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THE CALHOUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FOUNDATION'S SHAKESPEARE PROJECT PRESENTS



JULIUS CAESAR

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY: CARRIE COLTON

PRODUCED BY
THE CALHOUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION, INC.

AUGUST 15—19, 2018

CAST

BRUTUS ANATASHA BLAKELY
 CASSIUS..... KARL HAWKINS
 CASCA..... AARON HAGOS
 CINNA..... LIZZIE POWERS
 LIGARIOUS..... AARON WILLIAMS
 PORTIA JACOB SORLING
 LUCIUS..... REBECCA HEARN
 ANTONY..... EUNICE AKINOLA
 OCTAVIUS..... STEPHANIE ESCORZA
 CINNA THE POET..... KENNEDY JONES
 CALPURNIA EMILY TAYLOR
 LEPIDUS..... STUART HENDERSON
 CAESAR..... MICHAEL BOYNTON

ARTISTIC TEAM

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER CARRIE COLTON
 COSTUME DESIGNER..... EMILY TAYLOR
 TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/SET DESIGNER: NICK HOENSHELL
 LIGHTING/SOUND DESIGNER..... BRANDON VICK
 MASTER ELECTRICIAN..... JACOB SORLING
 STAGE MANAGER..... CHEYENNE OLIVER
 STITCHER/COSTUME APPRENTICE:..... ANSLEY GAYTON
 CARPENTER APPRENTICE..... LAWRENCE MASON
 TECH APPRENTICE..... REBECCA WEAVER
 YES CARPENTER APPRENTICE..... CATHERINE COPELAND
 YES ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER..... AKIRA DARK
 COSTUME APPRENTICE..... AVERY GALLAHAR

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

COMPANY MANAGER..... LINDA HEARN
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR..... EMILY DUNCAN
 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR..... CARRIE COLTON
 DRAMATURG CARMINE DIBIASE
 EDUCATION LIAISON CERILLA ROE
 BOX OFFICE MANAGER JUDY MYERS
 MARKETING ASSOCIATE KIM BOYD
 EDUCATION ASSOCIATE KRYCHELLE SMITH

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On the Ides of March, 44 BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated, the catalyst that removed democracy from the face of the earth for 2,000 years until some folks off the east coast of North America threw tea in the harbor. The freedoms and institutions we have grown up with, that we have inherited from the struggle of many generations of ancestors, can be swept away in an instant. How fragile is democracy? Government? Freedom? Peace?

Caesar reaches us in three ways: as an historical account, as Shakespeare's reaction to early 17th century British politics, and as a testament to the delicacy of our own political reality. Tonight, you will see a Julius Caesar unlike any other. Set in a post-apocalyptic Rome, we hope that you will find tonight's characters not unlike many of our own modern political figures. These people are soldiers, spouses, parents and charismatic leaders all trying to recover a country from the latest governmental fall. In an effort to appeal to a younger crowd, and to bring our modern sensibilities to the piece, we have updated everything about the play to reflect our modern society and the equal footing that we have been striving for as a nation in recent years. This choice has allowed us to make casting and artistic choices that stray far from the norm while illuminating a deeper aspect of Shakespeare's text.

Caesar resonates like no other in the age of 'fake news,' by forcing us all to look deeper and judge slower. It reminds us of the necessity to question our own truths and motives, and those of our governmental leaders. What side of history will we all stand on and who will be the one to tell that history? Is Caesar truly a tyrant ready to hatch, or does Brutus fall victim to the envious voice of power and persuasion. Is human history doomed to repeat itself? Are the fates against us or do we have the power to learn from the past and truly enact change for the future. Julius Caesar unearths the very soul of human society: pride and power blanketed under the disguise idealism.

On behalf of the entire production and artistic team, let me be the first to welcome you to the Anniston Performing Arts Center as we begin this new endeavor to bring the bard back to Anniston. I cannot express how much it means to us that you have chosen to be here tonight, and we hope you will make it a family tradition for years to come!

Julius Caesar Director, Carrie Colton

JULIUS CAESAR

By: Carmine DiBiase, Dramaturge for the Shakespeare Project

Act One: The play opens in the streets of Rome, where the citizens are gathered and eager to see Julius Caesar, who has recently defeated his fellow Roman, Pompey the Great. It was practically taboo to celebrate the defeat of a Roman by another Roman, and Cassius takes this opportunity to begin persuading Brutus that Caesar, if he is crowned king, will be a tyrant who will strip the citizens of their freedoms.

Act Two: Now the play moves indoors, where Shakespeare takes us into the minds of his characters. We see Brutus, above all, struggling with the two great forces: his private friendship with Julius Caesar versus his total commitment to the protection and wellbeing of Rome. Meanwhile, the conspirators, led by Cassius, come together and, through a devious means—anonymous notes—they draw Brutus into their plan to assassinate Caesar. Early the next morning, and also indoors, Caesar is warned by his wife that she has had an ominous dream foretelling his assassination, but the conspirators pay him a visit and reinterpret the dream in such a way that Caesar decides to go to the Capitol, thinking that he will be crowned king.

Act Three: At the Capitol, the conspirators make a show of being submissive to Caesar, which only encourages him to become imperious, at which point they kill him as if he is a sacrifice to the gods. The gruesome murder, which must be explained to the citizens, is then followed by two funeral orations, one by Brutus and one by Mark Antony. Brutus manages, in an utterly honest speech in prose, to explain and persuade the masses that the assassination was necessary. Antony, however, responds with an oration in stirring verse, throwing the crowd into a frenzied, murderous rage against all the conspirators.

Act Four: Brutus and Cassius, who have arrogated power to themselves, are now tortured by conscience and at odds with each other, their friendship strained almost to the breaking point. They are at war, with Antony and Octavius, who was the adopted son of Julius Caesar (together with Lepidus, they will eventually form a new triumvirate). The play moves indoors again, and the night before battle, Brutus is visited by the ghost of Caesar, which is Shakespeare's way of giving conscience a shape. Caesar, in this way, remains a presence in this play, even after his assassination.

Act Five: Cassius, his mind weakened perhaps by his own troubled conscience, makes a grievous error. Believing that his forces have been trounced by the enemy, he runs on his own sword, committing a ritual Roman suicide. This weakens the conspirators' effort and leads ultimately to the actual defeat of Brutus's forces. Brutus then, for good reason, commits suicide as well. To the Roman mind, it was better to die by one's own sword than to allow oneself to be killed by the enemy. The play ends with Octavius declaring Brutus "the noblest Roman of them all" and keeping the corpse in his tent to protect it until it may be buried with dignity.

ANNISTON & THE BARD

In 1972, Martin L. Platt brought William Shakespeare to Anniston, filling the void of Shakespeare and classical repertory in the Southeast. Their creative team sought to serve the state and region by producing theatre of the highest quality to educate and entertain audiences.



We seek the same today, and with Julius Caesar as required reading for 10th graders in Alabama, students are our target audience. The greatness of Shakespeare's work, his use of language and his ability to create a world of timeless characters make us imagine, relate and realize humans then are not that different to humans now. This project also strives to remove all barriers of comprehension and making arts accessible to all.

Back in the day, the Shakespeare Festival caught the attention of visitors from across the U.S. and brought them to Anniston, summer after summer. In 1985, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival moved to its current home in Montgomery's Blount Cultural Park. Now, 33 years later, the Bard is back in Anniston, and we hope you enjoy our professional production!

The Shakespeare Project



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Shakespeare supporter and donor, brought their “Teaching Shakespeare” training to Jacksonville State University, while our cast and creative team were rehearsing on the mainstage.

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For more information, visit americanshakespearecenter.com.



ACTING COMPANY

EUNICE AKINOLA is a first-generation from Balch Springs, Texas. She recently graduated from Ithaca College's BFA

Acting program and now lives in Philadelphia. Being a first-generation, Nigerian woman, Eunice can best be described as an advocate for equal representation, in the theatre. Previous works include Juliet in Shakespeare's R&J, Emily in Third, and Wife in Blood Wedding.



ANATASHA BLAKELY is an actor, comedian and filmmaker. She graduated from Southern Utah University with a B.F.A. in Classical Acting. She studied comedy at iO West and studied clowning at The School for Theatre Creators. She has taught and performed improv around the country, at festivals and universities. Anatasha is a part of an L.A. based improv ensemble called Stormchaser and a comedy duo Buddy Puzzle. Both can be seen at The Pack Theatre in Los Angeles. Ask her anything. She wants to talk shop. Find her on instagram at @anatashablakely.



MICHAEL BOYNTON holds an MFA (Acting) from Wayne State University; an MFA (Musical Theatre Writing) from New York University; and a PhD (Theatre and Performance Studies) from the University of Maryland. Currently an Assistant Professor of Performance for the Jacksonville State University Drama



Department, Michael is a teacher and scholar of theatre as well as a professional director, dramatist, and performer. As an actor, he has worked with national companies such as the Hilberly Repertory Theatre in Detroit and the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore. Past favorite (Shakespearean) roles include Romeo, Orlando, Orsino, Laertes, and both Antipholus twins.

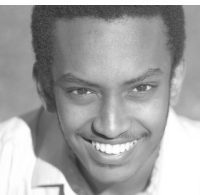
STEPHANIE ESCORZA is honored to be playing Octavius in her first stage

production since graduating from the FSU School of Theatre. Past stage credits include Thea Elvsted from Hedda Gabbler, Karen from Speed The Plow, and Le Vicomte de Valmont from Les Liaisons Dangereuses. She is grateful to work under the magnificent Carrie once again and is grateful to be storytelling for this community. She would like to dedicate this performance to her greatest supporters and inspirers: La Familia Escorza, y Joey Newfield.



AARON HAGOS is a senior BA Theatre major at Florida State University from Miramar, Florida.

His previous credits include Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Tragedian, u/s Rosencrantz), Servant of Two Masters (Brighella) at FSU as well as The Emperor's New Clothes (Dim), and Pathway to Freedom (Big Dan) at Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre. He is beyond excited to work on this production and would like to thank Carrie as well as all his friends and family for their continued support.



KARL HAWKINS

is thrilled to be working with The Shakespeare Project on one of his favorite Shakespeare plays.



Karl is from St. Louis, Missouri and is a graduate of the Conservatory of Theatre & Dance at Southeast Missouri State University. Credits include: Romeo & Juliet (Shakespeare Festival St. Louis), Middletown (Meramec Theatre), In The Heights (R-S Theatrics), The Tempest (St. Louis Shakespeare), District Merchants (New Jewish Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream, Marcus, The Secret of Sweet and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. "To Thine Own Self Be True!"

REBECCA HEARN

is ecstatic to be playing Lucius in her first on-stage experience in the world of Shakespeare. She recently graduated from Jacksonville High School where she participated in theatre productions and plans to continue pursuing this passion when she begins attending Furman University in the Fall. Some of her credits include Miss Andrew in Mary Poppins Jr., Suzanne in Dearly Departed, Betty Miller in Two Fronts, and others. She is grateful to have this opportunity to expand her knowledge of theatre and work with such a talented group of people.



STUART

HENDERSON is recent graduate from Jacksonville High school. He ships to basic training for the Army at the end of



August, and when he gets, he plans to attend Jacksonville State University. His favorite roles include George Banks in Mary Poppins and Junior in Dearly Departed. He is very excited to be working with such a great cast!

KENNEDY JONES

is a current BFA Classical Acting candidate at Southern Utah University where she has recently been seen as Lady Macbeth and Juror Eleven in Twelve Angry Jurors. She is also pursuing minors in Dance Performance and Arts Administration. Kennedy is originally from Twin Falls, Idaho and is thrilled to be a part of this show and visit Alabama for the first time.



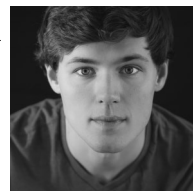
LIZZIE POWERS

is from Atlanta, Georgia and recently graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a BA in Acting. Her favorite roles include Elizabeth Proctor in The Crucible, Margaret May in Alice in Slasherland and Miss Thorn in Ruthless the Musical. She is so excited to work with this incredible cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!



JACOB SORLING

is hailing all the way from Los Angeles, CA but originally by way of Alamosa, CO. Jacob is a graduate of Adams State University with a B.A. in Theatre. He's also a graduate of iO West, UCBLA and Second City Hollywood. He continues to train under Eric Hunicutt (Steppenwolf



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THE CALHOUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION, INC. is the 501c3 of the Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center. The Calhoun County Chamber & Visitors Center works with the mission to promote and sustain economic growth of the Calhoun County region, resulting in a community that is a dynamic place to work, visit and live. The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Foundation focuses on the Chamber's organizational focus areas in education and workforce development, as well as marketing and community development, striving to create programs and events, including the Shakespeare Project, which enhance our schools, benefit our quality of life and leverage partnerships with existing businesses and organizations.

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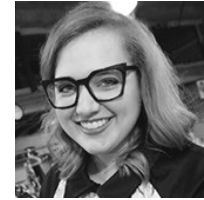
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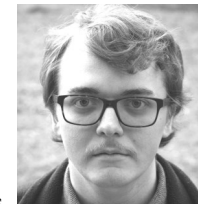
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West, Reckoning.) You can see him performing improvisation regularly with his sweet heart in Buddy Puzzle at The Pack Theatre in Hollywood, CA or in many other comedy festivals around the United States. You can follow him on instagram @jacobsorling or @buddypuzzle.

EMILY TAYLOR is a graduate of UND's M.A. Theatre program, focusing both in Acting and Costume Design. She recently finished working at MSU Summer Theatre, in Minot, North Dakota, where she worked as the costume designer/shop manager as well as appearing in two shows: Sister Act as Sister Mary Patrick and Bridges of Madison County as Marge. She is extremely excited to be working on Julius Caesar both on stage and behind the scenes.



AARON WILLIAMS is thrilled to perform in his very first professional theatre production in Julius Caesar! A recent Jacksonville State University alumnus, Aaron is no stranger to the stage, with acting credits including Thomas Stockmann in JSU's production of An Enemy of the People, Jonas in JSU's The Giver, and originating the role of Harry Horner in The Flying Blind Theatre Ensemble's The Country Co-Ed. He would like to thank all of his friends and family for being so incredibly supportive over the years.



CREATIVE TEAM

CARRIE COLTON is an actor, director, and choreographer hailing from Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was born and raised. Carrie holds a BFA in Classical Acting from Southern Utah University, where she studied with the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. Following her undergraduate studies, Carrie performed in two international tours, My Fair Lady (Eliza) and Annie (Miss Hannigan), before discovering her love for directing at the Gyeonggi English Village in South Korea. Some of her favorite directorial credits include Hairspray with the Fusion Academy of Hong Kong, Romeo and Juliet with North Dakota Shakespeare and The Tempest with the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival. A world traveler, Carrie has studied at the Moscow Art Theatre, Regents College in London, and has received her 200 hour certification at Guru Mahi's Ashrum in Dharmasala, India. She currently teaches as an Assistant Professor of Drama at Jacksonville State University and is a teacher/choreographer for CAST KIDZ on Monday nights. Carrie is very passionate about Shakespearean theatre and educational theatre, and she is thrilled to be working on this project with so many people who feel the same passion. Huzzah!



CATHERINE COPELAND is an senior at Alexandria High School, where she sings in the school choir. She is very excited to be participating as the carpentry apprentice for the



Shakespeare Project. Catherine is an aspiring stage manager and hopes to go to college to pursue that dream. She is also involved in CCT Elite, with CharACTers in Gadsden.

AKIRA DARK is a student at Walter Wellborn High School and is enjoying participating in the YES Apprenticeship Program. Akira has participated in dance line, junior choir, and volleyball, and she is a certified barber in cosmetology at the Career Academy in Jacksonville. Akira is a member of Teens for Christ and a junior usher at her church, Greater Thankful Missionary Baptist Church, and she enjoys helping others and spending time with family and friends.



ANSLEY GAYTON is a senior at Jacksonville State University, majoring in Theatre with a minor in Art. She has worked in many different theatre areas but her favorites are costuming, acting, and stage management. She is from Calhoun, Georgia. She is very excited to be working on this production. Other productions she has worked on include Annie, The Tempest, Nothing Serious, and Guys and Dolls. She would like to thank God, her family and her friends. Enjoy the show!



AVERY GALLAHAR is very excited to be chosen as the costuming apprentice! She is currently enrolled at White Plains High School and is



about to start her sophomore year. She has performed in many shows before including Beauty and the Beast, Annie, Peter Pan and High School Musical, but she can't wait to work on the production side of theatre!

NICK HOENSHELL is the technical director for the Drama Department at Jacksonville State University. Nick received his MFA in Directing from Baylor University, in Waco Texas. He is very proud to be a part of The Shakespeare Project's inaugural production of Julius Caesar.



ASHLEE CHEYENNE OLIVER is ecstatic to be the Stage Manager for this production. He is currently obtaining a BA in Theatre: Production with a concentration in Stage/Production Management. Credits for Theatrics in performance elements include: Pentheus from The Bacchae, Judson in Dorothy Meets Alice, and The Drunk in Guys and Dolls. Credits for theatrics in Technical elements include: Stage Manager for These Shining Lives, The Tempest, Shackles of Liberty, An Enemy Of The People, and The Giver. Cheyenne has recently traveled to North Dakota Shakespeare as their Stage Manager and ASM for the past two years. He is a private contractor who has technical experience in over 115 shows ranging from concerts to musicals. Cheyenne is currently working with CAST Kids as their Technical instructor and Director for Kids Scenery.



LAWRENCE MASON is a Dallas, Texas native. He is a Drama Performance Major at Jacksonville State University, however; he has had a lot of experience with the tech side as well, as the Technical Director and lighting designer for the Flying Blind Theatre Ensemble's premier performance of The Country Co-Ed. He has also spent a lot of time in the Shop at JSU working on shows like Guys and Dolls and The Giver.



BRANDON VICK currently works in Wallace Hall at Gadsden State Community College and has been working with them and CharACTers Theatrics for two years. He's working on his Bachelors Degree in drama technical at JSU and currently enrolled at Gadsden State. He's designed hundreds of shows from regular concerts to dance recitals, to full-blown musicals! He has been lighting and sound designing large-scale productions like Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Oliver!, Peter Pan, Disney's High School Musical, and many others in Alabama! He has also painted in Atlanta and worked in Orlando with Innovative Event Services. He works under private contracts with community theatres in the northeast Alabama area, and his latest shows were Annie the Musical, Jekyll and Hyde the Musical, Sense and Sensibility and Dorothy Meets Alice! He also works on contracts with the Oxford Performing Arts Center for many traveling Broadway shows in Anniston, Oxford, and Birmingham!



REBECCA WEAVER is a junior at Jacksonville State University, where she is currently double majoring in English and Theatre. Her focus is dramaturgy and literary criticism, however, she is very excited to be the technical apprentice for the Shakespeare Project's production of Julius Caesar. Her previous credits include dramaturging Lillian Paula Carson, The Giver, and Guys and Dolls. She wants to give special thanks to the director, Carrie Colton, for always believing in her and encouraging her to go outside of her comfort zone.



THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

EMILY DUNCAN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) was born and raised in Calhoun County and graduated from JSU, with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Since 2011, Emily has worked at the Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center, where she is currently the Tourism & Marketing Director. She is excited that the Chamber blessed and supported the Shakespeare Project. Emily wants to thank our contributors for helping us make art accessible to all. She would also like to thank the many who assisted with needed resources: The City of Anniston PARD, JSU, Knox Concert Series, Downing & Sons, CAST, CharACTers Entertainment, The American Shakespeare Center, Anniston City Schools, Fiddler's Green, area schools and other organizations. She'd also like to thank her family and the "Williams" community for devoting time and energy to this production. 9

