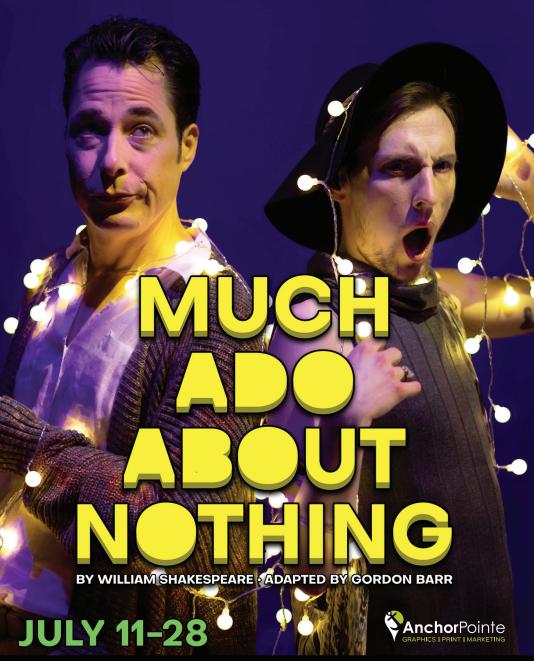
# BAG&BAGGAGE PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS...





Ronni Lacroute Pat Reser & Bill Westphal · Marilyn & Ron Nutting



This production is generously sponsored in part by:

Gayle & Fred Nachtigal **Diane & Eric Lewis** 



## WELCOME TO BAG&BAGGAGE!

If you're a longtime Bag&Baggage patron, you may have noticed that we've given that ampersand in our company name more and more attention throughout the years — our current branding prominently features the "&" logo with very little other text, there's a huge ampersand projected onto the wall behind our bar, and you can even buy a trendy B&B ampersand tote bag in the lobby while you're at the show today. In some ways, it's simply a catchy symbol to co-opt. But just like you've come to expect of the shows we produce, even with our logo, there's more than meets the eye.

That little word "and" is a pretty important one when it comes to theatre-making: for us, that ampersand bears the hallmark of collaboration. In acting school, we are always challenged to say "yes, and..." — not only affirming an idea or a note, but building on it, as we take it and run into new territory. As theatrical designers, we bounce ideas off of each other as we create the world of a production, each brainstorm sparking a new one that begins with an enthusiastic "and". In our performance spaces, we bring together complete strangers to have a shared experience as audience members, begging your imaginative collaboration with us and with the person down the row from you.

And while it looks pretty cool on a t-shirt, this ampersand is more importantly an invitation to you: to affirm and dive in; to engage and question; to enjoy and walk out of the theater with something new.

Thanks for being here today. We're excited to collaborate with you!

Cassie Greer, Artistic Director

## ABOUT BAG&BAGGAGE

#### WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY AND TO OURSELVES...

Bag&Baggage's mission is to crack open and explore the classics of world literature through innovative and provocative theatrical productions, connecting these great works to the people in our diverse community in a way that affirms our shared humanity. As the only professional performing arts organization in Hillsboro, we believe we have a responsibility to connect our work to the lives and experiences of the people who call our community home.

**TAKING PHOTOS INTHETHEATER:** While we ask you to turn off your phones during the show, we're happy to have you taking photos before or after the performance! If you post photos on social media or elsewhere, please credit the designers who have brought this show to life:

Scenic Designer: Tyler Buswell Lighting Designer: Gabriel Costales

Please note that photos are prohibited during the performance, and photos of the stage are not permitted if an actor is present.

We ask all visitors to The Vault Theater to take a personal moment to acknowledge and honor the Atfalati band of the Kalapuya tribe, upon whose ancestral lands this building stands. We pay our respects to elders both past and present.

## **Bag&Baggage Productions presents**

# Much Ado About Nothing

## by William Shakespeare adapted by Gordon Barr

## directed by Cassie Greer

| Benedick   | Norman Wilson†*   |
|--|---|
| Bertram  | Phillip J. Berns†   |
| Claudio  | Arianne Jacques‡  |
| Hero   | Christian Mitchell  |
| Don Pedro  | Tara Hershberger  |
| Leonato  | Diana Trotter   |
| Don John/Seacole   | Julet Lindo   |
| Borachio/Friar   | Peter Schuyler‡   |
| Margaret/Dogberry  | Mandana Khoshnevisan†   |
| Ursula/Verges  | Justin Charles  |
|  |   |
| CREW/PRODUCTION TEAM   |   |
| CREW/PRODUCTION TEAM Director  | Cassie Greer  |
| Director   |   |
| Director   | Tyler Buswell   |
| Director   | Tyler Buswell<br>Melissa Heller   |
| Director   | Tyler Buswell Melissa Heller Gabriel Costales   |
| Director   | Tyler Buswell Melissa Heller Gabriel Costales Cassie Greer                                  |
| Director   | Tyler Buswell Melissa Heller Gabriel Costales Cassie Greer Ephriam Harnsberger              |
| Director  Scenic Designer  Costume Designer  Lighting Designer  Sound Designer | Tyler Buswell Melissa Heller Gabriel Costales Cassie Greer Ephriam Harnsberger TS McCormick |

<sup>‡=</sup> Bag&Baggage Resident Artist, generously sponsored by Linda Morrisson & Andrew Hoffmann

†= Bag&Baggage Associate Artist

Please remember: turn OFF your phone, do not text during the performance, and photography or recording of this performance are strictly prohibited.

This performance lasts 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

## The 2019-2020 Season is presented by Ronni Lacroute

The 2019-2020 Season is generously sponsored by Pat Reser & Bill Westphal, Marilyn & Ron Nutting, and The Hillsboro Hops

CAST



This production is generously sponsored in part by Gayle & Fred Nachtigal, Diane & Eric Lewis, and The Scott Palmer Founder's Fund



<sup>\*=</sup> Member of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

We marked the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising just a few weeks ago on June 28th, remembering an event that catalyzed the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. The relevance of this anniversary is not lost on me as we take on Gordon Barr's adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*, featuring two male lovers at the heart of the story. And following a June full of rainbow flags flying around the Portland Metro area, and featuring Hillsboro's first ever Pride event, it's easy to get the impression that LGBTQ rights have never been more visible, trendy, and easy to outwardly display.

And yet, the rights of transgender military personnel are continually being called into question in our country; videos keep popping up on my Facebook feed featuring government officials in various localities railing against LGBTQ individuals and calling for the removal of their rights — if not a downright removal of their personhood; the murder rate of trans women — and specifically trans women of color — is rising instead of declining; and less than two years ago, a Pew Research Center study found that a third of all adults in our country believe that our society has gone too far in accepting transgender people. It makes me wonder about the progress that has been made, and the work that is left to do in ensuring that our country truly does uphold the "equal rights" that the 14th Amendment of our Constitution purports to defend.

I've also been thinking about the reality that theatre, throughout history, has been a platform where artists and audiences have flocked to respond to the realities of their present society — either to hash out challenges, escape discomfort, propose new structures, mock the establishment, or one of myriad other ways of processing real-life issues. This reality is the thing that keeps me walking into the rehearsal room show after show: the prospect that we can — creatively, thoughtfully, empathetically — provide a space for artists and audiences to work through the "stuff" that occupies our lives, and the idea that we just might be able to bring people together into conversation as we do.

In short, I want to talk. I want to talk about the challenges we face, the things that make us uncomfortable and that we don't understand, and those issues and ideas that deeply matter to us — and to me. And when I think about all of the realities swirling around this *Much Ado* script, those are the issues I want to engage.

This show provides a space that attempts to normalize the sometimes-controversial idea that gender is a construct and can be approached with fluidity; that sexuality isn't something people have a choice about or can be "converted" from; that gender identity is a person's decision; and that, in fact, we all could stand to ask ourselves how much we're influenced by the binaries presented to us by our current culture.

The title of this show is "Much Ado About Nothing". That "Nothing" in Shakespeare's 1599 England would have been a homonym of the word "noting" — literally meaning to take note, to observe, or to document. You will see the characters on stage taking note throughout the show — sometimes surreptitiously, sometimes openly — and this is also an invitation I issue to you:

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES** continued

See us. Observe. Take note.

Pay attention to what moves you. To what rubs you the wrong way. To the things you find hilarious and the things you find appalling. To those bits of humanity you resonate with and those you are repelled by. To the way you feel. To the things you hold on to.

And then respond. Talk to the person sitting next to you. Write me an email. Grapple with the difficult things instead of dismissing them. Imagine yourself in another person's shoes.

Let's see if at the end of all of this, we might be able to make a little more progress.

Cassie Greer, Director



### **Cassie Greer**

**Artistic Director** 

#### **Beth Lewis**

Managing Director

#### **Arianne Jacques**

Patron Services Manager

#### Alec Lugo

Marketing Assistant Graphic Designer

#### TS McCormick

Production & Event Manager

#### Jim Ricks-White

Technical Director
Resident Lighting Designer
The Vault Theater Facilities Manager

#### Melissa Heller

Resident Costume Designer

## **Ephriam Harnsberger**

Company Stage Manager

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#### ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES



PHILLIP I. BERNS He/Him (BERTRAM) Phillip holds dual degrees in Theatre Arts and Advertising from Marquette University in Milwaukee WI, from whence

he hails. This is Phillip's third year as a proud Associate Artist of Bag&Baggage. You may have seen Mr. Berns' previous Bag&Baggage productions, notably Spinning Into Butter (as Greg Sullivan); A KBNB Kristmas Karol (as Heinrich Huber-Hoffman): Dial "M" for Murder (as O'Brien etc.); Twelfth Night of the Living Dead (as Valentine); and Shakespeare's R&J (as Student 2/ Juliet). Other companies Phillip has worked for include the Post5 Theatre (where he was a founding Company Member), Portland Actors Ensemble, Willamette Shakespeare, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and First Stage Milwaukee. Other Favorite roles include: Eguus (as Alan); King Lear (as The Fool); Stupid Kids (as Neechee); several iterations of the Portland sketch phenomenon that is Spectravagasm; and in his annual one-man production of A Christmas Carol (as the Storyteller). Phillip works as a Problem Solver and Happiness Maker for Ruby Receptionists, and would like to thank Cassie, the cast and crew, and the girl who inspires him daily.



**JUSTIN CHARLES** Thv/Thine (URSULA/VERGES) Justin Charles is a bi-lingual Latinx transplant to Portland, who originally hails from Texas and has traveled the country

since studying theatre-forensics at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) participating in various activities. Thy is a veteran of the Bag&Baggage stage, most recently seen in Peter/Wendy (as Mr. Darling/ Smee); and is particularly interested in conversations surrounding gender, identity, and representation in this interpretation of Much Ado About Nothing. Thy has recently collaborated with Theatre Vertigo, Portland Center Stage, Oregon Children's Theatre, Oregon Zoo, Milagro, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, MadCap Puppets, Cortland Repertory Theatre, Western Playhouse, and spends their time writing, expanding resume skills, crafting jokes, and developing fictional band names. Thy is an avid reader, commemorative stamp collector, music lover, and suffers from restlessleg syndrome. Thy would like to continue to pursue a life of creativity in the arts.



TARA HERSHBERGER They/Them (DON PEDRO)

Tara holds a Masters degree in Theatre Arts from Portland State University, and a BA in English and Theatre from

Goshen College (IN). This is their first show with

Bag&Baggage. They have previously acted with Milagro (Alebrijes, O Romeo!); Fox and Beggar Theatre (Angamazad); Portland Actors Ensemble (Coriolanus, A Midsummer Night's Dream); Fuse Theatre Ensemble; Original Practice Shakespeare; and others. They directed Creating Life Inside with Rogue Pack Theatre at Fertile Ground 2019. They also directed their original play In Toxic at Fertile Ground in 2016. They currently teach and direct at the Northwest Children's Theatre, and have previously worked as a theatre director at St. Mary's Academy and as a director, actor, and tour manager at Magik Theatre of San Antonio, TX. They produce Resist! the Variety Show, and play music as a solo singer/songwriter and also with the activist band, Heavy Nettle. Thanks to Cassie, this cast and crew, my friends and family, and to all my trans, non-binary, and queer friends for their support and love.



ARIANNE JACQUES She/Her (CLAUDIO)

Arianne holds a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts from Oregon State University. Favorite roles from the last 12 years with

Bag&Baggage include: The Importance of Being Earnest (as Gwendolen); Crimes of the Heart (as Babe); Julius Caesar (as Cassius); The Great Gatsby (as Jordan); Our Country's Good (as Mary Brenham); Moby Dick, Rehearsed (as Stage Manager/ Elijah); The Graduate (as Elaine Robinson); Romeo & Juliet/Layla & Majnun (as Juliet/Layla); The Farndale Ave...Murder at Checkmate Manor (as Gordon); and last summer's As You Like It (as Celia). Arianne is a founding member of B&B's Resident Acting Company and is currently the Patron Services Manager for B&B. When she is away from the theater, Arianne spends her time reading, hiking, watching nature documentaries, helping out at Basilisk (her partner's awesome restaurant), and snuggling with her cats (Zoë, Ripley, & Goose). Arianne would like to thank Jason and her mom & pop for their endless love and support.



#### MANDANA KHOSHNEVISAN She/Her (MARGARET/DOGBERRY)

Mandy studied literature, theater, and history at Stanford University (BA/ MA English). She is a Bag&Baggage

Associate Artist, appearing in Romeo & Juliet/Layla & Majnun (as Lady Capulet); Death and the Maiden (as Paulina); Deathtrap (as Helga); and La Isla en Invierno (as Doris). Favorite scripted roles elsewhere include Into the Woods (as Baker's Wife); My Fair Lady (as Mrs. Eynesford-Hill); and here in Portland, The Rocky Horror Show (as Eddie/Dr. Scott); Reefer Madness (as Mae Coleman): Back to the Future: The Musical Parody (as Biff); Die Hard: The Musical Parody (as Mother Gruber/Inga); and Urinetown (as Soupy Sue). This past season, Mandy also directed Judge Torres for Teatro Milagro, and Triassic Parg, the Musical for the

Funhouse Lounge. Since moving to Portland in 2013, she has taught at Northwest Children's Theater, and improvised on the mainstage at the Brody Theater, Curious Comedy, and the Funhouse Lounge. She recently published her first book, Managed Mischief, about improv and creativity. At home, she maintains an excess of books, art supplies, and impractical musical instruments; she would like to thank her roommate/best friend Greg for being, in that way and countless others, a kindred spirit.



JULET LINDO She/Her (DON JOHN/SEACOLE)

Julet Lindo is so excited to be making her debut at Bag&Baggage Productions! She received her Bachelor's of Arts

degree from University of Nevada Las Vegas in Theatre Arts and humbly performed with the Asylum Theatre, Planet Hollywood, Cockroach Theatre, Fertile Ground, Anonymous Theatre, triange productions!, Theatre Vertigo, and Portland Shakespeare Project. Her past roles include: Othello: The Remix (as Othello); Veils (as Intisar); She Kills Monsters (as Lily); Subtenant (as Computer); Holes of the Human Flesh (as Samukelisiwe); A Midsummer Night's Dream (as Moth); A Dark Sky Filled with Stars (as Carly); The Legend of Georgia McBride (as Jo); and Eugene lonesco's absurdist production of The Leader (as Announcer).



CHRISTIAN MITCHELL
He/Him/They/Them
(HERO)

Christian is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon, where he received a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts. This is

Christian's first Bag&Baggage production and was previously in *Left Hand of Darkness* and *James Joyce's The Dead* at the University of Oregon; the Very Little Theatre's production of *As You Like It*, as well as the English-language world premiere of *Tricks to Inherit*. Christian has been in theatre his whole life, including theatre festivals in Oregon and Washington, and also participating in *Absolute Improv*, the University of Oregon's official improvisational acting team. Recently, Christian has performed improvisational Recently, Christian has performed improvisational shows with Deep End Theater and slightly more scripted shows with the Original Practice Shakespeare Festival.



PETER SCHUYLER
He/Him
(BORACHIO/FRIAR)

Peter studied Theatre at Northern
Arizona University and apprenticed at
AZTheatreWorks and the Grand Canvon

Shakespeare Festival. He is a proud B&B Resident Acting Company member since 2014. Favorite Bag&Baggage roles include *Bell, Book, and Candle* (as Shep); *Charles Dickens Writes a Christmas Carol* (as Dickens, Tiny Tim); *Brontê* (as Patrick, Nichols,

Rochester, Heger); Moby Dick, Rehearsed (as Starbuck, Serious Actor); Richard III (as Richard III); Our Country's Good (as Phillip/Wisehammer); The Crucible (as John Proctor); Of Mice and Men (as George Milton). He is a founding member of No Filter Improv and has performed for numerous PDX companies including triangle productions!, Lakewood Theatre, Northwest Classical, and Northwest Children's Theater. In NYC, he worked with La Mama E.T.C., Immediate Theater, DMTheatrics, NativeAliens, and Dysfunctional Theatre. When not on stage, he does PR for tech companies, cooks, plunks on his ukulele, reads, and owes his amazing life to his brilliant wife and irrepressible daughter.



DIANA TROTTER She/Her (LEONATO)

Diana holds a PhD in Theatre from the University of California Berkeley, and is the former head of the Acting

Program at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. This production marks her debut with Bag&Baggage. Diana has previously been seen on stages in Seattle, San Antonio, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane. Favorite roles include: Wit (as Vivian Bearing); Other Desert Cities (as Polly Wyeth); Collected Stories (as Ruth Steiner); and Bye Bye Birdie! (as Mae Peterson). A Seattle-based actor, director, and acting coach, Diana specializes in audition preparation and has taught auditioning master classes for the University of Washington and Seattle Opera. Recent directing projects include: Christopher Durang's Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike; Steven Dietz's The Last of the Boys; and Shakespeare's Richard III. Diana is a teaching artist with Viva Vocalists where she will next be seen as The Witch in their upcoming production of Into the Woods.



NORMAN WILSON He/Him (BENEDICK)

Norman is delighted to return for this, his fifth role, with Bag&Baggage! He first discovered the wonders of Hillsboro

in 2010 when portraying Lucentio in The Taming of the Shrew and The Woman's Prize; 2013 found him chewing his way through the scenery and various food items as Alex Gal in Rough Crossing; in 2017, he was honored to step into the role of Ms. Thelma Greenwood in The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Murder at Checkmate Manor, and last year he donned the gayest apparel ever as Nicky Holroyd in Bell, Book and Candle. Aside from Hillsborian appearances, Norman has trod the boards of the Broadway Rose Theatre Co, Lakewood Theatre, triangle productions!, Live on Stage, Cabaret White, and many more. Favorite roles include Aldolpho in The Drowsy Chaperone; Skimbleshanks in Cats; Sir Robin in Spamalot; Freddie Trumper in Chess; Charlie Davenport in Annie Get Your Gun; Madame George

in Find Me Beside You: Mendel in Falsettos: and God in An Act of God. As always, eternal thanks and unending love to Tommy, who may qualify for sainthood.

#### CREW BIOGRAPHIES



**GORDON BARR** He/Him (ADAPTER)

Gordon has been Artistic Director of Bard in the Botanics since 2004, directing and producing more than 50

productions in that time. He has taught Shakespeare extensively, including a number of productions for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and has worked on projects for a variety of companies across Scotland including NTS, macrobert, Cumbernauld Theatre, TAG and 7:84. Bard in the Botanics is Scotland's only outdoor Shakespeare festival, staged in June and July within the spectacular surroundings of Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. The company is committed to bringing high-quality, imaginative and accessible productions of Shakespeare's works across Scotland and beyond. Gordon and the team have staged more than 50 productions of Shakespeare's work to audiences totalling over 70,000 and have performed in conjunction with Perth International Festival of the Arts, Big in Falkirk, the Merchant City Festival, Cumbernauld Theatre, North Lanarkshire Youth Arts Festival, Gilmorehill G12, the West End Festival, the Byre Theatre and the macrobert arts centre, Stirling.



TYLER BUSWELL He/Him (SCENIC DESIGNER)

Tyler is a proud drag gueen, actor, and visual artist based in Portland. Recent design credits include Death and the

Maiden, Blithe Spirit, Deathtrap, and Bell, Book and Candle all at Bag&Baggage Productions; Quietly with Corrib Theatre; Of Good Stock with Lyon Productions; Topdog/Underdog with Street Scenes Productions; among many others. He has worked as an artist for Artists Repertory Theatre, PCS, Third Rail, Theatre Vertigo, Oregon Children's Theatre, and others. He has four Broadwayworld nominations for Best Set Design and would like to thank his friends and family for their unending support.



GABRIEL COSTALES He/Him (LIGHTING DESIGNER) Gabriel is excited to continue his design career with his second show at Bag&Baggage following The Island in

Winter. Other separate design productions include Love & Information, Bus Stop, and Jesus Christ Superstar. Additionally he has worked throughout the Portland area for the past four years as a lighting Programmer, Electrician/Master Electrician, and

Stagehand with various venues such as Portland Center Stage, Imago Theater, CoHo Theater, Portland Community College, and Third Rail Productions.



CASSIE GREER She/Her (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR, & SOUND DESIGNER)

Cassie is thrilled to spend her summer collaborating with the brilliant, creative,

and hilarious cast and crew of Much Ado About Nothina! She trained in the BATheater program at Goshen College, the MFA Acting program at Florida Atlantic University, and in the 9th Certification group of Fitzmaurice Voicework® teachers. Bag&Baggage has been her artistic home since 2011, where she has filled a variety of administrative positions prior to her appointment as Artistic Director this past spring, and has worked as an actor, director, and designer on more than 30 shows. Memorable B&B projects include The Great Gatsby (as Daisy Buchanan); Brontë (as Charlotte Brontë): Peter/Wendy (Director): As You Like It or. Love In A Forest (Adaptor and Director); and her work with the Emerging Artist Program. Cassie is incredibly grateful to her family and friends for their continual love, support, and energy.



MELISSA HAMPTON She/Her (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) Melissa attended Southern Oregon University for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in

Stage Management. This is her fourth

year as an assistant stage manager at Bag&Baggage. Past shows include Coriolanus, Romeo&Juliet/ Lavla&Mainun, and As You Like It. Other credits include: stage manager for Annapurna; Mr. Burns, a post-electric play; Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead; Peter and the Starcatcher; and The Rover; assistant stage manager for You're a Good Man. Charlie Brown and The Secret Garden: and production assistant for Seagull. When not working in theatre, Melissa appears onstage at Northwest Outdoor Science School, teaching silly songs to sixth graders (under a pseudonym, of course).



EPHRIAM HARNSBERGER He/Him

(STAGE MANAGER)

Ephriam completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Omaha, Nebraska at Creighton University. This is his fourth

season with Bag&Baggage as stage manager for over 20 productions and events. Ephriam is gagging to work alongside the fantabulous cast and crew of Much Ado About Nothing. When he is not wandering about the stage Ephriam also enjoys cooking, camping, kazooing, and singing silly songs with his sisters. He would like to thank Bag&Baggage, Nik, Rosemary, and his parents



MELISSA HELLER
She/Her
(COSTUME DESIGNER)

Melissa splits her time between heading the costume shop at Pacific University and designing for local area theater

companies. She has designed for several production companies including Lakewood Center for the Performing Arts, Broadway Rose Theater Company, St. Mary's Academy, Oregon Children's Theater, and is also the Resident Costume Designer for Bag&Baggage Productions. She holds a B.S. in Apparel Design from Oregon State University, where her interest in costumes for theater began. She graduated in 2008 and moved to Portland to pursue her career in the apparel industry. She began work with Oregon Ballet Theater in 2010 where she helped to create costumes for their 2010/2011 season. Her recent works include Peter/Wendy; The Island in Winter or, La Isla en Invierno; Romeo & Juliet/Layla & Majnun with Bag&Baggage Productions; Can't Pay, Won't Pay with Pacific University; and Pippin with Lakewood Center for the Performing Arts, Melissa thanks Bag&Baggage Theatre for this engaging partnership.



**BETH LEWIS**She/Her
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)

Beth has over ten years of experience in theatre administration and management. She most recently served as Managing

Director of Curious Comedy Theater, Portland's only nonprofit comedy theater. She moved back home to the Portland area in 2013, after being in Los Angeles for five years working at The Pasadena Playhouse, where she ended her tenure there as their Annual Giving Manager. Before that, she lived in New York City, where she served as the Director of Development for The Looking Glass Theatre, and the Associate of Special Events for Sonnet Repertory Theatre. In addition to her work at Bag&Baggage, she is currently the President of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance. She also holds a BA in Theatre from Connecticut College and is a Core Company Member of the Original Practice Shakespeare Festival.



TS MCCORMICK
He/Him
(TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)
TS holds a Master of Fine Arts from

Minnesota State University, Mankato and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the

University of Rhode Island. TS is the Production and Event Manager for Bag&Baggage Productions. He appeared on their stage last season as Duke Frederick/Duke Senior in As You Like It or Love In a Forest, he operated as Stage Manager for SOLO FEST, and Assistant Technical Director for Peter/Wendy and The Helpful Little Fox Fixed the Forest Grimm. Over the past 20 years, his theatrical career has included acting, directing, construction, production,

management, and education. He has done work locally, and around the country for Pacific University, Northwest Theatre Workshop, Fertile Ground, Bismark State College, Highland Summer Theatre, the Gamm Theatre, Pendragon Theatre, 2nd Story Theatre, The Rhode Island Shakespeare Company, South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, and many more!



# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Preferred Pronouns Unknown (PLAYWRIGHT)

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on 23rd April 1564. His father William was a successful local

businessman, and his mother Mary was the daughter of a landowner. Relatively prosperous, it is likely the family paid for William's education, although there is no evidence he attended university. In 1582 William, aged only 18, married an older woman named Anne Hathaway. They had three children, Susanna, Hamnet, and Juliet. Their only son Hamnet died aged just 11. After his marriage, information about the life of Shakespeare is sketchy, but it seems he spent most of his time in London, writing and acting in his plays. Due to some well-timed investments, Shakespeare was able to secure his finances, leaving time for writing and acting. The best of these investments was buying some real estate near Stratford in 1605, which soon doubled in value. It seemed Shakespeare didn't mind being absent from his family - he only returned home during Lent when all the theatres were closed. It is thought that during the 1590s he wrote the majority of his sonnets. This was a time of prolific writing and his plays developed a good deal of interest and controversy. His early plays were mainly comedies (e.g. Much Ado about Nothing, A Midsummer's Night Dream) and histories (e.g. Henry V). By the early 1600s, Shakespeare had begun to write plays in the genre of tragedy. These plays, such as Hamlet, Othello, and King Lear, often hinge on some fatal error or flaw in the lead character and provide fascinating insights into the darker aspects of human nature. These later plays are considered Shakespeare's finest achievements.

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