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



Outside in the Courtyard
at the
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Jacob Offen
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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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The Center for Creativity Heritage Courtyard
200 Mathews Street, Fort Collins, Colorado

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

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
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



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, Shakepeare 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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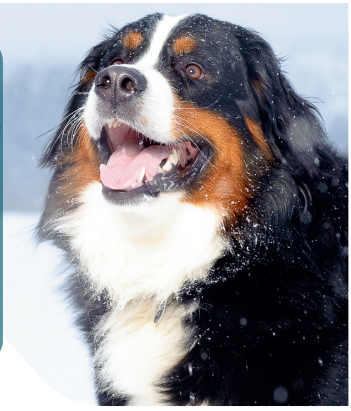
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KATE AUSTIN-GRÖEN
Director



JENNIFER R. BRAY
Assistant Director



STACI YORK
Alice Ford



DAVID AUSTIN-GRÖEN
Frank Ford



KIM LANCASTER
Margaret Page



AKOLOTU MOELOA
George Page



RYAN FLEMING
Sir John Falstaff



SARAH J BAKER
Pistol / Robert



JAYA SCHANE
Bardolph / Simple



MATTIAS BOLON
Nym / John



HENRY BLAKE
Robin



REBECCA POLLYEA
Mistress Quickly



ANDREW L. BRIMHALL
Master Quickly / Host



STEVEN P. SICKLES
Sir Hugh Evans



ANNABETH LOFTON
Anne Page



ROBIN RADER
Fenton

CAST / DESIGNERS / CREW



DARREN CULL
Abraham Slender



TOM CUDMORE
Justice Shallow



IVAN ANDRADE
Technical Director/
Scenic Designer



LIBBY SHELSTAD
Properties & Scenic Designer / Charge Artist



ANNA EPSTEIN
Stage Manager/Properties Manager/Sound Board Operator



REBECCA EVANS
Costume Designer



IVAN AUSTIN-GRÖEN
Composer



MARISSA J DIENSTAG
Choreographer



VICTORIA VILLALOBOS
Sound Designer



DAVID GRINNELL
Lighting Designer / Master Electrician



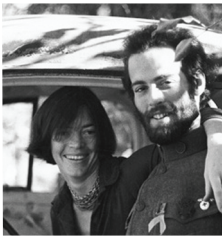
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Production Assistant



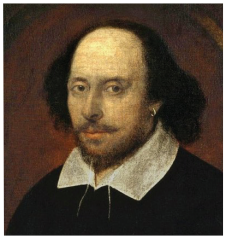
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Playwright

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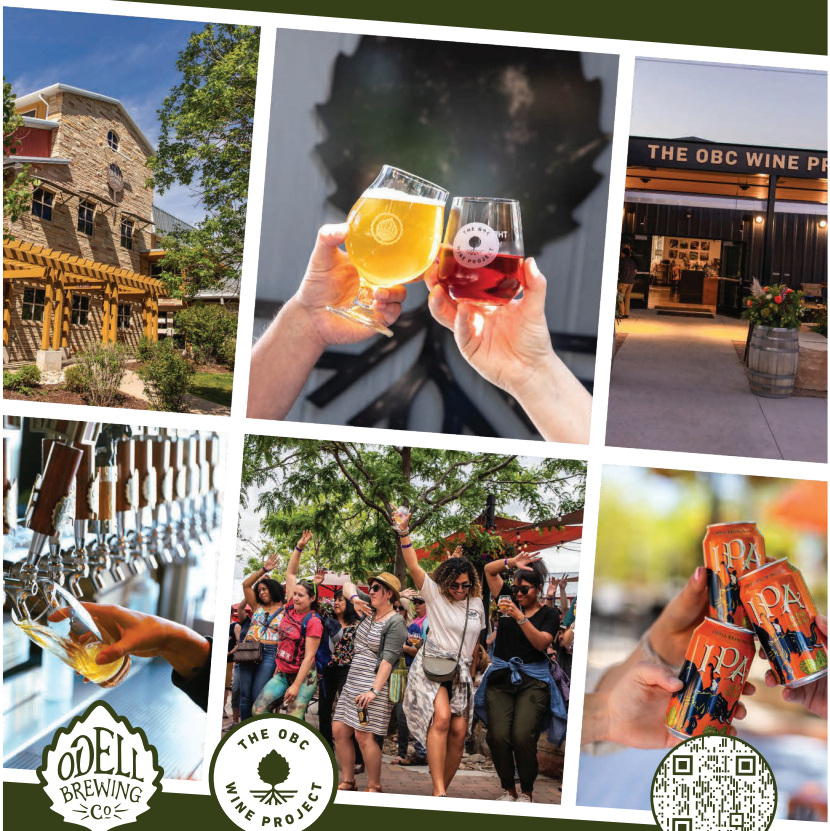
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