

7PM ALL PERFORMANCES
OPENS SUNDAY, June 7!

 **OPENSTAGE**
Theatre & Company

By William Shakespeare



The **MERRY WIVES** of **WINDSOR**

Directed By Kate Austin-Gröen

JUNE 7 – JULY 11



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TICKETS:
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OPENSTAGE THEATRE & COMPANY PRESENTS

Jacob Offen

Producing Artistic Director

Bruce and Denise Freestone

Founders

The **MERRY WIVES** of **WINDSOR**

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Kate Austin-Gröen

Scenic Design by Ivan Andrade & Libby Shelstad
Properties Design and Set Dressing by Libby Shelstad
Costume Design by Rebecca Evans
Lighting Design by David Grinnell
Sound Design by Victoria Villalobos
Original Composition by Ivan Austin-Gröen
Choreography by Marissa J. Dienstag

Jennifer R. Bray, Assistant Director
Anna Epstein, Stage Manager
Jacob Offen, Production Manager
Molly McGuire, Production Assistant

June 7 - July 11, 2026

Sundays · June 7, 21, 28 | July 5 · 7 pm

Thursdays · June 18 | July 2, 9 · 7 pm

Fridays and Saturdays · June 13, 19, 26, 27 | July 3, 10, 11 · 7 pm

Student/Educator Performance · June 4 · 7 pm

Pay-What-You-Can Performance · June 11 · 7 pm

FAB Friday · June 12 · 7 pm

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*OpenStage Theatre & Company is a member of the Colorado Theatre Guild and
Theatre Community*



2026-2027

SEASON 54

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2026

Dracula

ADAPTED BY
STEVEN DIETZ

POTUS:

BY SELINA FILLINGER

OR, BEHIND EVERY GREAT DUMBASS ARE
SEVEN WOMEN TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE

In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play

BY SARAH RUHL

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S *Dream*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

CAST / TIME / PLACE

CAST

Mistress Alice Ford	Staci York
Frank Ford	David Austin-Gröen
Mistress Margaret Page	Kim Lancaster
George Page	Akolotu Moeloa
Sir John Falstaff	Ryan Fleming
Pistol / Robert	Sarah J. Baker
Bardolph / Simple	Jaya Schane
Nym / John	Matthias Bolon
Robin	Henry Blake
Mistress Quickly	Rebecca Pollyea
Master Quickly / Host	Andrew L. Brimhall
Sir Hugh Evans	Steven P. Sickles
Anne Page	Annabeth Lofton
Fenton	Robin Rader
Abraham Slender	Darren Cull
Justice Shallow	Tom Cudmore

TIME & PLACE

July 8-11, 1597
Windsor, England

***The Merry Wives of Windsor runs approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes
with a 15 minute intermission***

RAIN POLICY

In case of inclement weather, we will hold the performance for 10 to 20 minutes before canceling. If a performance is canceled due to weather, audience members' tickets will be fully refunded. In addition, patrons will receive a 10% off coupon for a future performance; however, new tickets must be purchased separately through the Lincoln Center box office online or by phone, 970-221-6730.

PRODUCTION STAFF / ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Master Carpenter	Ivan Andrade
Charge Artist	Libby Shelstad
Wardrobe Supervisor	Rebecca Evans
Master Electrician	David Grinnell
Properties Supervisor	Anna Epstein
Properties Assistant	Ryan Fleming
Assistant Carpenters	Avana Andrade, Andrew Cole, Tonya Dunn, Jake Honeycut, Andre Mells
Sound Board Operator	Anna Epstein
Company Photographers	Aubrey Bierman, Kate Austin-Gröen, Steve Finnestead, Joe Hovorka, Soleil Lean-Geddes, Sarah J Baker
Company Videographer	Steve Finnestead
Social Media Manager	Sarah J Baker
Social Media Assistant	Cassie Freedman
Season Poster, Postcard, and Program Designer	Phil Guzy
Program Coordinator	Cassie Freedman
Program Supervisors	Jacob Offen, Sarah J Baker

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- DARTH FADER LIGHTING
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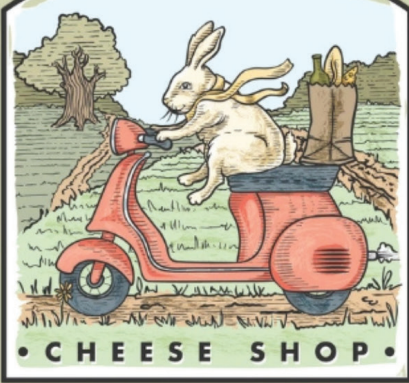
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Shakespeare! So elite, so cultured, so sophisticated! Or, perhaps... not. Lore indicates that Queen Elizabeth so enjoyed the character of Falstaff in *Henry IV Parts I and II* (in which the characters of Pistol, Nym, Bardolph, and Shallow also appear) that she commissioned Shakespeare to write a play about Falstaff in love. Two weeks later, Shakespeare presented *The Merry Wives of Windsor* to her at court. This is probably untrue, given the short turn-around time, and that the play doesn't particularly meet the Queen's directive.

What Shakespeare wrote instead was not a love story, but a sitcom, with many of the same characteristics that we recognize from modern sitcom comedy: miscommunication, references to popular entertainment, lots of innuendo. This play is based on the even broader and bluer *Miller's Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer, which will definitely challenge anyone's belief that the Elizabethans were stuffy and erudite.

The Merry Wives of Windsor is a unique work in several ways: it's the only comedy that Shakespeare set in England, it's his only play that is not in iambic pentameter (with a few exceptions), it's his only play about commoners and not royalty, and it's his only play to feature two middle-aged women as the leads. Huzzah to that! We have chosen to embrace the play's broad comic roots and lean into the silliness, fun, and comradery. We've also tried to honor the play's deeper themes of community, forgiveness, and the power of kindness.

On a personal note: My husband and I met when we were cast in this show in 1995 in White Bear Lake, MN. I played Mistress Ford and he played Slender. It's been a special experience for both of us to revisit this play after 26 years of marriage and two children. Dave says it was easier to learn the lines in 1995... I wonder what's changed ? :)

The rehearsal process for this show has been one of the most effortlessly joyful ones I've ever experienced, and we hope that you will have as much fun watching it as we've had creating it.

-Kate Austin-Gröen, Director

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KATE AUSTIN-GRÖEN, Director, is a director, producer, intimacy director, and actor with over 35 years of theatre experience. As a director, she has helmed productions ranging from classics to contemporary works, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Treasure*

Island, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Full Monty*, and *Falsettoland*. She currently serves as Resident Intimacy Director at OpenStage Theatre & Company, where she has also directed and production-managed numerous shows. As an actor, Kate's favorite roles include Nora in *A Doll's House, Part 2*, Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Dr. Charlotte in *Falsettoland*. Her training spans acting, voice, dance, and aerial arts, and she developed the Observation and Re-Creation (OaR) technique to help actors embody emotion with physical specificity and sustainability. Beyond the stage, Kate has been deeply involved in community arts leadership and advocacy, committed to building theatre that is bold, inclusive, and joyfully collaborative.



JENNIFER R. BRAY, Assistant Director, is delighted to continue her journey with OpenStage. She holds a B.A. in Performing Arts with an emphasis in Acting/ Directing from Iowa State University and an MBA in Nonprofit Management from Oklahoma State

University. Recently, Jen appeared with OpenStage as the Congregant in *The Christians* and Grandma/Captain Smollet in *Treasure Island*. Her experience spans numerous onstage and offstage roles with theaters such as Bas Bleu Theatre, Encore! Encore!, Windsor Community Playhouse, Loveland Community Theatre, Iowa State University Theatre, Ames Community Theatre, Rapid City Community Theatre, The Black Hills Playhouse, and The Alameda Civic Light Opera Company. When not performing, Jen enjoys roller skating, cross-stitching, and spending time with her horse, chickens, and cats. She dedicates this performance to her boyfriend, Brian, for his endless love and support and for keeping the internet running during late-night rehearsals.



STACI YORK, Mistress Alice Ford, is elated (and ever-so grateful) to be part of this production! An actor, singer, writer, director, and educator, Staci's previous roles include *Dinner with Friends* (Karen), *Talking With* (Mary Titter), *The Cottage*

(Marjorie), *The Legacy of Baker Street* (Felicity Watson-originated), *Something's Afoot* (Lady Manley-Prowe), *Clue* (Miss Scarlet), *Into the Woods* (The Baker's Wife), and *Matilda* (Trunchbull). This performance is dedicated to Aeden, her husband and blue crayon.



DAVID AUSTIN-GRÖEN, Frank Ford,

is delighted to return for a third time performing in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*—a show with special meaning, as it is where he met his wife in 1994! A 40-year veteran of the stage, David has performed in over 60 productions and theatrical tours. He is a three-time Colorado Henry Award nominee for Outstanding Actor for his roles as Poirot in *Murder on the Orient Express*, Ben Jonson in *The Book of Will*, and Clown in *The 39 Steps*. Other favorite credits include roles in *Ideation*, *The Full Monty*, *Sherwood*, *The Tempest*, and *A Pilgrim's Project*. David formerly served as Artistic Director of Radio Star Improv in San Francisco and is a founding member of Fort Collins' own Comedy Brewers. Offstage, he is a reader, gamer, proud father of two, and—unlike Master Ford—happily the “first husband” of Kate.

FULL BIOS CAST / DESIGNERS / CREW



KIM LANCASTER,
Mistress Margaret Page,
is thrilled to be making her debut with Open Stage in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Kim most often performs in musical theater and is delighted to be back on stage with The Bard. Some of her favorite roles include

Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Marmee in *Little Women*, Rona in *Spelling Bee*, Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family*, Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man*, Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Kim is a K12 school principal and a private flute and voice instructor. She lives in Longmont with her partner and the cutest mini bernedoodle in the world.



AKOLOTU MOELOA,
George Page,
has been a Fort Collins resident for over 15 years and will celebrate his 50th birthday this year! (Gifts of dark chocolate and coffee are encouraged.) He enjoys traveling with his wonderful partner Kari and hiking with their dog

Wilhelmina and can often be found losing to his friends at board games. His most recent OpenStage performances include *Treasure Island* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. He's excited to be back on stage and hopes you enjoy his first foray into the world of Shakespeare!



RYAN FLEMING,
**Sir John Falstaff/Proper-
ties Assistant,**

is honored to be part of this production and grateful to return to the stage after a 13-year hiatus. He brings over 20 years of community theatre experience from the Roaring Fork Valley.

His favorite roles include Einstein in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Iago in *Othello*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Gary in *Unmarried in America*. *Unmarried in America* received four awards for Aspen Stage at the American Association of Community Theatre National Convention in 2013, where Ryan was recognized with the Best Actor in a Featured Role award for his performance as Gary. Ryan is grateful for the support of his partner, Melissa, and their Tasmanian devil, Tavish. Blessed Be.



SARAH J BAKER,
Pistol/Robert,

is delighted to be back onstage with OpenStage this summer. Sarah is an actor, playwright, director, dramaturg, and educator with a degree in Acting and Theatre Studies from University of Northern Colorado. She appears in

Life Is Strange: Reunion, the newest release in the popular *Life Is Strange* video game franchise, and you can keep up with her work on IMDb. Stage acting credits include: *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (2025 OSCA winner for Best Comedy, Best Ensemble, and more), *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Treasure Island*, and *Stop Kiss*. Directing credits include: Story Theatre with FCCT, Pleasant for Vintage Theatre's New Directors Showcase, and Creature with One Another Theatre. Her original play *The Festival* was featured in last year's Fresh Looks Festival in Denver, and her play *A Wager* was performed and discussed on the British podcast Theatrical Shenanigans. Sarah is also part of the OpenStage staff, serving as the company's Marketing & Operations Manager.



JAYA SCHANE,
Bardolph/Simple/Dance
Captain,

is very excited to perform in her first production with OpenStage as Bardolph/Simple! An actor, dancer, singer, and musician, Jaya has over 18yrs of dance and performance training, and has graced

the stage and screen in dozens of dance productions throughout the state of Colorado and Florida. Previous theatrical roles include: *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lucille/Dance Captain); *In The Wake* (Kayla); *Into The Woods* (Little Red); and *The Polar Express Experience* (Chef/Elf). She holds a BFA in Musical Theatre, a minor in Music, and a minor in Criminal Investigation. Special thanks to her family and friends for their unconditional support!



MATTHIAS BOLON,
Nym/John

is excited for his debut with OpenStage as Nym/John. He's an early modern theatre nerd, so he loves performing Shakespeare any chance he gets! A few of his past roles include Prince/Bard in *The Goblins*,

Bartholomew Cokes in *Bartholomew Fair*, Margaret/Clarence/others in *Henry VI Part 3*, and The Storyteller in *Pericles for Young Audiences* (Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble); Felix Fairbourne in *Mischief, Magic & Murder* (Byers Enterprises); Wayne Hopkins in *Puffs* (Silver Line Theatre Exchange); and Voice of Edward/Musician in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (CU Educational Outreach Tour). He holds an MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University.
Website: matthiasbolon.com.



HENRY BLAKE,
Robin,

is so excited to be part of his first show with OpenStage. He loves doing band, choir, and theatre at Rocky Mountain High-school and found his love for acting in his schools' production of *Something Rotten!* He is thrilled to get

to be part of such a wonderful group of actors and is ecstatic to learn from all of the amazing directors at OpenStage.



REBECCA POLLYEA,
Mistress Quickly,

is thrilled to be making her OpenStage debut in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She holds a BFA in Music/Dance/Theater and a BA in Theater Education.

Favorite Shakespeare roles include Katherine in

The Taming of the Shrew, a Witch in *Macbeth*, and Trinculo in *The Tempest*. Other memorable roles are the Storyteller in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Elizabeth in *1918*, Rosemary in *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, Amalia in *She Loves Me*, and a nun in *Sister Act*. Last summer she played Countess Gregory (US Dowager Empress) in Candelight Dinner Theater's production of *Anastasia*. She is currently the theater and vocal music director at Liberty Common High School in Fort Collins. In her spare time she enjoys dancing, hiking, and playing the ukulele. Special thanks to her husband Scott and four awesome kids for their love and support!

FULL BIOS CAST / DESIGNERS / CREW



ANDREW L. BRIMHALL,
Master Quickly/Host,
is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a 25-year hiatus during which he started a family and a career as a Counseling Psychologist. After recently seeing his son perform the titular role in Debut Theatre Company's

Frankenstein, Andrew was inspired to return to the temple to worship the gods of comedy and tragedy. A musical theatre kid at heart, he is humbled to be performing in his first Shakespearean role. He is grateful to this community and the patrons of the arts for sustaining vital spaces where we can come together and find joy in our shared humanity during turbulent times.



ANNABETH LOFTON,
Anne Page, (she/her)
is thrilled to return to Openstage after previously appearing as Emmy in *A Doll's House: Part 2*. You may have also seen her in *Scrooge!* at Candlelight or in *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* at Bas Bleu Theatre. Thanks to

this amazing team, and to the bard himself! Love to Jonah and family (chosen & given). Enjoy the show!



ROBIN RADER,
Fenton,
is a sophomore year musical theatre major at Colorado State University and is happy to be involved with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Productions that you may have seen them in include: *The Prom* and *Be More*

Chill with Places Everyone. Robin loves to play volleyball and video games and would love to thank their family and friends for always supporting them.



STEVEN P. SICKLES,
Sir Hugh Evans/Guitar,
first appeared with OpenStage in 2003 as Julian in *Communicating Doors* and has enjoyed numerous OpenStage artistic opportunities since then. Recipient of the 2017 Colorado Theatre Guild Outstanding Actor Award

and two OpenStage OPUS Acting Awards, Steven's recent OpenStage roles include Friar Tuck in *Sherwood*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Valere in *LaBête*, Athos in *The Three Musketeers*, and The Elder in *The Christians* with OpenStage etcetera. Steven has a B.A. in Communication and Theatre Arts and has performed from Aurora to Boulder in such roles as Marc in *Art*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, and Merchant/Father in *Belle and the Beast*. Favorite roles include Arthur in *Camelot*, Perchick in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Matt in *Talley's Falley*, Dr. Nakamura/Governor in *Happy End*, The Mikado in *The Mikado*, Birdboot in *The Real Inspector Hound*, and his debut in sixth grade as the Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Steve would like to thank all audience members and donors for supporting live theatre!



DARREN CULL,
Abraham Slender,
is a junior at Colorado State University and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Theatre Performance. Some of his notable character portrayals include: God the Father from CSU's production of *Paradise*

Lost, Tony Frank from CSU's production of *The Cherryfield Toy Company*, and Dean/Devin from On the Brink Theatre Company's reading of the play *Gloria*. This is Darren's first time working with OpenStage Theatre Company, and he is extremely excited to expand his acting repertoire and bring the work of William Shakespeare to life. Darren would like to thank Kate Austin-Groen, Jacob Offen, and Jennifer Bray for this incredible opportunity!



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TOM CUDMORE,
Justice Shallow/Drums,
is thrilled to be making his debut with OpenStage Theatre in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. A performer with the Loveland Choral Society since 2019, Tom has appeared in productions at the Rialto Theater including

High Rollers, *Cole Porter: Musical Genius!*, and *We Need a LOT of Christmas*, where he was featured as Buddy the Elf. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* marks his return to scripted theatre for the first time in 20 years, since playing Horton in *Seussical the Musical*. Tom lives in Loveland with his wife Hayley and their chihuahuas Tucker and Daisy. He thanks Hayley, whose love and support made this return to the stage possible.



ANNA EPSTEIN,
**Stage Manager/
Properties Supervisor/
Sound Board Operator,**
has worked in live events for 26 years but fell in love with theater at the age of 6. She has worked concerts, weddings, inaugurations, awards, television and her favorite,

live theater. Most recently she made her directorial debut with the FCCT+ Places Everyone! production of *The Prom!* Anna is thrilled to be joining the OpenStage team for this production!



IVAN ANDRADE,
**Co-Set Designer/
Master Carpenter/
Technical Director,**
wears many hats, and he wears them well! With a background spanning construction, business development and management, and a variety of artistic endeavors, he

brings a unique blend of practical skills and creative flair to OpenStage. He's been an invaluable asset behind the scenes, contributing to numerous productions. Ivan has lent his expertise as an assistant to the lead carpenters, an assistant to technical directors, and has taken on the roles of Properties designer and builder for *Reefer Madness*. Most recently, he's stepped up as Lead carpenter for *The Minutes*, showcasing his dedication and diverse talents. When he's not building theatrical magic, Ivan's likely working in his own or a client's landscape, proving his versatility and passion for bringing ideas to life.



LIBBY SHELSTAD,
**Properties Designer/
Co-Set Designer/
Charge Artist,**

is a Costume and Set Designer known for her creative and innovative designs for theater. Libby began designing sets and lighting for local theaters in 2000, and transitioned

into costume design in 2016. After designing over a dozen sets and another dozen shows for costumes, she made the decision in 2023 to leave behind her career in health care to pursue theatrical design professionally. She is a graduate of Colorado State University, with a BA in Theater Costume Design Technology and Set Design. She was selected to Design costumes for Opera and Theater at CSU and in the Fort Collins Community, and Properties Design for CSU Theater. She currently works as a freelance designer for theaters and private clients.



REBECCA EVANS, Costume Designer, is delighted to join OpenStage for this production of *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Rebecca is currently employed as the Assistant Costume Shop Manager at Colorado State University's Costume Shop, which

handles the costumes for the theatre, dance, and music departments at CSU. Previously, Rebecca was a Draper at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, where she worked on such productions as *The Sound of Music*, *Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Evita*. Rebecca has costume-designed over 30 theatrical productions in her career and is thrilled to lend her expertise to OpenStage.



IVAN AUSTIN-GRÖEN, Composer, While completing his first year as a music education student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Ivan was presented the opportunity to write the music for this show. After years of songwriting for piano and guitar, he is

overjoyed for the chance to see his music on stage. Ivan hopes that this experience will allow him to continue practicing songwriting and open more opportunities to work with OpenStage in the future.



MARISSA J. DIENSTAG, Choreographer, is thrilled to be part of OpenStage productions. While she debuted with OpenStage in *Treasure Island*, she has enjoyed becoming more involved. Since moving to Colorado, Marissa has held the role of an actor,

assistant director, stage manager and choreographer for Fort Collins Children's Theatre and OpenStage Theatre & Company. Prior to that, she has directed, choreographed, stage

managed, and acted with various Ohio community theatre groups. She enjoys traveling, spending time on the water, and experiencing new adventures with her family. She truly appreciates her friends' and family's support and encouragement to keep having fun and being involved in the theatre.



VICTORIA VILLALOBOS, Sound Designer, has loved theatre since she was a child. She has worked extensively with OpenStage as a Sound Designer and Engineer, Makeup and Hair Designer and Stylist, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Board Operator, Stage-

hand, and Dresser. Victoria has also worked with Fort Collins Children's Theatre for the past 9 productions, most recently as the Makeup Designer and Stylist for *The Wizard of Oz*. Next on the list, she will be designing for FCCT's production of *Willy Wonka* in November of 2026. In addition, she has worked with companies such as Opera Fort Collins, Canyon Concert Ballet, and The Cheyenne Little Theatre Players. Victoria has been honored with two Henry Award nominations for Outstanding Sound Design with OpenStage: one for *The Book of Will* in 2024 and another for *The 39 Steps* in 2025. She received her associate degree from Front Range Community College, where she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the President's List, both for her academic achievements. Victoria wishes to thank her family and friends for all their love and support!



**DAVID GRINNELL,
Lighting Designer/
Master Electrician,**

has been continuously involved with OpenStage for the last 10 years. David originally worked in the Saint Paul/Minneapolis area, with companies such as The Great American History Theater,

Cricket Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and The Guthrie Theater. For OpenStage, he has served as the Master Electrician for *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *North Plan*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Avenue Q*, and *Men On Boats*. David was the Lighting Designer for this season's *CABARET* and *Don't Dress for Dinner* in 2017. Since the 2015 relaunch of OpenStage etcetera, he has served as Lighting Designer and Master Electrician for their productions of *The Submission*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Ultimate Beauty Bible*, *H2O*, *Ideation*, *The Mystery of Love and Sex*, *Fool For Love*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Cry It Out*, and *A Doll's House Part 2*.



**MOLLY MCGUIRE,
Production Assistant,**

first performed with OpenStage Theatre in 2004 in *The Women*. She began performing with the Company again in 2014, when she appeared as Nerine in *Scapin*. Since then, she has appeared with OpenStage as Be-

atrice in *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Millicent/Laurie in Stage Kiss*, *Danielle in Ultimate Beauty Bible*, *Suzanne in Don't Dress for Dinner*, in the *Ensemble of Christmas Chaos* and *Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy of Errors*, *Conrade in Much Ado About Nothing*, *Angela in Natural Shocks*, and *Fanny Dashwood/Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip in Sense and Sensibility*. She is excited to be working with the amazing cast of *Cyrano* and would like to thank the entire cast, staff and crew for their unwavering support. Also, Molly would like to take this opportunity to give her heartfelt thanks to her OpenStage family. Their support and love has helped her immensely this last year.



**JACOB OFFEN,
Production Manager/
Producing Artistic Director,**

has played many roles at OpenStage Theatre & Company – actor, staff member, board member, and now director and Producing Artistic Director. Offen made his OpenStage directorial

debut with *Misery* this past fall. He has received two Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Award Nominations for Outstanding Performer (*The Book of Will*, *The 39 Steps*), and has received multiple OpenStage OPUS Awards for his work with the Company. Previous OST&C favorites are "Actor" in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, Dr. Frank n' Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and ensemble in *Big Fish*. Jacob taught Acting at the University of Houston during his tenure as an MFA candidate, and recently at the University of Northern Colorado – his undergraduate alma mater. Further, Jacob has created acting, voice, and Shakespearean text workshops for high school and undergraduate workshops, and at the Houston Shakespeare Festival and Texas Shakespeare Festival where he was also a Company Member Actor for two seasons. His favorite roles there include Jacques in *As You Like It (TSF)*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream (TSF)*, Caesar in *Julius Caesar (TSF)* and Sir Toby in *Twelfth Night (HSF)*. He has worked with the Public Theatre in New York City and trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts there in 2003.



BRUCE AND DENISE FREESTONE, Founders,

founded OpenStage in 1973 and have provided leadership to both the Company and to the development of the arts in Northern Colorado for the past 50 years. Both Bruce and Denise have extensive experience as actors, directors, producers, and designers; they have garnered regional awards and recognition for both themselves and the Theatre, including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Tree of Peace Medallion, which signifies a lifetime of contributions to the Arts and Culture Industry.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, Playwright,

is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, he authored 39 plays, 154 sonnets, and countless poems that continue to shape theatre and literature worldwide. His works span comedy, tragedy, and history, with beloved titles including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Macbeth*. A shareholder in the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later the King's Men, Shakespeare's plays were performed at London's famed Globe Theatre. His keen insight into human nature and enduring influence on storytelling have secured his place as a cornerstone of Western drama. He died in 1616, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire audiences, artists, and scholars more than 400 years later.



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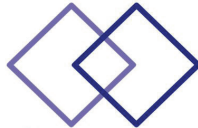
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