Barbara Curry, Billings, MT
 Jean & Floyd Dahlman, Forsyth, MT
 -In memory of Dr. Gordon Dean
 Leslie & Matt Dalbey, Polson, MT
 Jim & Molly Davis, Billings, MT
 John De Boer, Manhattan, MT
 Traci DelVecchio, Bozeman, MT

Joshua Demers, Missoula, MT
 Darlene H. Depner, Choteau, MT
 -In honor of Craig & Anne-Marie Depner
 Katie Deuel, Missoula, MT
 Rachel Dobson, Pocatello, ID
 Lynette Donkle, Hamilton, MT
 David & Michele Dover, Buffalo, MT
 Nancy & Mike Downing, Billings, MT
 David & April Duffner, Choteau, MT
 -In honor of the ones we have lost
 Sheila Duffy, Worland, WY
 W Dwyer, Driggs, ID
 -In memory of Mike Mansell
 Kurt & Nicki Dyroff, Sandpoint, ID
 Diane Eagleson, Belgrade, MT
 Lee & Chris Ebeling, Great Falls, MT
 Alice Ebi, Great Falls, MT
 David & Diann Edgington, Phoenix, AZ
 James Elander, Naples, FL
 Maribeth Macintyre-Ellis, Philipsburg, MT
 Thomas J Elpel, Pony, MT
 Dr. Alice Elrod, Eureka, MT
 Margaret English, Broomfield, CO
 Christine Erickson, Missoula, MT
 Rob & Linda Erickson, Missoula, MT
 Wayne & Meg Erlenbush, Billings, MT
 Jeannette Erwin, Billings, MT
 The Landon Family, Sheridan, WY
 Brian & Samantha Fausett, Kalispell, MT
 Rachel & Pete Feigley, Seeley Lake, MT
 -In memory of Jonathan Ondov
 Julia Flaherty, Missoula, MT
 Italo Franceschi, Missoula, MT
 Deborah Frandsen, Missoula, MT
 Loren Franklin, Bozeman, MT
 Jane Frye, Worland, WY
 -In memory of Ethel Frye
 Zane & Janelle Fulbright, Lewistown, MT
 Ron & Mary Gallardo, Butte, MT
 Debbie & Jerry George, Boulder, MT
 Toni Gies, Lewistown, MT
 -In memory of John Northey
 Virginia Gillette, Deer Lodge, MT
 Cory & Joann Glasser, Billings, MT
 The Godard Family, Bozeman, MT
 Deborah Good, Missoula, MT
 Carol Johnson & Tom Grady, Belgrade, MT
 Joan Griffith, Billings, MT
 Lynne Grosfield, Helena, MT
 Dick Haberkern, Kalispell, MT
 Mark & Jan Haemig, Cut Bank, MT
 Daniel & Mary Haley, Sandpoint, ID
 Pat L. Hall, Bozeman, MT
 -In memory of Sherman Hall
 Steven B Hamilton, Lewistown, MT
 Mindy Hammitt, Missoula, MT
 Al Hansen, Helena, MT
 Linda Hanson, Red Lodge, MT
 Audrie Allyn & Keith Hardin, Missoula, MT
 M.A. Hare, Belgrade, MT
 Phyllis Hargrave, Butte, MT
 Scott & Lisa Harmon, Polson, MT
 Duane Harp & Elizabeth Poletti, Helena, MT
 John & Ruth Harris, Missoula, MT
 Robert J. & Cynthia M. Harrison, Polaris, MT
 Amy Hartman, Los Angeles, CA
 Brian Hartmann, Sandy, UT
 -In honor of Shakespeare
 John & Nancy Hastings, Sandpoint, ID
 Terri Haun, Billings, MT



Bill & Beth Hecker, Wibaux, MT
 Roy Heffern, La Verkin, UT
 -In honor of Sheppard and Beck
 Carol & Bill Hegstrom, Pocatello, ID
 John Heidke, Livingston, MT
 Bob Henry, Butte, MT
 Susan Hewitt, Missoula, MT
 Allen & Jennie Hodges, Billings, MT
 Dan & Jeannie Hooten, Corvallis, MT
 Kristin & John How, Bozeman, MT
 Howe Family, Pocatello, ID
 William & Maya Howell, Forsyth, MT
 James & Debra Huber, Dillon, MT
 Shirley Hudson, Helena, MT
 Jessie Huffman, Busby, MT
 Tim & Shelley Hunter, Stevensville, MT
 Darinda Huntley & David Venters, Bigfork, MT
 Tracy Hylland, Billings, MT
 Gary & Sharon Icenogle, Malta, MT
 Karen Jarussi, Billings, MT
 Paul Jepsen, Grass Valley, CA
 Nancy Jochem, Bozeman, MT
 A Johnson, Bozeman, MT
 Dean & Penny Johnson, Glendive, MT
 Janice Johnson, Harlowton, MT
 Bryant Jones, Sandpoint, ID
 Larry Kaleva, Cut Bank, MT
 Phil Kann, Westport, CT
 Amelia K, Spokane, WA
 David Kendall, Bozeman, MT
 Alex & Cody Hayden, Billings, MT
 Dave Lux & Nancy Kertis, Sandpoint, ID
 Marilyn & Steve Kind, Great Falls, MT
 Rod & Pam King, Bozeman, MT
 Ben & Jennifer Kirby, Missoula, MT
 Peter Klevberg, Great Falls, MT
 Una Koontz, Great Falls, MT
 Krakker Family, Salmon, ID
 Susan Kreitzberg, Bozeman, MT
 Patricia & Robert Kurtzman, Clifton, CO
 Mervin & Nada Larsen, Cody, WY
 Joanne Lee, Livingston, MT
 David Lehnher, Red Lodge, MT
 -In honor of Lexy Adams
 Linda D. Leuty, Belgrade, MT
 Carol Lewensohn, Shorewood, WI
 Tony & Barbara Lewis, Sagle, ID
 Donald & Eleanor Limmer, Liberty Lake, WA
 Norma Linsky, Kalispell, MT
 Mary Locke, Flagstaff, AZ
 Logjam Presents, Missoula, MT
 George Loustalet, Priest River, ID
 Debra Louttit & Dan McKay, Ulm, MT
 Georgia Lovelady, Helena, MT
 Jack Luther, Livingston, MT
 Geoff Mainwaring, Great Falls, MT
 Dan & Chary Majerus, Conrad, MT

SUPPORTING CONT.

Ashley N Makowski, Helena, MT
 Michele Marsh, Helena, MT
 Ron & Melanie Martin-Dent, Missoula, MT
 Kelly Martinson & Becky Davis, Billings, MT
 David & Sally Mathers, Great Falls, MT
 Kathleen McCart, Missoula, MT
 -In honor of Rikky Johnson
 Debbie McCarty, Great Falls, MT
 David & Vangie McConnell, Lewistown, MT
 Maryanne & Ralph McDevitt, Jenkintown, PA
 Nelson & Theresa McGeary, Missoula, MT
 Bobbi McKean, Tucson, AZ
 Jono McKinney, Bozeman, MT
 Mike & Marion McNulty, Sandpoint, ID
 Eric & Donna Mendelson, Missoula, MT
 Larry & Rita Merkel, Bozeman, MT
 Lynn Metcalf, Missoula, MT
 Helene & Thomas Michael, Seeley Lake, MT
 Gene & Teri Miller, Fenton, IA
 Larry & Peggy Miller, Lolo, MT
 -In memory of Joann S. Nelson
 Jennifer Milton, Clancy, MT
 Gretchen Minton & Kevin Brustuen, Bozeman, MT
 Jill Mogen, Hall, MT
 Montana Shares, Helena, MT
 Ryan & Jenny Montgomery, Missoula, MT
 -In memory of Robert D. Sacks
 Debbie Moon, Kalispell, MT
 Christine Morman, Missoula, MT
 Jerod Morris, Spokane, WA
 Russell & Mary Morrison, Red Lodge, MT
 Ken & Susan Mottram, Sheridan, WY
 -In memory of Russ Mottram
 Greg & Barb Munro, Missoula, MT
 Alice Mural, Hot Springs, MT
 Marie Murphy, Belgrade, MT
 Marlene & Mando Muruato, Beach, ND
 Kent & Diane Myers, Hamilton, MT
 Nikki Lee Naiser, Bozeman, MT
 Jim & Linda Nallick, Bozeman, MT
 Robin Nelson, Pocatello, ID
 Ross Peter Nelson, Helena, MT
 Nancy Newton & Dave Grusin, Santa Fe, NM
 Charlotte Nickel, Missoula, MT
 Sheila Nielsen, Bozeman, MT
 Aaron Norgaard, Glendive, MT
 Levi & Laura Nowlin, Winnett, MT
 -In honor of Bill and Dana Milton
 Ariel Plywaski, Liberty Lake, WA
 -In memory of Walter Plywaski
 Keith & Tricia O'Rush, Saint Ignatius, MT
 Joe & Clarissa Olson, Billings, MT
 Steve Ondrof, Miles City, MT
 Kathleen Ort, Missoula, MT
 Jill & Russell Owen, Choteau, MT
 Jeff Padgett, Missoula, MT
 Ursula Pappas, Phoenix, AZ
 Karin & Charles Park, Marana, AZ
 Victoria Parks, Missoula, MT
 Ed Patera, Great Falls, MT
 -In memory of Rick Patera
 Robert & Diana Paulus, Chester, VA
 Jonathan H.W. Jones, Sandpoint, ID
 John & Sue Pearson, Stevensville, MT
 Mary Peele-Masek, Chicago, IL
 Michael Peet, Butte, MT
 Pershing - A BNY Mellon Company, Jersey City, NJ
 Jean Peterson, Butte, MT



Mary Pohl, Bozeman, MT
 Carol Pahl, Miles City, MT
 Sheelah Prevost, Lambert, MT
 -In memory of Pat Williams
 Holly & Dale Reavis, Pocatello, ID
 Katie Reese, Bozeman, MT
 Shelby A. Reidle, Sidney, MT
 Nancy & Tom Renk, Sandpoint, ID
 Ben Rhodes, Darby, MT
 Sandy Richards, Bozeman, MT
 Craig & Kay Rieger, Pocatello, ID
 Cynthia Riley, Gilbert, AZ
 -In memory of Carol Cabone
 Russ & Barb Ristine, Reno, NV
 Alyson Roberts & Jake Dolan, Belgrade, MT
 Tom & Cindy Roberts, Kalispell, MT
 Stephanie & Nicolas Rochelemagne, Saint Regis, MT
 JoAnn & John Rohyans, Sandpoint, ID
 Carl Rostad & Nancy Luth, Bigfork, MT
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 Joanne & Dean Rowland, Stanford, MT
 Sandi Rummel, Bozeman, MT
 Bill & Cheryl Russell, Townsend, MT
 Bethany & Jeff Sandvik, Cody, WY
 Berlin Sanguins, Roundup, MT
 Sue Sayers, Ponderay, ID
 Thomas J. Scanlin, Bozeman, MT
 William & Nancy Schalk, Ronan, MT
 Don & Irene Scheidecker, Butte, MT
 Mary Schelle, Billings, MT
 Dr. Hugo & Mrs. Shirley Schmidt, Bozeman, MT
 Bonny & Troy Schroeder, Pocatello, ID
 Diana Schwartz, Liberty Lake, WA
 Joanne & Brent Seale, Thayne, WY
 Julia Seymour, Big Timber, MT
 Thomas Shands, Livingston, MT
 Anne & Joe Shands, Gainesville, FL
 Marissa & Mark SherKenney, Bozeman, MT
 Marianne Sherman, Huntley, MT
 Scott Sherman, Sandpoint, ID
 Kent & Kathy Siegrist, Laurel, MT
 Sharron Silva Rader Taylor, Sandpoint, ID
 -In memory of Craig Andrew Rader
 Albert Silva, Polson, MT
 Jennifer Simon-Becker, Belgrade, MT
 Judy Singer, Choteau, MT
 Sarah Skofield, Livingston, MT
 Muff Sloan, Pine, CO
 Florence Sloane, Ronan, MT
 Scott Smiley, Kalispell, MT
 Jonathan Smith, Billings, MT
 -In honor of Alice ... until her true name is known
 Kirsten Smith, Bozeman, MT
 Marjorie E. Smith, Bozeman, MT
 Brad & Erin Snyder, Helena, MT
 Richie Solomon, Billings, MT
 Dan Spencer, Missoula, MT
 Amy, Kevin, Ayden, & Kaelen Spicka, Belgrade, MT

Peggy Steckel, Billings, MT
 -In memory of James Steckel
 Randy & Barb Stephens, Jefferson City, MT
 Jo Stevenson, Great Falls, MT
 Doris Stiles, Belgrade, MT
 Julie & Jack Stott, Worland, WY
 Pat & Denise Strickland, Ekalaka, MT
 William & Rae Ellen Strickland, Columbus, MT
 Brook Sturm, East Helena, MT
 Joe & Carolyn Swindlehurst, Livingston, MT
 Anthony Szpilka, Helena, MT
 Matt & Betsy Tadvick, Bozeman, MT
 Ryan Taylor, Helena, MT
 Jaclyn Terland, Big Timber, MT
 Marlene Tesch, Billings, MT
 Tom Thackeray, Roundup, MT
 Courtney Thomas, Bozeman, MT
 Floyd Thompson, Laurel, MT
 Wayne & Darlene Thompson, Great Falls, MT
 Alice Thomson, Racine, WI
 Karen Tobel, Helena, MT
 David & Karen Todd, Colchester, CT
 Marilou Tognarelli, Pocatello, ID
 Loren & Marie Toldness, Havre, MT
 Jennifer Tolman, Pocatello, ID
 Kathy Tonnessen, Missoula, MT
 Thomas & Nita Tosic, White Sulphur Springs, MT
 Richard & Linda Troyer, Hardin, MT
 Ellen Trygstad & Richard Burke, Bozeman, MT
 Debe Vanderlip & Wayne Kasworm, Whitefish, MT
 James D. Verzuh, Bozeman, MT
 Rosemary S. Veseth, Malta, MT
 Valerie Wagner, Helena, MT
 Russell Wahl & Pamela Park, Pocatello, ID
 Bethany Waite, Powell, WY
 Reno & Heather Walsh, Bozeman, MT
 Paisley Wanamaker, Butte, MT
 -In memory of Caleb Boelman & Katherine Radoicich
 Brittany Warden, Helena, MT
 Rob & Janice Warn, Miles City, MT
 Margaret Webster, Billings, MT
 John Weyhrich & Kathy Ponto, Stevensville, MT
 John Whitehead, Mancos, CO
 Robert & Amanda Wichman, Hobson, MT
 -In honor of Ann Messelt
 Donald & Kay Wilder, White Bear Lake, MN
 Tom & Lori Wilford, Brandon, SD
 Wilmot Family, Pocatello, ID
 Suzanne Winchester, Bozeman, MT
 Carrie & David Wintersteen, Bozeman, MT
 Kimberly Wirtz, Glendive, MT
 William Witte, Sandpoint, ID
 Lawanda & Scott Wold, Idaho Falls, ID
 Eileen Wolff, Saint Regis, MT
 Richard Wolff & Janel Carino, Bozeman, MT
 Amy Wuest, Pocatello, ID
 Jerre Wynn, Boulder, MT
 -In memory of Chuck Wynn
 Henry Yapple, Cashmere, WA
 Bonnie Yorgason, Cody, WY
 Michael Young & Beth Rothermel, Missoula, MT
 Ron Young, Ulm, MT
 Ruth Zimmerman, Logansport, IN
 Zoot Enterprises, Bozeman, MT
 Erich Zuern, Milwaukee, WI
 Nadia Zylawy, Helena, MT



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2026 PRODUCTION COMPANY

MSIP ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kevin Asselin, Executive Artistic Director / Director *The Merchant of Venice*

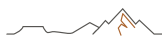
Kevin holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Science in Music-Theatre from Plymouth State University. Prior to assuming his current position, Kevin worked with MSIP for 13 seasons as an actor, fight director, and director. For MSIP he has directed productions of *Cymbeline*, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Richard III*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Noises Off*, *A Little Night Music*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *My Fair Lady*. A proud member of Actor's Equity, his Chicago acting credits include several productions with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Writers Theatre, Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre, Defiant Theatre, Famous Door, Shakespeare on the Green, Chicago Symphony, and others. Regional credits include 10 seasons with Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Parks, Illinois Repertory Theater, Papermill Theater, Plymouth Repertory, Struthers Library, and others. A two-time Joseph Jefferson nominated fight director, he has been a Resident Fight Director with The American Players Theatre, The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Theatre OCU at Oklahoma City University, and holds actor combatant certifications with the Fight Directors of Canada and the Society of American Fight Directors. Additionally, Kevin was an Associate Professor of Movement and Acting at Oklahoma City University and has worked as a Guest Artist at Plymouth State University, Ball State, Kenyon College, University of Notre Dame, University of Illinois, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, American Players Theatre, University of Idaho, and Interlochen Academy.

Adam Fedock, Production Manager

Adam attended his first MSIP performances at the Sweet Pea Festival as a child growing up in Bozeman back in the early 90s, and he has never forgotten the magic of the stage nestled among the trees down in the Hollow. After attending Montana State University in the then Media & Theater Arts department, Adam transferred to New York University where he completed his degree in Film & Television. As a lover of music and performance he gravitated toward sound, working as a sound mixer and boom operator, and playing trombone in community orchestras. Adam couldn't be more thrilled to be back in his hometown with his young family and for the opportunity to support the arts under the Big Sky and beyond.

Riley O'Toole, Associate Artistic Director

Since 2016, Riley has been involved in 11 tours, 23 productions, and over 700 performances with MSIP across its various programs. He has worked for MSIP as an actor, teaching artist, assistant director and tour manager. Notable MSIP credits include Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Edgar in *King Lear*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Riley holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program. He is also an alumnus of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Emerging Professional Residency Program. Riley's regional acting credits include the Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Arizona Theater Company, and Salt Lake Acting Company. Riley would like to thank all of MSIP's communities across the Rocky Mountain region, whose ongoing generosity is the reason these programs exist!



Liz Johnson, Director of Community Engagement

Liz grew up in Billings, MT and spent her high school years as a dedicated theatre nerd, going to Shakespeare in the Parks performances through all the many different stages of life. She moved to Bozeman for an undergraduate degree in English Literature, following it up with a M.Phil in Popular Literature in Dublin, Ireland, and an online Masters of Library and Information Science from SJSU. In her free time, Liz likes to fish, camp, read, drink tea, and make things (crafts, wood working, sewing, and more). Liz has worked in various non-profits and libraries around the Gallatin Valley, including her time as the Adult Services Librarian at Belgrade Community Library. She is thrilled to be coordinating these meaningful theatrical and cultural events to communities across the state and beyond.



Directors: Kevin Asselin and Johamy Morales.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Johamy Morales, Director, *Much Ado About Nothing*

Johamy Morales (she/her) is an award-winning director and a 25 year veteran of theatre for young audiences dedicated to producing new works, community engagement and social justice through the arts. Johamy currently serves as the Artistic Director for Seattle Children's Theatre. She served as a Board Member for Red Eagle Soaring, a TYA Advisor for Reimagine: New Plays by BIPOC, and as a Trustee for Theatre Communication Group (TCG), where she advised on the Rising Leaders of Color program and TCG's Education Conference for four consecutive years. Johamy has worked with various schools, nonprofit organizations and the US State Department, nationally and internationally. Johamy holds an MFA in acting from The Ohio State University, with a specialization in devising new works, and a BA in Theatre from San Diego State University.

Ronnie Avansino, Assistant Director *Merchant of Venice* & Assistant Stage Manager *Much Ado About Nothing*

Ronnie Avansino is newly graduated from the University of Montana with a BFA in Design and Technology for Theatre and a Certificate in Dance Wellness. She loves each and every part of theatre, but most often can be found stage managing, crafting and constructing costumes and scenery, or directing and choreographing. This is her second year working with MSIP and she couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity. She is so excited for so many communities to get to enjoy the shows.

Jeremy Floyd, Costume Designer, *Merchant of Venice*

Jeremy W. Floyd (Costume Designer) has been a costume designer and educator in and around Chicago since 2008. His costume designs have been seen throughout Chicagoland and around the country including Kansas City Rep, True Colors Theatre Company Atlanta, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Paramount Theater, Drury Lane, Remy Bumppo, The Hypocrites, and Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. His productions at Montana

Shakespeare in the Parks include King Lear, 12th Night, The Three Musketeers, and Hamlet. He holds an MFA in Stage Design from Northwestern University and an MA in Theater from the University of Kentucky. Jeremy is an associate professor of Costume Design at Northern Illinois University.

Jazmin Aurora Medina, Costume Designer, *Much Ado About Nothing*

Jazmin (hahz-meen) Aurora Medina is a Xicana interdisciplinary artist based in the midwest, but is a frequent adventurer with her design work! With a focus in costume design, Jazmin believes in the magical power of empathetic, transformative storytelling through her practice. This is her first show with MSIP, and she couldn't be more excited to join this creative team! Previous design credits include theatre work in Wisconsin, Illinois, Colorado, Seattle, and Washington D.C. Jazmin also has received the honor of being selected as one of thirty-four US 'young emerging costume designers' for the 2019 Prague Quadrennial for EURYDICE (UW-Waukesha). Bendiciones!

Tom Watson, Scenic Designer, *Merchant of Venice*

Tom Watson is a Professor in the School of Film and Photography and the resident scene designer for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Originally from the Denver area, Tom received his BFA in Theatre at the University of Idaho and his MFA in Design and Theatre Technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has also worked as an actor, director, scene designer, lighting designer, and technical director at various theatres across the country including the Arrowrock Lyceum Theatre, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Idaho Repertory Theatre, Snowy Range Summer Theatre, Champlain Shakespeare Festival, Montana Ballet Company, Country Dinner Playhouse, and Boulder Dinner Theatre. Tom co-directing the documentary about Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Bard in the Backcountry, which aired on PBS.

Miguel Salazar, Scenic Designer & Co-Technical Director, *Much Ado About Nothing*

Miguel (Mike) Salazar, studied Scenic Design at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

He is currently an Associate Professor of scenic/lighting design and technology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Theatre Department. Before teaching he was the Technical Director for UTPA Theatre department and South Texas College. This is 8th year as Scenic Designer for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.

Maxwell G. Allen, Stage Manager, *Merchant of Venice*

Max is currently a stage and production management MFA candidate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Regional credits include The Lightning Thief and Matilda Jr. (Gulfshore Playhouse), Next to Normal (The Tampa Repertory Theatre), Christmas Contigo, The Smell of the Kill and The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical (Stageworks Theatre), and two seasons at Unto These Hills (Mountainside Theatre). He has also stage managed at Busch Gardens Tampa and is a resident stage manager at Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Max is a University of South Florida graduate with degrees in Business Management and Theatre Arts.

Paige Wisneski, Stage Manager, *Much Ado About Nothing*

Paige Wisneski (She/Her) is excited to be working with MT Shakespeare In The Parks for the third time this summer. She is a University of Montana graduate with a BFA in Stage Management. Some of Paige's recent stage management credits include: The Trial of Mother Jones (MissCast Productions; 2026), As You Like It (MT Shakespeare in the Parks; 2025), The Harvest (Rooted Theater Co.; 2024), Hip Strip Hijinks (Montana Rep. Theatre; 2024), and countless shows with her hometown dance company, Dance Fusion Northwest. MSIP has such a supportive, tight-knit community that she is extremely thankful to be a part of. Paige would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support, making her dream career come to life.

Neil Nihalani, Asst Stage Manager, *Merchant of Venice*

Neil is a young, enthusiastic stage manager born in Hong Kong, raised in India and just graduated from his technical theatre training at Pacific Conservatory Theatre in the California Central Coast. His love for theatre helps him draw from the material to add to a show technically while protecting artistic integrity. He uses his worldwide cultural exposure to better communicate, collaborate and build relationships with cast and crew alike.

Emmaleah Stapp, Asst Stage Manager

Emmaleah Stapp is a recent alumni of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BFA Stage Management. She hails from St. Louis, MO and Albuquerque, NM. Her previous stage management credits include A View From the Bridge (Illinois Theatre), Orlando (Illinois Theatre), Cetacean: The Whale (The Unreliable Bestiary), and Die Fledermaus (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois with Sinfonia da Camera). She sends love to Mom, Jacob, Sissy, and Gran'pa!

continued on next page

continued from page 15

Pornchanok Kanchanabanca (Nok), Sound Designer, Merchant of Venice

PORNCHANOK [NOK]

KANCHANABANCA is a Thai artist, sound designer, and composer. Nok has worked with theatre companies across the United States, including Lincoln Center, Huntington Theatre Company, OSF, Steppenwolf, McCarter Theater, Rattlestick, Geva Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Actors Theatre, among many others. She has also collaborated with performing groups and theatre companies in Thailand since 2008. Nok graduated from the School of Drama at Yale and is a member of the TSDCA, USA Local 829.

Andrew Hansen, Sound Designer, Much Ado About Nothing

Andy returns to Montana where has designed many productions for MSIP since 2002. Andy is based in Chicago where he designs and composes for Timeline Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and Lifeline Theatre. He has worked regionally with American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Montana State University.

Stacy Hostetter, Properties Designer

Stacy has enjoyed creating as a costume artist/craftsperson, stage manager, or props designer for numerous MSIP tours since 2002. A Bozeman local, Stacy graduated from MSU in Art Education/English Literature. She designed events/weddings, flowers, and had artwork on the White House Christmas tree and in *Country Living Magazine* before landing professionally in theatre where she has helped bring stories to the stage for 25+ years as a Bozeman Schools drama/art classroom and club teacher/director (1996-2010), the founder/artistic director of Kaleidoscope Youth Theater (2000-2019), costume designer at The Ellen Theatre (*Christmas Carol*, *Fiddler*, *You Can't Take It With You*), and with Intermountain Opera (*Into the Woods*, *Carousel*). Stacy is also a playwright of 60+ plays/musicals, directing 300 original productions for local stages.

Matt McCarren, Lighting Designer

Matt is happy to be returning to MSIP for the summer tour. Matt's work at MSIP includes scenic and lighting designs for *The Man of La Mancha*, *A Little Night Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cyrano* and many fall and winter educational tours. Regional credits: Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Arts West, Alliance Theater (DC), 59E59 NYC, Mile square Th Co., Cleveland Opera Theater, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival & more.

Dr. Gretchen E Minton, Dramaturg

Dr. Gretchen Minton is Professor of English and College of Letters and Science Distinguished Professor at Montana State University. She has published extensively on Shakespeare and his contemporaries, including several critical editions of early modern plays. Her 2020 monograph, *Shakespeare in Montana: Big Sky Country's Love*



Administrative Staff: Kevin Asselin, Vicki Stenberg, Liz Johnson, Adam Fedock, Riley O'Toole

Affair with the World's Most Famous Author, is the winner of several regional book awards. In addition to her scholarly work, Minton is a dramaturg, script adaptor, and director. Her recent work focuses on ecological adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, including *Salt Waves Fresh* and *No Winter's Tale*. She is also the co-founder of Montana InSite Theatre, which stages site-specific performances that use classical texts to address current environmental issues.

Kathy Logelin, Text/Verse Coach

Kathy is a professional Text/Dialect/Vocal coach based in Chicago. Chicago coaching credits include Mercury Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Porchlight Music Theatre, Theo Ubique, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Raven Theatre, Steep Theatre and A Red Orchid Theatre. Regional credits include Clarence Brown Theatre, The Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Repertory Theatre. International credits include The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The Jane Austen Festival in Bath, The Camden Fringe, and The Buxton Fringe. Kathy is a member of the Acting Faculty at Ball State University.

Shari Watson, Choreographer

Shari Watson has been choreographing for MSIP since 2000 and is delighted to be working with the company again! She is a Montana native and received a Bachelor of Dance from University of Idaho. She performed and taught with American Festival Ballet, Main Street Dance Company of Idaho, Lincoln Midwest Ballet and currently owns Bridger View Ballet Center in Belgrade. Some of her favorite credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *White Christmas*, and *Spring Awakening*. She thanks her family for their inspiration and continuous support of her artistic endeavors.

Jaime Nebeker, Intimacy Coordinator

Jaime is beyond thrilled to get to work on the intimacy of these two productions. Intimacy credits include: *Middle of the World* (Boise Contemporary

Theater) *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit...*, *Hot Asian Doctor Husband*, *The Normal Heart*, *Grand Horizons*, and *Hair* (Alley Repertory Theater).

PRODUCTION STAFF

Brenna Holgate, Production Apprentice

Brenna is so excited to return to MSIP for her second summer! She recently graduated from the University of Montana with a BFA in Costume Design/ Technology and a concentration in scenic painting. She has designed costumes for shows like *End of Shift* and *Into the Woods* and has constructed costumes for over 20 shows at the University. When she is not in the costume shop, she can be found painting and was recently featured in a local Missoula art gallery. Outside of theatre, Brenna loves to explore

the outdoors with her partner, spend time with her family, and pet as many cats as she can.

Madisyn Covington, Production Apprentice

Madisyn is a student at the University of Montana majoring in theatre design and technology, with a focus in stage management, costume design, and props design. She is passionate about expanding access to theatre and is committed to creating opportunities for individuals who may not traditionally have a place in the arts. She values inclusive, community-driven storytelling and strives to foster environments where diverse voices are welcomed and supported. This past spring she was the props designer for UM's production of *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Tevy Dembski, Production Apprentice

Tevy is a senior theatre major at the University of Toledo. They have been in a number of roles at UT, including acting, designing, stage management, and directing. This is their first time working with MSIP and are so happy to be part of the team. Enjoy the show!

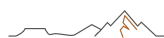
COSTUME SHOP

Angela Cateora, Costume Shop Manager

Angela Cateora is thrilled to be back for her seventh summer in the Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Costume Shop! In her free time she can be found reading books about music, knitting, petting dogs, and watching Seinfeld.

Isabella Weiland, Draper

Isabella is excited to bring her costuming talents to MSIP for her 6th season with the company. She is currently the Draper for South Coast Repertory during the year, and has previously worked on productions at Disneyland, the Theater at Monmouth and the University of Idaho.



Elias Dennis, Draper

Elias Dennis (they/he) received their Masters of Fine Arts in costume design and technology from Northern Illinois University in 2024. He designed costumes for *As You Like It* (2025), *The Winter's Tale* (2024), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2023), *She Kills Monsters* (2022), and *Hit the Wall* (2022). Elias was also a Draper/Tailor at Orlando Shakes for their productions of *Anna in the Tropics* (2025), *Welcome to Matteson* (2025), *Cabaret* (2025), and *A Christmas Carol* (2024). Elias has been a part of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks as a costume design assistant for *The Three Musketeers* (2023), *Measure for Measure* (2023), *King Lear* (2022), and *Twelfth Night* (2022). Elias is excited to return to MSIP as a Draper.

Perey Bridges, First Hand

Perey Bridges (First Hand) is excited to be in beautiful Montana working with MSIP for her fourth year. Perey started her career in Los Angeles working in costumes on television productions before transitioning to work as a freelance costumer on various theatrical projects. Over the past year she has spent her time sewing historical garments and doing alterations for her community.

Claire Carroll, First Hand

Claire Carroll is proud to be returning for her second year with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Claire is based in Southern California where she creates costumes for Chapman University's theater, dance, and opera performances.

Rio Dubin, Stitcher

Rio is a second year at the University of Idaho working towards their BFA in Theatre Technology with a concentration in Costume Design and Technology and a minor in Apparel, Textiles, and Design. Their current professional credits include wardrobe crew and stitcher at the New London Barn Playhouse on the following productions: *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Sister Act*, *Mary Poppins*, *Hairspray*, and *The Cottage*. Their recent costume design credits include assistant costume designer for *Love, Liz.*, *Pippin*, and *Ride the Cyclone* at the University of Idaho. They also served as the wardrobe supervisor on UI projects including *The Addams Family*, *Pinnocchio*, and *Ride the Cyclone*. They are thrilled to be joining Montana Shakespeare in the Park this summer, and hope you enjoy the show!

Nora Tjernagel, Stitcher

Nora's favorite thing about working in theater is using costuming to help create a magical world for audiences. She has worked with Bozeman Actors Theatre, Opera Montana, and Montana Theatre Works. This is her fifth season with MSIP, and she is so excited to be back! In her free time, Nora loves drafting her own clothing patterns and costumes, reading, and hanging out with her family.

Akaya Chambers, Costume Design Assistant

Akaya Chambers (she/fae/they) is a first-year MFA candidate studying Costume Design and Technology at NIU. She has enjoyed working in theatre and with costumes since middle school, and will continue to do so for as long as she physically and possibly can. This is her first year at MSIP and in Montana! She is excited to be part of the process and collaborate with new people.



Alexia Tebben, Costume Technician

Kyle Pingel-Hickey, Wig Master

Kyle is overjoyed return for a second year to style some fabulous wigs for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. When not styling drag wigs, Kyle has styled theatrical wigs for national theatres including: Peninsula Players Theatre, Lawrence University, Royal Caribbean, Marriott Theatre, and Goodman Theatre. Kyle is currently the Costume Shop Director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

SCENE SHOP

Blake Watson, Carpenter / Co-Technical Director

Blake Watson is a dramaturg, director, designer, technician, and actor based out of Bozeman, MT. He received a BA in Theatre and Dance from the University of Wyoming in 2023 and is currently pursuing an MFA in directing and dramaturgy from the University of Idaho. He is thrilled to return for his seventh summer with MSIP. Blake has had the pleasure of working as a Co-Technical Director or Scenic Carpenter on nearly 20 different productions for the company during that time, ranging from summer tours, school tours, and winter shows in Bozeman.

Eric Sanchez, Carpenter

Eric Sanchez is the Production Manager for the UTRGV Theatre Department. This will be Eric's 5th year at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and he is thankful for the opportunity to be involved with such wonderful and creative minds.

Jorge Sepulveda, Carpenter

Valeria Mendoza, Scenic Intern

Valeria is a scenic intern making her debut with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. She is currently studying theatre and has a passion for bringing stories to life through design and collaboration. Val is excited to contribute to this production and continue growing as an artist.

Ashley Milleson, Scenic Artist

Ashley Milleson is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of yet another summer at MSIP. She holds a masters degree in scenic design from the University of Montana. Recent scenic design credits include *La Boheme*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Hansel and Gretel* for Opera Montana; *As You Like It* for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks; and *The Sound of Music* for Lewiston Civic Theatre in Idaho.

LIGHTING & SOUND

David Zavala, Master Electrician

David Zavala is a senior at the University of Texas at the Rio Grande Valley. In his home state he's had his hand in most of the show's coming out of his college's theatre department, most recently acting as the lighting designer for UTRGV's "*Book of Will*". He's worked hard to make it this far from home, and he's excited to be working alongside so many wonderful people to bring this production to you!

Dylan McPhail, Audio Engineer

Dylan is an audio engineer living in Bozeman. He graduated from Montana State University with a degree in music technology. Dylan has enjoyed working live broadcast television and radio for the past several years, and is excited to bring those skills into his second year at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks!

Track Personnel for "Stormy Weather" recording:

David Charles, Isaac Winemiller, Josh Poole

ACTING APPRENTICES

Octavio Jimenez, Bassanio (Merchant) & Don John (Much Ado)

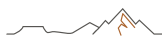
Octavio Jimenez, an actor trained at the University of Montana, joins MSIP for the first time through our apprenticeship program. You may see him on stage, behind the bar, on the side of the mountain, or hanging out down by the water. If the sun is out then so is he. Octavio spends his time inside making meals for friends, sharing drinks, telling jokes, and reading plays late at night. Octavio loves meeting new people so if you see him say hello.

Shadie Wallette, Solania (Merchant) & Dogberry (Much Ado)

Shadie Wallette is a recent graduate of the University of Montana and enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe. Their recent credits include the world premiere of *Can't Drink Saltwater*, where they played a missing Indigenous woman named Star, and a First Read with the Montana Repertory Theatre of the play *Bonnets: How Ladies of Good Breeding are Induced to Murder*. They are excited to begin the apprenticeship with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and can't wait to learn everything they can.

Gabriel Malek, Gratiano / Aragon (Merchant) & Claudio (Much Ado)

Gabriel is a junior in the musical theatre BFA program at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. He has performed in shows such as *Anything Goes* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This is his first time being a part of Montana Shakespeare in the Park, and he couldn't be more excited for the opportunity.





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Tickets will be available on the MSIP website in October, and all funds raised will provide vital support to the Shakespeare in the Schools Program.



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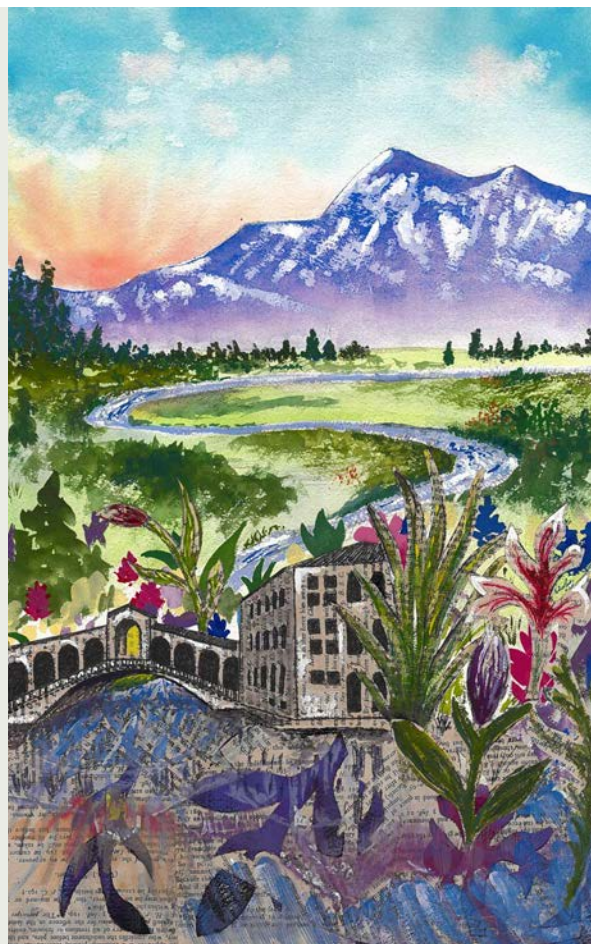


Diane's poster design
is available for purchase
at the MSIP
merchandise table.

DIANE HAAS EUGENE, OR

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks has been inspiring communities for 54 years. The captivating performances have the ability to transport audiences from their favorite local park to enchanted forests in England or the atmospheric canals of Venice, Italy. My parents have been long-time supporters of MSIP and I am happy to continue the tradition. It's an honor to have my painting selected for this season's poster. Enjoy the show!

Artwork by Diane Haas



2026 ACTING COMPANY



MATTHEW CHAVEZ:

Lorenzo / Morocco – The Merchant of Venice

Claudio – Much Ado About Nothing

Matthew Chavez is leading Actor currently finishing his Performing Arts Degree with PCPA. Born and raised in Central California, Matthew does not shy away from any challenge that an actor may face and finds ways to support the ensemble in the best way possible.



HANNAH FREUND:

Lancelot – The Merchant of Venice

Hero – Much Ado About Nothing

Hannah Freund (she/her) is a Wisconsin-born, Chicago-based actor, playwright, and director who is beyond thrilled to be making her MSIP debut! She is a proud alum of the BFA Acting program at Illinois Wesleyan University, as well as the London Theatre Program at the British American Drama

Academy. Recent credits: Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, Winnie-the-Pooh (The Theater at Monmouth); Twelfth Night, Great Expectations (Door Shakespeare); Much Ado About Nothing (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); The Lower Depths (Gwydion Theatre Company); When the World Ends (Odds & Ends Theatre Company); All's Well That Ends Well (Shakespeare Project of Chicago). Representation: Lily's Talent Agency. Lots of love to the "famby," Valerie, and Sam.



GABBAY MADU:

Solania – The Merchant of Venice

Beatrice – Much Ado About Nothing

Gabbay is a Chicago-based actor from Montego Bay, Jamaica. She received her BA in Theatre and Computer Science from Monmouth College and her MFA from the University of Arkansas. Select credits include Jane in Pride and Prejudice, Ghost of Christmas Past/Belle in A Christmas Carol, Francois et al, Milady U/S

in Ken Ludwig's The Three Musketeers, Cheyenne Cody in Song for Drunk Cowboys..., Crystal in Play on Jody, The Musician in Bookends(TheatreSquared), Host in Off the Charts!, Pearl (u/s) in Black Pearl Sings (Florida Studio Theatre), Aaliyah in Camp Wyldwood, Marianne Angelle in The Revolutionists, W in Lungs, (University of Arkansas), Juliet from Romeo and Juliet, Ursula in The Little Mermaid (Monmouth College). She is super excited to be spending the summer making her MSIP debut!



SAM CHEESEMAN:

Gratiano / Aragon – The Merchant of Venice

Don John / George – Much Ado About Nothing

Sam is returning for his fourth summer and 12th tour overall with MSIP. Though based in Chicago, Illinois, Sam considers Montana his artistic home. He most recently wrapped up the SHAKES! tour in the spring

where he helped bring Good in Everything to 60 schools in Montana and Wyoming. Outside of MSIP, Sam has worked on educational Shakespeare programming with American Player's Theater, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, and Utah Shakespeare Festival, among others. In Chicago, Sam has worked as an actor with Midsommer Flight, Greatworks, and Shakespeare All-Stars, among others. He would love to shout out the incredible communities we engage with on this tour. You are the heart of this. And to Emily-could never have gotten to 12 without you. Go get 'em.



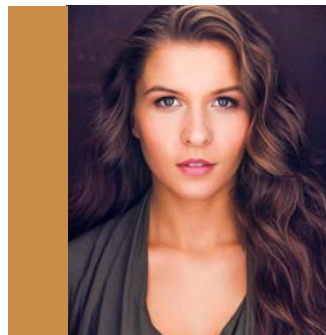
EVAN JOSLYN:

Duke / Tubal – The Merchant of Venice

Benedick – Much Ado About Nothing

Evan Joslyn is stoked to be making his summer debut after spending the year touring with Shakespeare in the Schools and Montana Shakes! Prior to his work with MSIP, Evan was an Actor/Teacher with Great Lakes

Theater. Recent credits: Twelfth Night (Malvolio - Cleveland Shakespeare Festival), The Right Room (Steven - Borderlight Theatre Festival). He holds a degree in theatre from Denison University.



CALLEE MILES:

Portia – The Merchant of Venice

Ursula / Conrad – Much Ado About Nothing

Callee is elated to spend the summer sharing stories in this gorgeous place! Off Broadway/ NYC: Hamlet (Hamlet Isn't Dead), Million Dollar Quartet (The Argyle Theatre), and performances at 54 Below. Regional credits: Antony &

Cleopatra (Cleopatra), Jesus Christ Superstar (Mary Magdalene), As You Like It (Phebe), Evil Dead: The Musical (Annie/Shelly), An Improbable Fiction (Juliet), Hotter Than Egypt (Maha), A Bold Stroke For a Wife (Ms. Lovely), Les Misérables (Eponine). Callee is earning her MFA at the University of Houston and will join the company at The Alley Theatre for the upcoming season. She's an actor combatant with skills in all eight SAFD sanctioned weapons in addition to her training as a martial artist. Gratitude to friends, family, and to my sun and Skye. 4:13



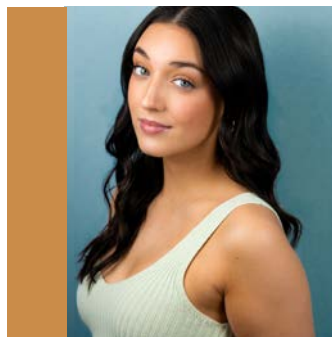
JAMIE NEBEKER:

Nerissa – The Merchant of Venice

Dogberry – Much Ado About Nothing

Jaime is an actor, director, puppeteer, choreographer, and VO artist. She recently moved to Chicago from Boise, ID where she received her BA in Theatre Arts from Boise State University and co-founded HomeGrown Theatre. Aside from her regular work onstage with HomeGrown, she worked with Boise Contemporary Theater, Idaho

Shakespeare Festival, and Great Lakes Theater. Recently in Chicago she was onstage with Oil Lamp Theater and The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and she designed puppets for Lifeline Theater. She and her sister make puppet theatre and films under their newly formed, Rubicon Studios. She is so grateful to be back in the west on this epic journey with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks.



ANGELA TOMASO:

Jessica – The Merchant of Venice

Margaret / Verges – Much Ado About Nothing

Angela Tomaso is a Chicago based actor from Elk Grove Village, IL and is so excited to be making her MSIP debut! This past May, she earned her BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Recent credits include: The City and the City

(Dhatt), Plumas Negras (Rosa/Rebecca), 9 to 5 (Doralee), The Prom (Kaylee), and Grease (Patty Simcox). Angela also works as a Disney Princess character performer across the Chicagoland area. She would like to thank her incredibly supportive family and unwavering friendships for all that they have done to get her to this point.



HUNTER TRAMMELL:

Bassanio – The Merchant of Venice

Barrachio / Friar – Much Ado About Nothing

Hunter Trammell is ECSTATIC to be returning to MSIP for his second summer. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky and currently based in Chicago, Illinois, some recent credits include: "Untitled Hamlet Play" (Black Cat Theatre Company), Orlando in "As You Like It" and Pistol in "Henry

V" (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks). He received his BFA in Acting from The University of Cincinnati (CCM) in 2023. He's also worked with companies such as Richmond Shakespeare Festival (Indiana), StageOne Family Theatre, as well as acting in multiple film productions. He would like to express his gratitude for his family and everyone at MSIP for bringing him back for another amazing summer.



DUSTIN VALENTA:

Shylock – The Merchant of Venice

Don Pedro – Much Ado About Nothing

Dustin is psyched to be back in the West after spending the Fall touring Richard III with MSIS. He is based in Chicago, where he has performed with Theatre Wit, Chicago Children's Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and Steppenwolf Lookout. You

can also see him in the feature film Ponderosa, receiving its debut at this summer's Tribeca Film Festival. He is a big fan of outdoor activities, being upside down, hanging out with animals, and spending time with his partner, Jocelyn. Thanks to Kevin, Johamy, Riley, Gretchen, Adam, the whole MSIP team and, most importantly, YOU for making this magic possible. Love to family and Marbles.



JOHNATHAN WALLACE:

Antonio – The Merchant of Venice

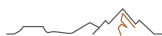
Leonato / Sexton – Much Ado About Nothing

Johnathan Wallace is a Chicago-based actor from Gary, Indiana. A graduate of Columbia College Chicago, his work spans new plays and classical theatre, with credits including Henry V, Richard III, The Tempest, and All Our Tragic. He has performed with regional Shakespeare festivals and ensemble-

driven companies and appeared on Fargo (FX) and A Black Lady Sketch Show (HBO). He trained with Steppenwolf West and The Second City and is committed to bringing Shakespeare to wide audiences.



2026 Acting Company: Front to back, left to right — Evan Joslyn, Shadie Wallete, Hannah Freund, Hunter Trammell, Jaime Nebeker, Johnathan Wallace, Sam Cheeseman, Dustin Valenta, Gabbay Madu, Callee Miles, Gabe Malek, Octavio Jimenez **Not Pictured:** Matthew Chavez, Angela Tomaso



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THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

DIRECTED BY
KEVIN ASSELIN

COSTUME DESIGNER

JEREMY W. FLOYD

SOUND DESIGNER

PORNCHANOK KANCHANABANCA

SCENIC DESIGNER

TOM WATSON

PROPERTIES DESIGNER

STACY HOSTETTER

LIGHTING DESIGNER

MATT MCCARREN

FIGHT DIRECTOR

KEVIN ASSELIN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RONNIE AVANSINO

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

JAIME NEBEKER

TEXT/VERSE COACH

KATHY LOGELIN

ADAPTOR/DRAMATURG

GRETCHEN MINTON

STAGE MANAGER

MAX ALLEN

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

LORENZO / MOROCCO MATTHEW CHAVEZ
GRATIANO / ARAGON SAM CHEESEMAN
LANCELOT HANNAH FREUND
DUKE / TUBAL EVAN JOSLYN
SOLANIA GABBAY MADU
PORTIA CALLEE MILES

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SYNOPSIS:

The Merchant of Venice ADAPTED BY DR. GRETCHEN MINTON

- In Venice, the merchant Antonio borrows three thousand ducats from the moneylender Shylock to help his friend Bassanio travel to Belmont and woo the wealthy, clever Portia.
- Shylock, who has long been publicly humiliated by Antonio, proposes a sinister bond: if the loan is not repaid within three months, he may cut a pound of flesh from Antonio's body.
- Antonio, confident his ships will return in time, agrees — but Shylock's mood darkens further when his own daughter Jessica elopes with the Christian Lorenzo, taking his gold and jewels with her.
- In Belmont, Portia's father's test requires suitors to choose among three caskets of gold, silver, and lead. The Princes of Morocco and Aragon choose wrongly; Bassanio wisely picks lead and wins Portia's hand. His friend Gratiano wins Portia's attendant Nerissa.
- News arrives that all of Antonio's ships have been lost at sea. Shylock, refusing every offer of repayment, demands his pound of flesh before the court of Venice.
- Portia and Nerissa disguise themselves as a young lawyer and his clerk and travel to Venice to argue Antonio's case.
- Portia's plea for mercy is rejected by Shylock. She then springs a legal trap: the bond grants flesh but not one drop of blood, and the cut must be exactly one pound — no more, no less — on pain of death.
- Shylock is defeated by his own insistence on the letter of the law: he loses half his wealth, is forced to convert to Christianity, and must leave his estate to Lorenzo and Jessica.
- Before leaving, Portia and Nerissa — still in disguise — claim the rings their husbands had sworn never to give away. Both men reluctantly hand them over.
- Back in Belmont, the wives confront their husbands over the missing rings before revealing the truth: they were the lawyer and clerk who saved Antonio's life.
- The play ends happily: Antonio learns three of his ships have arrived safely in harbor, Lorenzo and Jessica receive Shylock's deed of gift, and all couples are joyfully reunited.

Director's Notes BY KEVIN ASSELIN

Each season at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, we strive to engage Shakespeare's plays not as distant artifacts, but as living, breathing works that invite us into conversation with our present moment. *The Merchant of Venice* is perhaps one of Shakespeare's most debated plays; one that asks us not for easy answers, but for thoughtful reflection.

Much has been said about this play and its treatment of Shylock. It has often been labeled in ways that can limit our courage to fully engage with its complexity. This evening's approach has been to listen closely, to consider what Shakespeare might be revealing about systems of power, prejudice, and the ways in which justice can be shaped (often unequally) by those who hold it.

At the center of this exploration is Shylock, a character who delivers some of the most compelling arguments in all of Shakespeare. Through his words, we are asked to recognize the power of clear, reasoned argument, and to consider how often such clarity is overlooked when filtered through bias or fear. His speeches resonate far beyond the world of the play, reminding us of the enduring fight for dignity and recognition.

The Merchant of Venice
Montana Shakespeare in the Parks 2026



Costume rendering by Jeremy Floyd.

This tension is perhaps most evident in the play's central question: what is the relationship between mercy and justice? Who is afforded mercy, and who is denied it? And what happens when justice is applied without compassion; or compassion without equity?

Equally important is the notion of bonds. Promises are made throughout this play, yet not all are honored. In many ways, Shylock stands alone in his unwavering commitment to the bond he has made. Others, in contrast, falter in their loyalties, raising questions about integrity, faith, and the cost of betrayal. Consider that promises made in love are not immune to fracture, and the ease with which they are set aside invites us to investigate how we value the bonds closest to us.

Tonight, we aim to hold space for these questions. We invite you to listen closely, to reflect, and to consider the relevance of these ideas in our own world. Particular attention is given to Jessica, whose journey speaks to the complexities of belonging, identity, and love.

As always, we offer this story not as a definitive statement, but as an invitation to engage, reflect, and to share in the experience of live performance. Thank you for being with us tonight!

DRAMATURGICAL NOTES

Bound to be difficult: *The Merchant of Venice*

BY DR. GRETCHEN MINTON

Shakespeare wrote *The Merchant of Venice* c. 1596-7. It was classified as a comedy then and for a long time after, because it features young couples in love who enjoy the promise of a conventional happy ending. Today, however, that aspect of the plot is assuredly less noticeable than the troubling plotline involving the Jewish character, Shylock. Officially speaking, there were no Jews in England during Shakespeare's lifetime, for they had been expelled since the late thirteenth century; a general lack of direct experience, however, did not prevent a strong cultural anti-Semitism. Nonetheless, Shylock has tremendous depth. He is flawed as well as sympathetic—never more so than when he delivers his famous “Hath not a Jew eyes?” speech.

Near the beginning of the play, the merchant, Antonio, asks Shylock for a loan, and Shylock makes the bizarre suggestion that they enter into a “merry bond” in which the price for forfeiture of the loan is a pound of the merchant's flesh. Such flesh-bond stories go back to ancient literature (including the Talmud), so despite how strange the price seems to us, the notion was not original with Shakespeare. However, by combining this story with several others and developing a network of character relationships, Shakespeare found a way to explore in depth what it means for humans to be bound to one another. In its legal sense, a bond is a contractual obligation whereby one person must pay something owed to another. Yet during the early modern period, as in our own, the word “bond” had many other meanings, including anything that restrains liberty, an obligation or duty, a cementing force for any kind of union, a covenant between two or more people, and a pledge of oneself.

Legal obligation is at the center of this play; Antonio is contractually bound to Shylock, and thus becomes physically bound during the trial scene, when Shylock prepares to cut off his flesh. Yet Antonio enters into this agreement in the first place because of another kind of bond: friendship. Bassanio begs Antonio for money on the basis of this friendship, yet Bassanio has nothing to offer in return but his love. The fact that Antonio is ultimately willing to die for Bassanio shows that such bonds are not casual, but instead a matter of the deepest human sacrifice.

The bonds of family are also central to multiple plots in this play. Portia is bound by the will of a dead father, and Jessica by a living one. Portia cannot accept or refuse her suitors because her father's will stipulated that she marry the one who chooses the correct casket, irrespective of her own desires. Jessica's bondage is more literal, for she is locked in a house which she calls “a hell,” told not to even look out the window. Her decision to break with her father is monumental, for it involves not just a young woman eloping, but the concomitant loss of religion, community, and family. This storyline shows the great pain that Shylock suffers when she deserts him and leaves open the question of whether she, too, regrets the break with her over-protective father.

The words of the traditional Christian marriage ceremony speak to another sort of bond: “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Mark 10.9). *Merchant of Venice*'s final act focuses on the importance of marriage bonds as symbolized by rings. Portia and Nerissa manipulate their husbands into breaking a minor vow—keeping a ring—in order to highlight the importance of keeping the paramount vow—fidelity. The women poignantly demonstrate that human bonds are vital,



Sketch by Tom Watson, Scenic Designer

but also fragile, and breaking them can quickly result in catastrophe.

All the characters agree that the citizens of Venice are bound by the law, even the Duke himself. Without a legal system that protects all inhabitants (including marginalized Jews), this society would fall apart. In the case of Venice, people obey such rules because they are all dependent upon commerce: ships are at sea, money is lent out, and servants work for masters. In all cases, the Venetians need one another because they are part of an economic system that requires marketplace cooperation.

The references to law in this play cannot be fully disentangled from the references to religion. In sixteenth-century England, standard Christian theology preached that Jews were too bound by law (the Old Testament), remaining stubbornly unwilling to accept the message of Jesus' grace (the New Testament). Likewise, so far as the Christians in the play are concerned, Shylock's error is a harsh and barbaric obsession with the law. Portia tries to get Shylock to understand the distinction, asserting a contrast between Christian mercy and Shylock's insistence that, despite everything, he will have his bond and take Antonio's pound of flesh. Yet Shakespeare stops far short of offering a conventional sermon about Jewish impiety at the end of this play. The Christians emerge not only as bigoted, but as harsh and unbending, especially when Antonio chooses to punish Shylock by forcing him to convert to Christianity. Such forced conversion is a sentence of unbearable trauma, for it separates him from his community, his heritage, his God.

Like Shakespeare's characters, we are bound by family, friendship, money, and religion. And we are also bound by history. In the twenty-first century, it is notoriously difficult to talk about *Merchant of Venice* because of the sensitive issues it raises about anti-Semitism and its monstrous consequences. Some people, in fact, feel that such a play should not be performed any longer because of the horrifically bigoted language and actions of its characters. Yet *Merchant of Venice* remains valuable precisely because it challenges us to face the most difficult questions, urging us to grapple with reprehensible human behavior not just in the past, but in the present. No play gives us a better avenue whereby we can explore how we are bound not just to those who are like us, but also bound by prejudices, stereotypes, and ill treatment of those whom we label as outsiders.

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

DIRECTED BY
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COSTUME DESIGNER

JAZMIN MEDINA

SOUND DESIGNER

ANDREW HANSEN

SCENIC DESIGNER

MIGUEL SALAZAR

RILEY O'TOOLE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

LIGHTING DESIGNER

MATT MCCARREN

FIGHT DIRECTOR

KEVIN ASSELIN

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

JAIME NEBEKER

TEXT/VERSE COACH

KATHY LOGELIN

ADAPTOR/DRAMATURG

GRETCHEN MINTON

STAGE MANAGER

PAIGE WISNESKI

PROPERTIES DESIGNER

STACY HOSTETTER

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

CLAUDIO MATTHEW CHAVEZ
DON JOHN / GEORGE SAM CHEESEMAN
HERO HANNAH FREUND
BENEDICK EVAN JOSLYN
BEATRICE GABBAY MADU
URSULA / CONRAD CALLEE MILES

DOGBERRY JAIME NEBEKER
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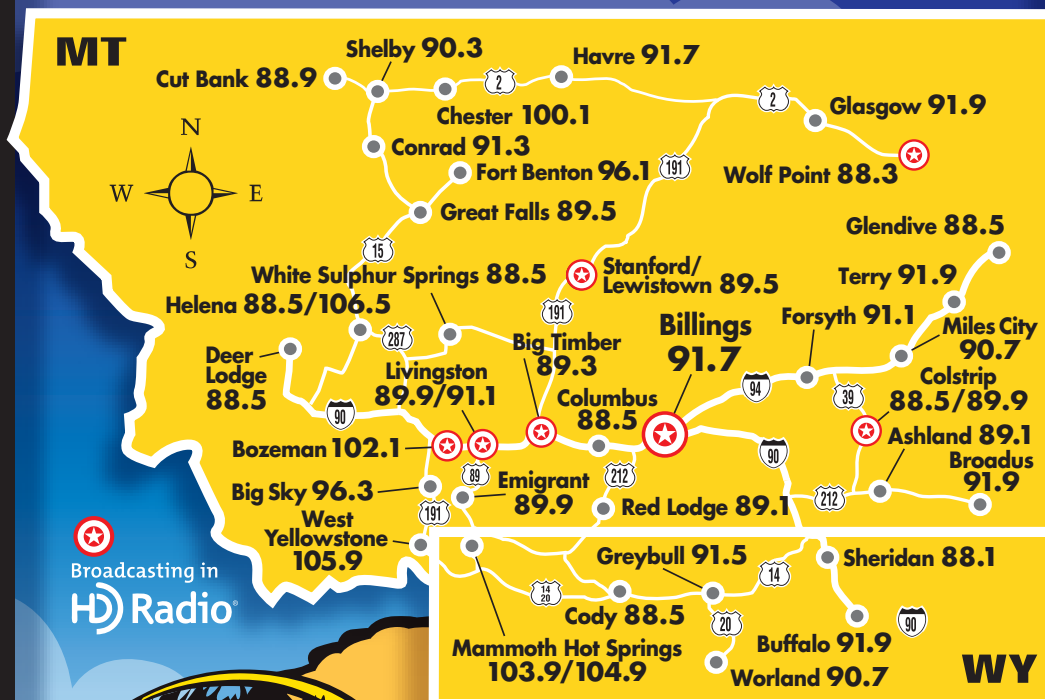
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SYNOPSIS:

Much Ado About Nothing BY DR. GRETCHEN MINTON

- Don Pedro, Prince of Aragon, arrives in Messina with his soldiers — including the romantic young Claudio and the witty, self-proclaimed bachelor Benedick — fresh from a military victory.
- Claudio falls for Hero, daughter of Leonato the Governor, and Don Pedro helps him win her hand in marriage.
- Benedick and Hero's sharp-tongued cousin Beatrice wage a "merry war" of insults, each insisting they will never fall in love.
- Don Pedro and friends hatch a scheme to trick both Benedick and Beatrice into believing the other is secretly in love with them — and it works on both.
- Don John, the Prince's resentful half-brother, conspires to ruin the wedding: his henchman Borachio stages a fake midnight encounter with Hero's maid Margaret, making it appear Hero has been unfaithful.
- On her wedding day, Claudio publicly shames Hero before the congregation; she collapses and is reported to have died.
- The Friar counsels the family to hide Hero and let the rumor of her death stand, hoping it will bring Claudio to remorse.
- Beatrice, furious at the injustice, demands Benedick prove his love by challenging Claudio to a duel.
- The bumbling constable Dogberry and his watchmen accidentally uncover Borachio's confession and bring the truth to light.
- Don John's deception is exposed; Claudio, overcome with guilt, agrees to perform penance and marry a "niece" he has never seen.
- The mystery bride unmask as Hero herself — alive and vindicated. In a joyful double wedding, Hero and Claudio reunite, while Benedick and Beatrice finally confess their love and agree to marry.

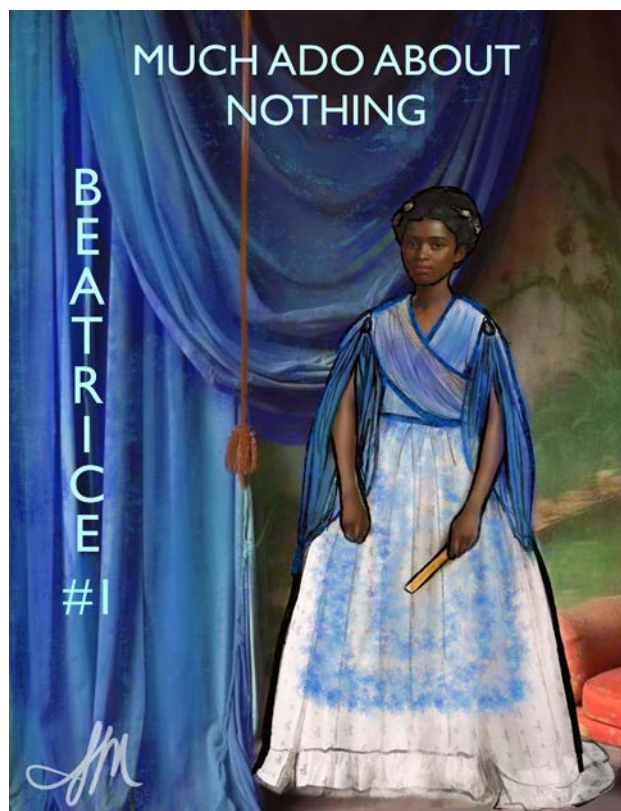
Director's Notes BY JOHAMY MORALES

Much Ado About Nothing is one of William Shakespeare's most witty and enduring comedies, with love and romance at its heart. The play explores deception in all its forms, malicious, playful, and well-intentioned, while reminding us that despite confusion and harm, love ultimately finds its way forward.

Love is central to the human experience. It is both emotional and biological, driving connection, belonging, and personal fulfillment. At the same time, when intertwined with insecurity, pride, and immaturity, it can expose our worst impulses. Shakespeare captures this tension beautifully, showing how love can both fracture and restore us.

The story centers on two romances. Hero and Claudio's relationship is nearly destroyed by false accusations and mistaken assumptions, while Beatrice and Benedick, determined to avoid love, are cleverly tricked into it. Their journeys feel familiar to me, echoing the heightened emotional world of a telenovela, where misunderstandings grow through overheard conversations and small moments become life-altering. The stakes may seem exaggerated, but for these characters, everything feels urgent and real.

The play is set in a port city at Leonato's home following a war. In this production, we reimagine that world in the early years of the American Republic, between 1783 and 1830, a society newly liberated yet deeply concerned with



Costume rendering by Jazmin Medina Aurora.

honor, virtue, and appearances. Like Shakespeare's characters, this young nation is defining itself, influenced by Neoclassicism and Enlightenment ideals while navigating a blend of cultures and identities.

The play is set in a port city at Leonato's home following a war. In this production, we reimagine that world in the early years of the American Republic, between 1783 and 1830, a society newly liberated yet deeply concerned with honor, virtue, and appearances.

Neoclassicism becomes our central visual and emotional metaphor. Clean lines, symmetry, and Greco-Roman influences stand in contrast to the chaos of gossip, romance, and mischief. This tension between public virtue and private desire fuels both the comedy and heartbreak of the play. Though the memory of war lingers, there is also a sense of renewal, space to reflect, create, and imagine a hopeful future. Our approach is grounded in nature, set in the warmth of summer. Time feels slower, and the characters are surrounded by opportunities for connection. At its core, this play celebrates love in all its contradictions; its ability to wound and to heal, to confuse and to transform.

In a time that feels uncertain, I am drawn to celebrating love as an act of resistance. My hope is that you leave this production feeling entertained, connected, and touched by the romance in the air. Let us take you on a journey of passion, humor, and discovery, and remind ourselves what it means to love, to be loved, and to embrace the simple powerful act of loving.

DRAMATURGICAL NOTES

Quite a lot about Noting

BY DR. GRETCHEN MINTON

When we think of Shakespeare's comedies, we might immediately picture a world of magic, as in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or a cross-dressing heroine, as in *The Merchant of Venice* or *Twelfth Night*. However, *Much Ado about Nothing* has neither magic nor cross-dressing; instead, it is known for the witty, outspoken duo at its center: Beatrice and Benedick. The energy of the play comes from this clever pair who detest one another...until they don't.

Beatrice and Benedick's verbal jousting results in some rather memorable insults, especially when it comes to the war between the sexes. The quick wit of these characters is contrasted with a character on the other end of the social spectrum: the constable Dogberry, whose language is full of malapropisms. For instance, he says "desertless" when he means "deserving" and "tolerable" when he means "intolerable", causing audiences onstage and off to laugh at him. Even the play's title is a word game. On the surface, the title *Much Ado about Nothing* assures us that this comedy is a piece of fluff, not really about anything of import. On the other hand, the title also puns on the word "nothing" because during Shakespeare's time it was pronounced in the same way as the word "noting". This wordplay offers us the opportunity to consider whether this comedy ultimately is about nothing at all, or is in fact about the ways that we see and (mis)understand the world around us.

Stories about love are often based on vision, as in the clichés about love at first sight and the blindness of Cupid. In *Much Ado*, Shakespeare's interest in different kinds of noting ties directly to this theme, for people note one another's appearance, find themselves blinded by love, and have trouble distinguishing who is behind the masks, both literal and metaphorical. Such an emphasis on sight highlights a common problem, which is that humans are notoriously bad at recognizing the truth behind what they see. The portion of the plot that revolves around another pair of lovers, Claudio and Hero, traces near-tragic events that arise from this kind of blindness.

As a result of believing a false report, Claudio becomes convinced that Hero is unfaithful. Rather than telling her of his suspicion, Claudio slanders her at the altar, calling her a whore and refusing to marry her—brutal acts that seem surprising coming from a character who has been, up until this point, mild-mannered and blandly lovable. Claudio's error lies at the heart of what makes this play relevant to every era, for it emphasizes how suspicion, misogyny, and insecurity are inherent in love and friendship alike. When Claudio later realizes that he was wrong to accuse Hero of infidelity, he weakly asserts, "Yet sinned I not / But in mistaking". Yet as the play shows, mistaking one woman for another is a serious offense, growing out of his complete failure to note who Hero really is on a much deeper level.

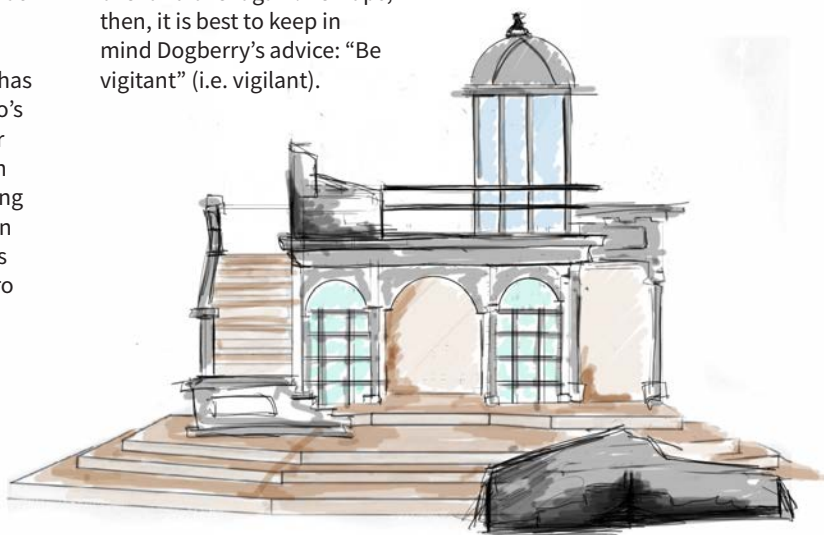
Viewers and readers of this play can see what many of the characters cannot: that the women and their love should be cherished, not thrown away carelessly based on second-hand reports and unsubstantiated rumors. Don John is the villainous instigator behind this plot, but his plan would not have worked unless male characters, including even Hero's own father, Leonato, were predisposed to assume the worst about women and to believe anything they hear or see (or think they see). Although Shakespeare could not have imagined social media feeds, doctored videos, or TikTok, he did portray a society filled

with half-heard conversations, whispered insinuations, and false reports of sexual encounters. The damage caused by public slander can, and does, ruin lives.

This sounds like heavy material for a comedy, and indeed it is. Shakespeare is not fond of backstories that give easy answers about what might cause such violent, impetuous behavior. However, one potential answer is hinted at in the often-overlooked context of this play's opening: the men are just returning from a war. They have been immersed in a dangerous and violent world, and no doubt they have been witness to horribly traumatic events. As with all wars, no matter the cause, the toll on the soldiers' psyche carries forward into times of peace, impacting relationships. Such small hints about the source of Claudio's sudden violence, like the resentment that Don John has for being labeled a bastard, do not excuse their behavior, but they do encourage us to take the complexity of each character seriously.

Much Ado ends with dancing and imminent weddings, as comedies usually do. The storyline involving Beatrice and Benedick shows that stubborn people who seem too proud to love can indeed fall head over heels for the least likely person. Their deep affection by the end of the play promises a more mature relationship future than Shakespeare suggests for most of his young lovers. The excitement at the conclusion is palpable; the lovers are paired off, difficulties have been overcome, and the future looks relatively bright. Benedick's final speech admits that people are "giddy" creatures—imperfect, changeable, and all too often a bit foolish. It's hard to deny this acknowledgement of human failings, and it's surely a good idea to laugh at ourselves and enjoy the comedy that ensues when we make mistakes.

In the end, however, *Much Ado* balances joy and laughter with a reminder of the terrible consequences that result from not truly understanding those we cherish. Lack of trust, gender inequity, violence, and slander are dangerous forces in human relations that require constant attention, lest we find ourselves making the same mistakes over and over again. Perhaps, then, it is best to keep in mind Dogberry's advice: "Be vigilant" (i.e. vigilant).



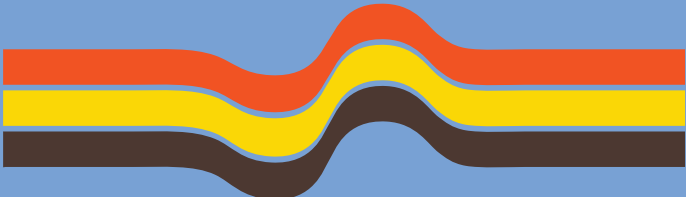
Sketch by Miguel Salazar, Scenic Designer
The setting is inspired by the director's concept of using the eastern coastline of New England during the late 1700's to mid 1800's. The lighthouse offered a means to introduce a sense of wonderment and romanticism, while emitting a sense of the past.

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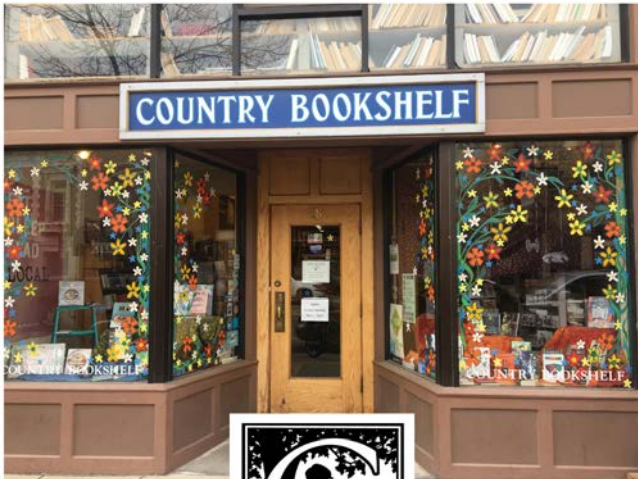



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TOUR COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

A Community Takes the Stage: Helena's Shakespeare in the Parks Committee

In Helena, Montana, Shakespeare in the Parks isn't supported by a single volunteer—it's sustained by an informal but deeply committed community committee that has come together, year after year, to ensure free Shakespeare continues to thrive under the summer sky. It has been fun to see how volunteers flow into the team over the years. After a couple of years of helping pick up traffic cones after the performances, John Cummings and Tara Thompson got the keys to the PO Box, the mailing database, and the checkbook. Show some volunteerism and you'll soon be roped in!

The Helena Shakespeare in the Parks Committee began the transformation to its current shape around 2009–2010, when Ron Lee invited Mary Lee Larison to join him, Nikki Whearty, and Jeanie Tweeten in carrying forward the fundraising and coordination work previously managed by Rob Friestad, a longtime MSIP board member. That was a learning experience: the group focused on raising the sponsorship fee and greeting the company, hosted a small fundraising event at Turman Larison Contemporary gallery, and began to understand what it truly takes to bring Shakespeare to the park.

Since then, the committee has developed a rhythm and a set of traditions that continue today. Each spring—often timed close to Shakespeare's birthday—the committee sends a fundraising letter that provides the backbone of Helena's annual sponsorship. Over the years, those letters have been stuffed around a brewery table with popcorn or on kitchen tables and in living rooms by friends and neighbors who believe in the value of live theater. Our merry band of volunteers continues to learn that the Helena audience is sometimes a spontaneous "night of" or quickly remembered "week of" the performance kind of crowd, so we have to carefully time messaging not too early, nor too late, to capture the community's attention. Yet year after the year, the town comes out for the performances.

These past few years we have added pre-performance community stage time with the Holter Museum of Art's young Adventures in Cardboard on Stage with amazing giant cardboard puppets.

Additional fundraising has included Community Nights at Blackfoot River Brewing Company, raffles for picnic dinners on performance nights and Shakespeare in the Parks merchandise, business sponsorships, community grants, and generous individual donations. On performance evenings, the committee also hosts a canned food drive benefiting the Helena Food Share, a tradition that connects the joy of free theater with direct support for neighbors in need. For audience members to save their spot early the day of the performance, they weigh their blanket down with food donations which we collect at the performance, plus any extra donations as well. At the end of the evening, our committee relishes loading the food into the Helena Food Share Van—at least on the years we don't lock the keys inside the vehicle.

The committee's work is hands-on and collaborative. Members



coordinate with the City of Helena, hang posters, set up and clean up in the park, greet the company, help feed and hydrate the troupe (sometimes with muchappreciated growlers of local beer during hot summer visits), and make sure the artists feel welcomed into the community. As city requirements and logistics have grown more complex, members have stepped up to take on specific roles—always with the shared sense that this work is more fun, and more meaningful, when the committee does it together.

Past and present committee members include Ron Lee, Nikki Whearty, Jeanie Tweeten, Mary Lee Larison, Margaret Woo, Bonnie Bowler, Susan Fox, Connie Bergum, Renee Kelly, John Cummings, Tara Thompson, and Gordon Amsbaugh, along with others who have stepped back over time but remain an important part of Helena's Shakespeare story.

Helena itself is a naturally strong home for Shakespeare in the Parks. As a community, Helena consistently shows up for the arts—with donations, volunteer time, and steady attendance year after year. That support has allowed the committee not only to fund the summer performances, but also, when possible, to bring Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' elementary school

program *Montana Shakes!* to local schools. In the past two years, Helena has helped make two inschool performances possible, giving young audiences the chance to experience live theater up close.

Committee members often point to these school visits as especially meaningful. Performing arts offer young people imagination, empathy, confidence, and a sense that stories—and language—belong to everyone. For many students, it's their first experience with professional live theater, and the memory sticks.

Asked about favorite MSIP moments, many committee members would struggle to choose just one. It might be the hush that settles over the crowd as a play begins at dusk, the laughter echoing across the park, or the sight of children acting out scenes on the grass afterward. Or it might simply be the quiet satisfaction, shared at the end of the night, knowing that something joyful and communal has happened because neighbors came together to make it so.

Ultimately, the Helena Shakespeare in the Parks Committee reflects what this tradition does best: It builds community. It invites people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences to gather, share stories, support one another, and spend an evening connected—no tickets required, no barrier to entry. In Helena, Shakespeare really does belong to everyone.

For Helena it takes a team of volunteers, somewhat organized, to set the stage for the community.





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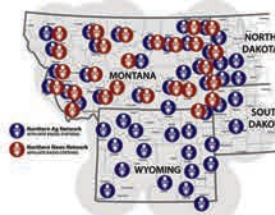
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MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

SHAKESPEARE IN THE SCHOOLS

For its 33rd season, our *"Shakespeare in the Schools"* program presented *Richard III* to middle and high school students as it was meant to be enjoyed – in an engaging, 80-minute live performance. **Associate Artistic Director Riley O'Toole** made his directorial debut with the 2025 fall production, which reached 50 schools across Montana and Wyoming with a new perspective on this timeless classic. MSIP was awarded a grant from the Montana Arts Council to support an ambitious production set design, which featured multimedia screen projections that helped to further illustrate the complex plot and supernatural themes.

Accompanied by a lively post-show talk back with the cast of 8 actor-educators, as well as 4 different in-classroom workshops designed to deepen comprehension and uncover the continued relevancy of Shakespeare's play, this program provides teachers with resources for incorporating arts learning into the classroom and gets students up on their feet with lively games and thoughtful exercises.

Contact Liz Johnson at Elizabeth.Johnson25@montana.edu for more information on how to bring these education programs to a school near you, or to host a free community performance!



SHAKES!

Since 2008, MSIP has brought Shakespeare to our youngest audiences across Montana and Wyoming. Every spring *"Montana Shakes!"* brings an original play based on Shakespeare stories and characters to 60 elementary schools for a whole day of theater fun!

Following the performance and talk-back, our 4 actor-educators lead students in classroom workshops designed to explore the themes of the play in line with Montana's arts education content standards. Movement, language, and creativity give students the chance to explore Shakespeare's work through collaboration and play.

Our 2026 Shakes! tour featured an adaptation of Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*, called *"Good In Everything,"* by Matt Foss. Complete with mad-libs-style suggestions from the audience, puppets and props galore, this program activates imaginations and introduces elementary students to the magic of live theater!



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BEACH, ND

Tour Coordinator: Wade & Deb Walworth
Local Performance Sponsors: City of Beach, First State Bank of Golva, American Legion

BIG SKY

Tour Coordinator: Tamara Knappenberger
Hosting Organization: Arts Council of Big Sky



BIG TIMBER

Tour Coordinator: Kathy Agnew
Hosting Organization: Sweet Grass Arts Alliance
Local Performance Sponsors: Deanna and John Novotny, Joe and Joan Hansen, Kathy and David Agnew, Sox Ullman, Sandi & Francis Blake, American Bank, Woman's Club, Susan McCune McAdams, CTS, Nancy Williams, Community Thrift Shoppe

BILLINGS

Tour Coordinator: Cole McQuillan and Melonie Trang
Hosting Organization: Billings Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Department
Local Performance Sponsors: Billings Public Library, Partners for Parks

BIRNEY

Tour Coordinator: Cindy Hagen
Local Performance Sponsors: Neighbors supporting neighbors - Patti Tobi, Henry Trost, Jeannie Alderson and Terry Punt, Theresa Shaw, Sandra Cryder, Rachel Larson, Forest Dunning Trust, Tara Malek in honor of her mother Eula Brewster Ebeling, Misty Tayler, Kari Dahle-Huff, Jay Nance, Adam and Jill Benson, Judy Musgrave, Nan Carrell, Alice Orr, Greg and Brooke Bull, Christy, Patrick, Hans, and Reavis Lohof, Hagen Family in Memory of Hardy Hagen, Kristina Fulmer, and Gigi Whitfield

BOULDER

Tour Coordinator: Karen Davidson
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Boulder Arts Council

BUTTE

Tour Coordinator: Ed Heard
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Butte Silver Bow Parks & Recreation Department

CHARLO

Tour Coordinator: Brian Morton
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Ninepipes Lodge & Great Gray Gifts

CHICO

Tour Coordinator: Merin Coats
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa

CHOTEAU

Tour Coordinator: Cody Marney and Devonna McCartney
Hosting Organization: The Community of Choteau
Local Performance Sponsors: The citizens of Choteau near and far!

CODY & POWELL, WY

Tour Coordinator: Steve Schrepferman
Hosting Organization: Park County Arts Council
Local Performance Sponsors: Park County Arts Council, Wyoming Arts Council

COLSTRIP

Tour Coordinator: Kayla de la Ossa
Hosting Organization: Schoolhouse History & Art Center
Local Performance Sponsors: Schoolhouse History and Art Center, Oftedal, Talen Energy

COLUMBUS

Tour Coordinator: Kathleen Ralph
Hosting Organization: Stillwater Shakespeare Society
Local Performance Sponsors: Columbus Community Congregational Church, Columbus IGA, Yellowstone Bank

CONRAD

Tour Coordinator: Bob Hjelm
Hosting Organization: Pondera Arts Council
Local Performance Sponsors: Logan Health, 4 U Collision, Framing ETC, Leavitt Great Western Insurance, Olson's Drug, Ellings Enterprises

CUT BANK

Tour Coordinator: Rachel Dosch
Hosting Organization: Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce
Local Performance Sponsors: Glacier Community Health Center, Glacier Motor Sales & Service Inc, Mountain View Window & Glass, Inc, Logan Health - Cut Bank, Glacier Electric Co-Op, Stockman Bank, Billman's Home Decor, Billman's Inc, Water To Wine Steakhouse/Pioneer Bar/TNT Casino, First Interstate Bank, Leavitt Group

DEER LODGE

Tour Coordinator: Rose Gerstein
Hosting Organization: Old Montana Prison Museum
Local Performance Sponsors: Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation

DILLON

Tour Coordinator: Beth Wharton
Hosting Organization: Montana Western School of Outreach
Local Performance Sponsors: See program insert

DRIGGS, ID

Tour Coordinator: Teddy Nichols
Hosting Organization: Downtown Driggs Association
Local Performance Sponsors: Teton County Idaho, City of Driggs, Yellowstone Teton-Territory, Tributary

EKALAKA

Tour Coordinator: Sabre Moore
Hosting Organization: Sagebrush Service Club
Local Performance Sponsors: See program insert

EUREKA

Tour Coordinator: Julia Higgins
Hosting Organization: Sunburst Arts and Education
Local Performance Sponsors: Lincoln Electric and Interbel

FISHTAIL

Tour Coordinator: Melissa Moore
Hosting Organization: Tippet Rise Art Center

FORSYTH

Tour Coordinator: Susan Wolfe and Matt Radue
Hosting Organization: Forsyth Friends of Shakespeare
Local Performance Sponsors: Talen Energy Services - Colstrip Power Plant, Cherie & Doug Hesper, Prime Rental & Auto - Miles City & Forsyth, Picchioni's IGA Forsyth, Carolyn & Joe Wilson, Oddy Construction - Manning Roofing, Heberle Ford Sales & Service, First State Bank of Forsyth, Dairy Queen - Carla Leonhardt, Rachel & Pete Fritz, YC Family Dental - Aaron & Sarah Stensvad, State Farm Insurance - Shan Kuntz, Yellowstone Valley Veterinary Clinic, and The Dahlman Ranch - Floyd & Jean Dahlman



continued on next page

continued from page 41

FORT BENTON

Tour Coordinator: Karyn Giles
Hosting Organization: Fort Benton General Federation of Women's Clubs
Local Performance Sponsors: Lippard-Clawiter Foundation, GFWC Fort Benton, Fort Benton Lions Club, Fort Benton CIA, Chouteau County Performing Arts, Montana Flour & Grains, Pioneer Lodge, Emily's Vacation Cottage, Bomgardner Catering, the River Press, and Missouri River Landing Farmer's Market, Gonzalez Bungalow

GARDINER

Tour Coordinator: Cynthia Keller
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: EPAC Electric Peaks Arts Council

GLENDIVE

Tour Coordinator: Tim Christianson
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Friends of Makoshika

GREAT FALLS

Tour Coordinator: Sarah Cawley
Hosting Organization: Great Falls Public Library
Local Performance Sponsors: Great Falls Public Library Foundation, Great Falls Theatre Company, University of Providence

HAMILTON

Tour Coordinator: Dominic Farrenkopf
Hosting Organization: Sapphire Lutheran Homes
Local Performance Sponsors: Farmers State Bank, TrailWest Bank, The Rapp Family Foundation

HARDIN

Tour Coordinator: Esther Wynne and Darren Means
Hosting Organization: Community of Hardin

HELENA

Tour Coordinator: Gordon Amsbaugh, Connie Bergum, Bonnie Bowler, John Cummings, Susan Fox, Mary Lee Larison, Tara Thompson, and Margaret Woo
Hosting Organization: Helena Committee For Shakespeare in the Parks
Local Performance Sponsors: Blackfoot River Brewing Co., Myrna Loy Center, Lewis & Clark Library Foundation, Lewis & Clark Library, Ashton Thomas Private Wealth-Scott Knutson

KALISPELL

Tour Coordinator: Matt Laughlin and Liz Leary
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Wachholz College Center on the campus of Flathead Valley Community College



LAUREL

Tour Coordinator: Cami Story
Hosting Organization: Laurel Chamber of Commerce
Local Performance Sponsors: Laurel Chamber of Commerce, M.H. EBY, Town & Country, Yellowstone Bank, Fairfield Inn & Suites, NorthWestern Energy

LEWISTOWN & UTICA

Tour Coordinator: Emily Sullivan
Hosting Organization: Lewistown Art Center
Local Performance Sponsors: Anne Leininger, Courtesy Motors, Fergus Federal Credit Union, Greater Montana Land Company, Lewistown Hoteliers Tourism Business Improvement District, Lewistown Insurance, McKenna Agency

LIBBY

Tour Coordinator: Eileen Carney
Hosting Organization: Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley
Local Performance Sponsors: Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley, Laura Tindall CARD, Andrea Chiverini, Eileen Carney

LIBERTY LAKE, WA

Tour Coordinator: Laura Frank
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Greenstone Homes

LIVINGSTON

Tour Coordinator: Erika Adams
Hosting Organization: The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts
Local Performance Sponsors: Paradise Flowers, Carol Lalani in Memory of Sal Lalani

MALTA

Tour Coordinator: Anna LaBrie
Hosting Organization: Shrew Crew
Local Performance Sponsors: Art's Furniture, Bank of Malta, Central Ave. Pit Crew, Dairy Queen, Family Matters, Farmers and Ranchers, First State Bank, Great Northern, Hardware Hank, Joes In and Out, The Inn at Simanton Square, Malta Tire, Patty's Greenhouse, R&G Feeds, Spare Change, Stretch's, Valley Drug, and West Side

MILES CITY

Tour Coordinator: Jessica Kuipers
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Miles City Kiwanis

MISSOULA

Tour Coordinator: Jennifer Dillard
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: University of Montana, University Center, and UM School of Theatre and Dance

MSU

Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: MSU Family/Graduate Housing

PHILIPSBURG

Tour Coordinator: Cathy Smith
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Philipsburg Brewing Company and Philipsburg Chamber of Commerce

POCATELLO, ID

Tour Coordinator: Brian Sikorski
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Pocatello Arts Council

POLSON

Tour Coordinator: Mike & Trish Rodrique
Hosting Organization: Mission Valley Live
Local Performance Sponsors: See program insert

PONY

Tour Coordinator: Andrea Cady
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Pony Homecoming Club

RED LODGE

Tour Coordinator: Carmen DeBello
Hosting Organization: Red Lodge Area Community Foundation
Local Performance Sponsors: Red Lodge Theatre Company, Marilyn and Bill Simmons, Anonymous

ROUNDUP

Tour Coordinator: Bill Milton and Stacey Mihalovich
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: The Arts and Culture Committee of the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation

SALMON, ID

Tour Coordinator: Maggie Seaberg and Lynn Tobey
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Salmon Arts Council

SANDPOINT, ID

Tour Coordinator: Dan Meulenberg
Hosting Organization: Dan and Lori Meulenberg/Family Health Center/POAC/Jim and Geraldine Lewis
Local Performance Sponsors: Dan and Lori Meulenberg, Jim and Geraldine Lewis, POAC Eichardt's Restaurant

SEELEY LAKE

Tour Coordinator: Jenny Rohrer
Hosting Organization: Alpine Artisans, Inc.
Local Performance Sponsors: Seeley Lake Community Foundation, Double Arrow Lodge

SHERIDAN, WY

Tour Coordinator: Erin Butler
Hosting Organization: WYO Performing Arts & Education Center aka WYO Theater

SIDNEY

Tour Coordinator: Nikki Bailey-Will
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: MonDak Heritage Center

SILVER GATE

Tour Coordinator: Donna Rowland and Vic Taber
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Colter Pass, Cooke City, Silver Gate Community Council

TOWNSEND

Tour Coordinator: Rachael Brug
Hosting Organization: Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce

TROUT CREEK

Tour Coordinator: Liz Stender
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Trout Creek Community Improvement Association

TWIN BRIDGES

Tour Coordinator: Silvia Schwartz
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Twin Bridges Public Library

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Tour Coordinator: Margaret Wilhelm
Hosting Organization: Meagher County Arts Council

WHITEHALL

Tour Coordinator: Elizabeth Pullman
Hosting & Sponsoring Organization: Gold Junction Presents

WOLF POINT

Tour Coordinator: Samantha Goodman and Jacob Boysun
Hosting Organization: Wolf Point Community

WORLAND, WY

Tour Coordinator: Marian Bender
Hosting Organization: Washakie Museum & Cultural Center
Local Performance Sponsors: Laura McDonald, Chuck and Sherrie Glade, Lloyd and Donna Nielson, Wyoming Arts Council, see program insert for additional sponsors

Here ye, here ye!



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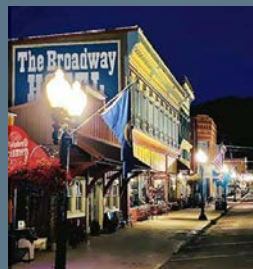
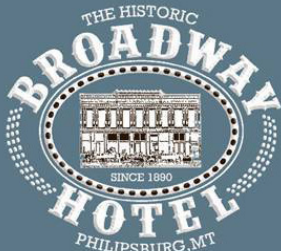
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