

PORTLAND SHAKESPEARE PROJECT PRESENTS

Hamlet



BY **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

IN MODERN VERSE

TRANSLATION BY **LISA PETERSON**

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL MENDELSON**

PLAY ON
• SHAKESPEARE

The **Actors**
Conservatory

PORTLAND
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT

portlandshakes.org

PORTLAND SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

in collaboration with The Actors Conservatory
and Play On Shakespeare presents

Hamlet

BY **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

IN MODERN VERSE

TRANSLATION BY **LISA PETERSON**

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL MENDELSON****

Artistic and Production

Production Manager, Set & Lighting Designer	Megan Wilkerson
Technical Director	Dylan Nebeker
Prop Designer	Olivia Vavroch
Costume Designer	Paige A Hanna
Sound Designer	Natalie Scott
Fight Choreographer	Kristen Mun-Van Noy
Stage Manager	Haley Lamsma
Dramaturge	Luan Schooler

Cast

Hamlet	Max Bernsohn
Polonius/Priest	Grant Byington
Francisco/Lucianus/Rosencrantz	Tricia Castañeda-Guevara
Gertrude	Yoonie Cho
Voltemand/Reynaldo	Anthony Eden
Player King/Ghost	Robert Lovitz
Horatio/Captain	Saren Nofs Snyder*
Marcellus/Player Queen	Dean Schmidt
Barnardo/Guildenstern	Pie Sjoberg
Laertes	Sela Ellen Underwood
Claudius	Joshua Weinstein*
Ophelia	Maryellen Wood

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**Member, Stage Directors, and Choreographers Society.

PORTLAND SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

MICHAEL MENDELSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KAREN RATHJE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sponsors



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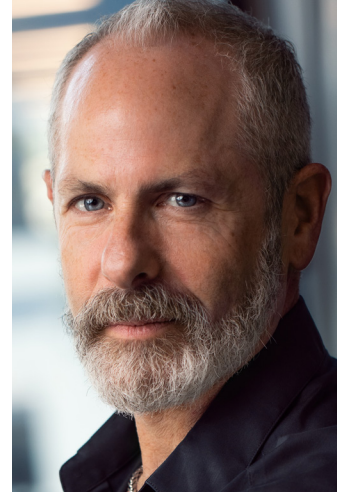
Ronni Lacroute

Karl & Linda Boekelheide

Jennifer and Carter MacNichol

Douglas Mouw & Steven Watson

Nathan Cogan



Director's NOTES

Michael Mendelson

Our fascination with Shakespeare's *Hamlet* goes back hundreds of years. It is Shakespeare's most popular and most puzzling play. It asks us to ponder the biggest questions: what is the weight of revenge, and what is the justice in that pursuit? What is the meaning of our own mortal existence and what is its worth? I never thought of directing *Hamlet*, until I did. I was afraid of it — of the issues it would ask me and our creative team to explore. This production is an extraordinary opportunity to bring together The Actors Conservatory class of 2024, Play On Shakespeare, and Portland Shakespeare Project in a powerful collaboration. To work with students about to launch their careers, an international Shakespeare organization, world-class artists, and professional artists from our community as ensemble members and mentors was an opportunity Portland Shakespeare Project had to explore.

Hamlet is a ghost story. I love a ghost story. It inhabits a world where the ideas of the supernatural are believed and feared. There is a visceral movement to Shakespeare's Act I. It's all about experiencing the Ghost—who sees the ghost, who doesn't and what does that mean? And how does it play out? The supernatural aspect of the play is intriguing to me. For some reason, it's my way in. I believe there are elements in our world that defy common sense. "There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

These young artists and our guest actors stretch themselves to the limit to tell this tale. I believe we have a visceral, vigorous, robust, sensorial experience for you. Sit back and enjoy our intimate little journey. Welcome to Denmark.



Max Bernsohn

Max Bernsohn (Hamlet) is a local actor who has so far split his time between Portland and New York. Born into a theatrical family, Max hopes to continue this lineage of artistic expression, possibly well, possibly very badly, but always with blithe enthusiasm. He is deeply thankful for his fellow actors, teachers, and generous members of the community for allowing him this opportunity to pursue the art he loves, and he hopes, at the very least, you enjoy hearing this wonderful collection of words.



Tricia Castañeda-Guevara

Tricia Castañeda-Guevara (Francisco/Lucianus/ Rosencrantz) is a local stage/commercial actor, originally hailing from Los Angeles, CA. She is a proud graduate of the University of Washington's M.F.A. program as well as the International Stunt School in Seattle, WA. Tricia has a strong penchant for the rigor of Susuki, coupled with the ease, wholistic and integrative approach that is the Alexander Technique. Favorite credits include *Blood Wedding*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, *Goldie Max and Milk*, *Romeo y Julieta*, *As You Like It*, *Cock by Mike Barlett*, *X-Mas Cuento Remix*, *The Play You Want* and more... She is delighted to be making her debut with TAC and would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!



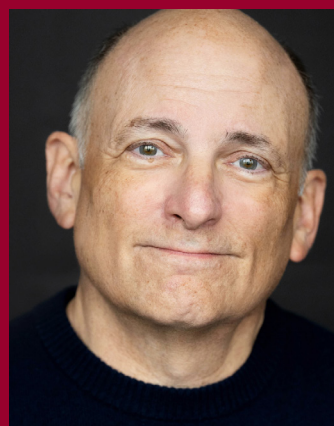
Yoonie Cho

Yoonie Cho (Gertrude) feels delighted and fortunate that the production of the graduating class of 2024 is *Hamlet*. She has a great passion for Shakespeare, and never tires of speaking the poetry. Before Yoonie became a mom, she worked with various community, fringe, and regional theaters in the bay area. It is no surprise that her favorite roles were Viola in *Twelfth Night* and Rosaline in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Recently, Yoonie was one of the wool spinners in the Shaking the Trees' *Blood Wedding*, and she was Gina in the Passin' Arts staged reading of *Office Hour*. Yoonie wants to thank Michael Mendelson for the opportunity to explore the wretched queen, Gertrude. She also wants to thank her teachers at TAC for their guidance and support. Finally, Yoonie wants to thank the guest actors who have been generous and helpful to the students. She hopes to become an active member of the Portland theater community after her graduation.



Anthony Eden

Anthony Eden (Voltemand/Reynaldo) is a second-year student at the The Actor's Conservatory. After working with the Program Analysis Group at MIT, he returned to his hometown to further his exploration of the dramatic arts. He is grateful for all the support and encouragement from his teachers and fellow students at TAC.



Robert Lovitz

Robert Lovitz (Player King/Ghost) Bob is thrilled to be part of this exciting TAC/Portland Shakespeare Project/Play on Shakespeare collaboration. Bob trained as an actor in NYC, where he lived and performed. Soon after Juilliard he was fortunate enough to spend 2 years on tour with John Houseman's Acting Company in a rotating repertory across the US and Australia. An unforeseen career change into medicine brought him to Portland with his beautiful family. Bob's recent appearances include *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Lakewood Theatre, *The Crucible* at Twilight Theatre and *The Play That Goes Wrong* at Magenta Theatre. With love and gratitude to Laura, Ben and David.



Saren Nofs Snyder

Saren Nofs Snyder (Horatio/Captain) is an actor, director, educator, and dialect coach who recently relocated back to Portland after more than fifteen years in Chicago. Oregon audiences may remember her as Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* with Anonymous Theatre, Lady Caroline in *Enchanted April* at ART, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* at Quintessence, Barbara in *Sympathetic Magic* at Profile Theatre, or May in *Once in a Lifetime* at Lakewood, for which she won the DRAMMY for Leading Actress in a Play. Regionally, Saren has acted coast to coast at American Stage, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Kansas City Rep, Pioneer Theatre Company, Piven Theatre, and numerous other companies. Favorite roles include Lady Croom (*Arcadia*), Regina Giddens (*The Little Foxes*), Masha (*Three Sisters*), Queen Elizabeth (*Richard III*), Regan (*King Lear*), and Buttons (*The Sea Cucumber*). Saren earned an MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. This performance is dedicated to the memory of her beloved brother, Hart. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, the National



Grant Byington

Suicide and Crisis Hotline can be reached by calling 988. This service is available to anyone, at any time, and not just people in active crisis. Proud member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of stage actors and stage managers.

Grant Byington (Polonius/Priest) This is Grant's second performance with Portland Shakes, having played Gloucester in *King Lear* in 2012. For Northwest Classical Theatre Company, he has appeared in *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio), *King John* (Louis, King of France), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), among many others. Audiences familiar with this theatre space may also recall the critically acclaimed *Waiting For Godot* (Vladimir) directed by Pat Patton, and *Richard III* (Stanley), directed by Barry Kyle. Grant has studied with RSC's Lisa Harrow, Barry Kyle and Richard Katz. Film credits include *Heaven's Gate* (yes, it's true), *Far And Away*, *A Thousand Pieces of Gold* and the made-for-TV movie *The Other Sid of Hell*, (starring a youngish Alan Arkin).

Dean Schmidt (Marcellus/Player Queen) is an actor that's a little from everywhere (this is the third corner of the U.S. he's lived in!) He graduated from Troy University in 2021 before moving to Portland to study at The Actors Conservatory, graduating this spring. While at TAC, he is absorbing all that he can to walk into tomorrow's world as a professional actor and teacher. Dean loves that his first professional show was as a Woodcutter in *Blood Wedding* by Frederico Garcia Lorca at Shaking the Tree! Dean would like to send love to his family and friends that continually encourage and support him as he starts his preparation for *Hamlet*. If you need to find him, grab some dice because he's probably in a Dungeons and Dragons game fighting kobolds. Or on Instagram, it's probably easier! @deanpschmidtactor

Pie Sjoberg (Barnardo/Guildenstern) is excited to bring such beloved characters to life in this production of *Hamlet*! In 2022, she made the decision to leave her home in Texas to pursue an education in acting at The Actors Conservatory. Last fall, Pie made her Portland debut in *Blood Wedding* at Shaking the



Dean Schmidt



Pie Sjoberg



Sela Ellen Underwood

Tree Theatre. When she is not on stage, Pie likes to spend her time delving into the worlds of fantasy novels while laying in bed with her adorable dog, Bentley. Pie is incredibly thankful to her family, friends, teachers and classmates for supporting her throughout her journey as an actor.

Sela Ellen Underwood (Laertes) is from Sandy, Oregon. After pursuing her passion for words and stories in the context of an academic career, she is now deepening her exploration of these things in the dramatic arts. She is deeply grateful to her family for their unconditional and cheerful support of her during these past few years.



Joshua Weinstein

Joshua Weinstein (Claudius) Born and raised in Tallahassee, FL, Josh moved to Portland in 2011 to be a member of the Portland Playhouse Acting Apprentice Company. It's been an honor to call Portland home ever since. At Portland Shakespeare Project: Autolycus in *The Winter's Tale* and Ferdinand in *The Tempest*. Many thanks to Michael, the cast and creative teams, and Brandy. Always.

Maryellen Wood (Ophelia) is an actor from Northern California currently in her second year at The Actor's Conservatory. Before moving to Portland she attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo where she got her BA in Theatre Arts. She recently made her Portland debut as Young Girl in Shaking the Tree's production of *Blood Wedding*. Some of her other favorite roles include Laura in *Chatroom*, Dale Prist in *5 Lesbian Eating a Quiche*, and Servant to the Shepherd in *The Winter's Tale*. She would like to thank Michael Mendelson for this opportunity, also the cast and crew for all their amazing work!



Maryellen Wood

Lisa Peterson (Translation) is a two-time OBIE Award-winning writer/director. Her works include *An Iliad*, written with Denis O'Hare (NYTW, OBIE and Lortel Awards); *The Good Book* (co-written with O'Hare, Court Theater and Berkeley Rep); *The Waves* (adapted from Virginia Woolf with composer David Bucknam, NYTW). Lisa is renowned for directing new plays and classics across the country; recently she directed the world premiere of Doug Wright's *Good Night Oscar* on Broadway. She was Associate Director at Berkeley Rep, Center Theatre Group, and La Jolla Playhouse. She is a recent recipient of the Gordon Davidson Award for Lifetime Achievement. Upcoming writing projects include *The Song of Rome* with O'Hare, and *The Idea of Order* with composer Todd Almond.

Michael Mendelson (Director & Artistic Director) Michael is Artistic Director of Portland Shakespeare Project, Managing Artistic Director of The Actors Conservatory and a resident artist at Artists Repertory Theatre. Well known in Portland as an actor, director and teacher, Michael received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Wayne State University and a Master of Fine Arts from University of Washington's Professional Actors Training Program. While in New York City, he studied with Tanya Berezin. Michael's directing credits for Portland Shakespeare Project include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It* and *Lear's Follies*. And from the Play on! Shakespeare, staged readings of Ranjit Bolt's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Jeff Whitty's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and An Educational First Reading of *The Winter's Tale* translated by Tracy Young. At ART his direction includes: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Understudy*, *Intimate Apparel* and both directed and starred in *Mistakes Were Made*. *An Act of God* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Northwest Classical Theatre Company), *Stones In His Pockets* (Public House Theatre), *As Is* (Key Productions), *The Meaning of Prayer* (Verbatim Productions) and staged readings of *Botticelli* (Profile Theatre) and *Dinner With Friends* (Mt. Hood Repertory Theatre). His acting credits at Artists Rep include *The Children*, *Indecent*, *1984*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Magellanica*, *An Octoroon*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Trevor*, *The Price*, also *Tribes*, *The Skin of our Teeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Quality of Life*, *Ten Chimneys*, *Red Herring* and *Sherlock in Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *God of Carnage*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Superior Donuts*, *Othello*, *Design for Living*, *Holidayzed*, *Becky's New Car*, *Three Sisters*, *Eurydice*, *House*, *Garden*, *Orson's Shadow*, *Mr. Marmalade*, *Theater District* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night* with Portland Shakes. Other local credits include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* with Portland Playhouse and work with Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Portland, Profile Theatre, Miracle Theatre, Northwest Classical Theatre Company, triangle productions!, Tygres Heart Shakespeare, Portland Center Stage, Reader's Theatre Repertory and New Rose Theatre. New York credits include Revolving

Shakespeare Company, Theatre 1010, The Normal Heart (Lincoln Center/Clark Studio Theatre), Genesis Guild and The Barrow Group. Regional credits include work at PCPA Theatrefest, Paper Mill Playhouse, A Contemporary Theatre, Saint Michael's Playhouse, Penobscot Theatre Company, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, First Stage Milwaukee, Idaho Rep, Attic Theater and Wisconsin, Utah and Berkeley Shakespeare Festivals. Michael is a proud member of SDC, AEA, and SAG-AFTRA.

Luan Schooler (Dramaturge) is the Director of Artistic Programming at Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland, Oregon. There she has commissioned and developed work with notable American playwrights including E.M. Lewis, Yussef El Guindi, Larissa FastHorse, Hansol Jung, Kareem Fahmy, Dael Orlandersmith, Ethan Slater & Nick Blaemire, Diana Burbano, Linda Alper, Andrea Stolowitz, Daniel Kitrosser, and more. Prior to joining Artists Rep, she was the Literary Manager/Dramaturg for Berkeley Rep, where she worked with many luminary writers, including David Edgar, Naomi Iizuka, Salman Rushdie, Dominique Serrand, Rinde Eckert, and Robert Fagles. Additionally, she served as dramaturg for the new Play On! translation of Shakespeare's Hamlet by Lisa Peterson. During her time at Artists Rep, she has directed productions including the world premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play* (Larissa FastHorse), *A Doll's House, Part 2* (Lucas Hnath), *The Children* (Lucy Kirkwood), and co-directed with Dámaso Rodríguez *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (David Greig). In addition to working with Ellen Lewis on *Strange Birds*, Luan is also dramaturg on Ellen's new epic play, *The Great Divide* (a co-commission between Artists Rep and Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolution program), and recently directed her play, *True Story*.

Megan Wilkerson (Production Manager, Set & Lighting Designer) is a professional Designer based in Portland, OR where she is a Resident Artist at Artists Repertory Theatre. Megan was a founding member of the artistic collective Bad Soviet Habits and was a Recipient of Chicago's After Dark Award for Outstanding Scenic Design for her "thoroughly creepy" set for *Marisa Wegrzyn's Psalms of a Questionable Nature*. Her Design work has also been recognized by The Chicago Tribune, The Oregonian, The Austin Critics Circle, and The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Regionally Megan has worked with The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Third Rail Repertory Theatre, The New Conservatory, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Profile Theatre, Bag & Baggage Productions, Broadway Rose, Teatro Milagro, deFunkT Theatre, Theatre Vertigo, Northwest Classical Theatre, Next Act Theatre, The Skylight Opera, First Stage Children's Theatre, The Michigan Opera Theatre, Pittsburgh Public, Portland Center Stage and the Portland Opera. In addition to her theatre work Megan has worked as an Art Director and Designer for companies such as LAIKA, Jack Morton, Sparks and Derse Exhibits.

Dylan Nebeker (Technical Director) is newly based in Portland. They graduated with their Masters in Theater arts, from UC Santa Cruz this last June. They specialize in scenic/props design, and fabrication. They are thrilled to be in the role of technical director for this Production of *Hamlet*.

Olivia Vavroch (Prop Designer) is a multimedia artist whose work includes playful details to tell stories of compassion and emotional interconnectivity across time and space. This is her first production with The Actors Conservatory, and she is grateful for the opportunity to work with this cast and company! Recent credits include costume design for Crave Theatre, puppet fabrication for Enlightened Theatrics, props for Speculative Drama, and props and set dressing at Imago Theatre in Portland. Olivia is currently developing a new body of multimedia sculptures and garments that visualize the impacts of generational, religious, and complex trauma on children.

Paige A Hanna (Costume Designer) is a Syrian-American costume designer and educator based in Portland Oregon. She is the Head of Costumes at Portland State University where she teaches Sewing Construction and Costume Workshop. Paige is also the Costume Shop Supervisor at Lakewood Theater Company. She has previously designed costumes for *F***** A* (Shaking the Tree), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Lakewood Theater), *Blood Wedding* (Shaking the Tree), *Leading Ladies* (Lakewood Theater), *No Exit* (Portland State University), *The God Cluster* (Fuse Theater Ensemble) and *Forbidden Fruit* (Shaking the Tree). She also performs in Portland based dark rock band Bedlum. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support. @scarysyrian

Natalie Scott (Sound Designer) is recently back home in Portland after 10 years in Ashland working in Sound at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In her time back in Portland she has done several local productions (Asst. Costume Designer for *tick, tick ... BOOM!* at Portland Center Stage, Scenic Design and Paint Charge for *Blink* at Third Rail Rep, Asst. Projection Design for *American Faust* with Artists Repertory Theatre, and Sound Supervisor for *What I Learned in Paris* at Portland Playhouse). She is currently full-time First Hand in the Costume Shop at Portland Center Stage. Natalie has her BFA in Scenic Design from Southern Oregon University and has also had the opportunity to teach Costume Construction and Scenic Painting at SOU. See her work at GreyScott.com

Kristen Mun-Van Noy (Fight Choreographer) Kristen was born and raised on the island of Oahu where she started her theatrical stage combat training. She has been training and working in the field of theatrical stage combat for almost 20 years and since 2012 she has been working as a fight choreographer and teacher in the city of Portland, OR. She owes her training to Dueling Arts International and her time as assistant fight choreographer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (09-10) with resident Fight Director U. Jonathan Toppo. She has received multiple Awards for Best Fight Choreography. Outside of Portland she has worked at Utah Shakespeare Festival and Idaho Repertory Theatre.



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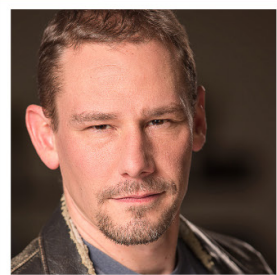
SHAKESPEARE

(INSTRUCTOR: GAVIN HOFFMAN)

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(INSTRUCTOR: SARAH LUCHT)

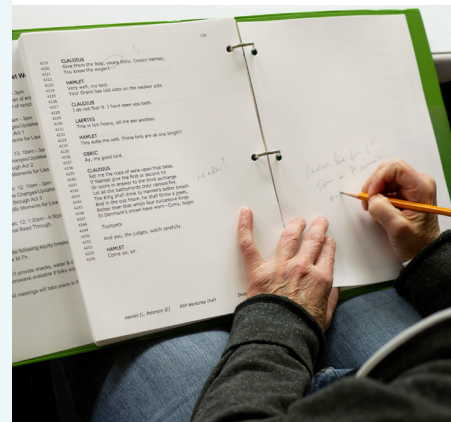
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(photos by Christina DeYoung)

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