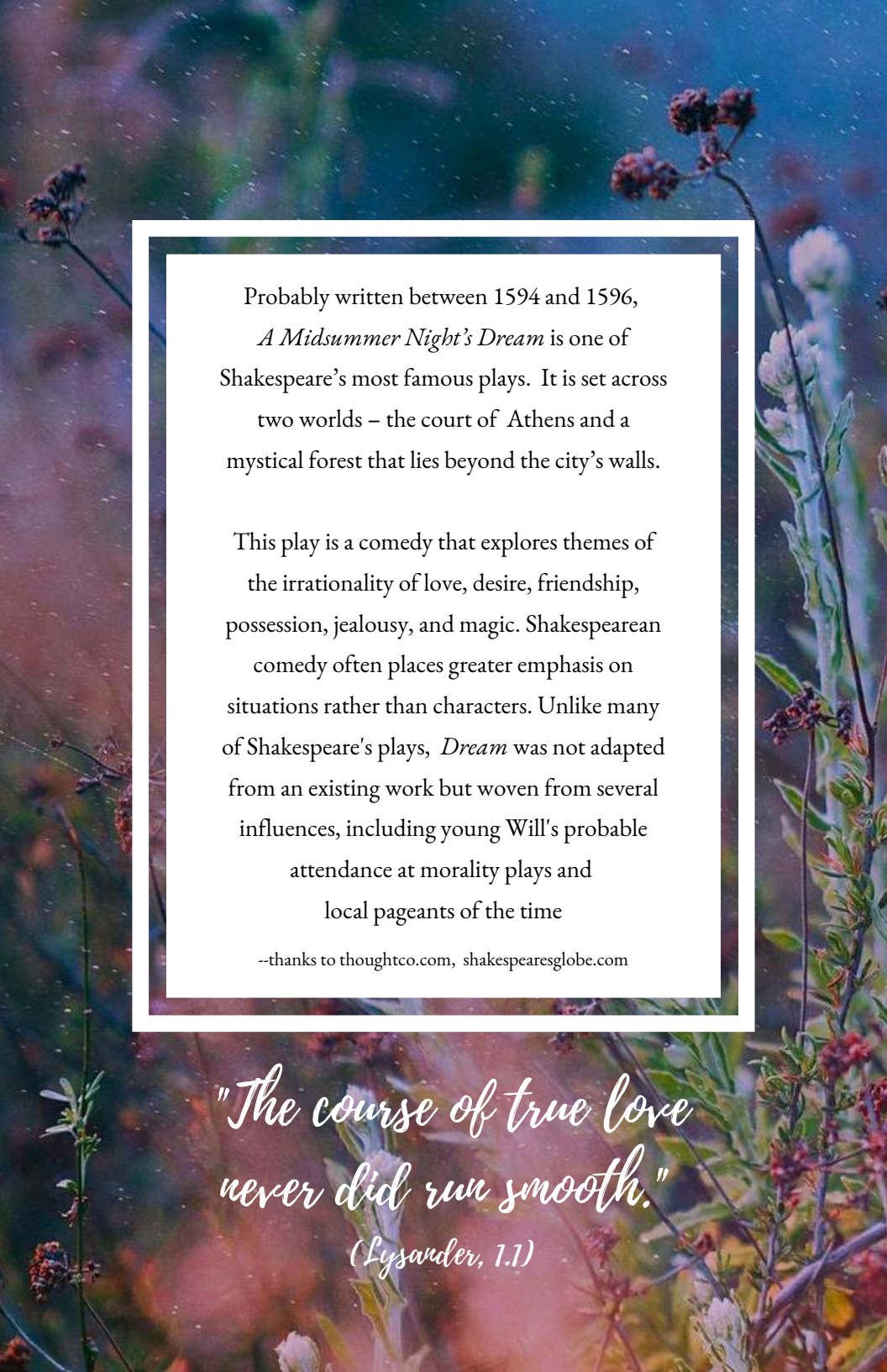


CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE PRESENTS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM



2022



Probably written between 1594 and 1596,
A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of
Shakespeare's most famous plays. It is set across
two worlds – the court of Athens and a
mystical forest that lies beyond the city's walls.

This play is a comedy that explores themes of
the irrationality of love, desire, friendship,
possession, jealousy, and magic. Shakespearean
comedy often places greater emphasis on
situations rather than characters. Unlike many
of Shakespeare's plays, *Dream* was not adapted
from an existing work but woven from several
influences, including young Will's probable
attendance at morality plays and
local pageants of the time

--thanks to thoughtco.com, shakespearesglobe.com

*"The course of true love
never did run smooth."*

(Lysander, 1.1)

WELCOME

To The Season of the Supernatural



This charming fairy story, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is a perfect showcase for our talented cast of eighteen. You will soon witness the magic of a mixed-age cast: ten-year-olds performing in their first Shakespeare production as well as high school seniors performing in their last youth theatre production.

It is wonderful to watch the joy and passion with which the children in our company embrace the work of Shakespeare, theatre techniques, clowning, and building an ensemble. It is especially rewarding for our directors to see the eyes and spirits of our young actors light up during in-person rehearsal after our two-year hiatus.

We've had some productive conversations as a cast during this rehearsal process, reflecting on issues in the play; issues of gender, class, consent and cultural differences. Discerning audience members may notice that we have changed the word "chink" to "crack" after these discussions. While chink is still defined by dictionaries as a small hole, many of the children in our company felt uncomfortable using the word as it also has associations with a slur. In this time of rising violence and anti-AAPI acts, we felt it was important to stand in solidarity with this concern.

Community is fundamental to Children's Shakespeare Theatre, now in our twenty-second season. We'll have a summer program for young people ages 8 - 18 in Nyack this August, and we're excited to be performing at the Nyack Performing Arts Festival in October.

And to you, whether you're joining us indoors at Palisades Presbyterian Church or on the lawn of Rockland Center for the Arts, we're so glad you're with us today. May you laugh with the clowns, delight in the fairies and be charmed by the lovers as you enjoy our latest production.

-Brady Amoonclark (Artistic Director)
& The Board of Directors



*"Lord, what fools
these mortals be!
(Puck—3.2)*

A Midsummer Night's Dream Synopsis

Our story begins in Athens: Duke Theseus, Hero of Greek Myth, and Hippolyta, Amazon Queen are to be wed in a few days. But first, a complaint! Egeus, Father of Hermia, comes dragging Hermia to Court, followed by Lysander and Demetrius. Egeus wants his daughter Hermia to marry Demetrius, but she's in love with Lysander.

Theseus tells Hermia she has three choices: she can marry Demetrius who her father prefers, live her life as a nun, or she can die. Hermia and Lysander are left alone and plan to run away together through the woods, where they can escape Athenian law. Helena arrives, a friend of Hermia's. She is in love with Demetrius. Hermia and Lysander tell her of their plan. Helena then decides to tell Demetrius about their plan.

Next, we meet the hard-handed men who work in Athens. They have been called together by Peter Quince, for the chance to perform a play at Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding. Nick Bottom is to play the hero, Pyramus. Flute is to play the lady Thisbe, while Snout is to play The Wall. Starveling is to play Moonshine, and Snug is to play The Lion. They make plans to meet in the woods at moonlight to rehearse.

In the woods, the fairies gather. We meet Puck, a fairy sprite who serves Oberon, the fairy king. He meets Titania, the fairy queen's fairies, Moth, Mustardseed, Cobweb, and Peaseblossom and tells them that Oberon and Titania are fighting and jealous of each other. When Titania and her fairies exit, Oberon decides to play a trick on her. He asks Puck to fetch him a special flower with the magic to enchant Titania's eyes so that she will fall in love with the next thing she sees. While Oberon waits for Puck to return, he sees Demetrius, dogged by Helena, and sees how rudely Demetrius treats her. He tells Puck to find the Athenian man's eyes and enchant them, while Oberon himself enchants Titania's eyes.

*"I'll met by moonlight, proud Titania.
(Oberon—2.1)*

A Midsummer Night's Dream Synopsis

Puck makes a mistake when the only Athenian man he finds is Lysander. He anoints Lysander's eyes instead of Demetrius'. When Helena wanders by, Lysander 'falls in love with the next thing he sees' which is Helena! Hermia wakes from a nightmare and finds she is all alone. Puck decides that the perfect revenge on Titania is to fall in love with one of the rough villagers who happen to be in the forest rehearsing their play. Nick Bottom's behavior reminds Puck of a certain kind of animal and so Puck transforms Bottom into an ass. The rest of the actors get scared and run away. Titania wakes up and the first thing she sees is Bottom transformed into a donkey. She falls in love and instructs her fairies to take care of him.

Oberon is happy to learn of the prank on Titania but upset that Puck mixed up the Athenians. He tries to fix it. But now instead of both men being in love with Hermia, they are both in love with Helena. Helena thinks this is a cruel trick of the men, especially when Hermia shows up and seems to be in on it. Puck impersonates the men and tries to fight them until all the lovers fall down tired--then he anoints their eyes properly to make couples.

Theseus and Hippolyta are out hunting with Egeus when they find the lovers asleep in the forest. Now that the couples seem to be happy—Hermia with Lysander and Helena with Demetrius--Theseus overrules his earlier decision and says they will have a triple wedding later. The villagers are sad that Bottom has been lost and transfigured and sadder still that they won't be able to perform their play for the Duke's wedding day. But then Bottom shows up and off they go!

Philostrate, the Master of the Revels, tells Theseus that there is a play that is so bad it's good. In celebration of the joyful triple wedding together we watch "Pyramus and Thisbe", the love story that the villagers have been rehearsing. The bells ring midnight and Theseus sends all lovers to bed.

*"This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.
(Hippolyta—5.1)*

The Cast

The Court

Theseus, Duke of Athens.....	Tessa Li
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons.....	Ellie Newton
Egeus, Father to Hermia	Josh Gritmon
Philostrate.....	Adelaide Macri

The Lovers

Lysander	Valencia Massaro
Demetrius.....	Charlie Bieger
Hermia.....	Josie Rothman
Helena.....	Kiera McDermott

The Rude Mechanicals

Quince/Prologue.....	Hela Giaever
Snug/Lion.....	Josh Gritmon
Bottom/Pyramus.....	Sunaya Mueller
Flute/Thisbe.....	Jack Bieger
Snout/Wall.....	Beatrice Gunther
Starveling/Moonshine.....	Mia Reimann Valdes

The Fairies

Oberon.....	Silas Bobrow
Titania.....	Emilia Falkner
Puck.....	Sofie Barsanti
Oberon's Attendants.....	Josh Gritmon & Beatrice Gunther
Titania's Attendants:	
Moth.....	Myla Zimbler
Pease-Blossom.....	Adelaide Macri
Cobweb.....	Ellie Newton
Mustard Seed.....	Nora Maloney

*For our performance on Friday, May 20th, the performers will change as follows:

Tessa Li as Bottom
Hela Giaever as Helena & Peter Quince
Beatrice Gunther as Theseus
Shay Baker as Snout

*"Though she be but little, she is fierce!"
(Helena 3.2)*

Cast and Crew

SHAY BAKER/ u/s snout, wall



Shay has been with CST since 2016. They are taking classes at Rockland Community College as part of their high school. Upon graduation, they will return to Camp Ramapo for Children as a high ropes course facilitator, and then they will be working on a host family's farm in Switzerland.

SOFIE BARSANTI/puck



Hi, I'm Sofie Barsanti and I am in 8th grade! I am playing Puck in this production of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. This is my 6th show with CST. In the past, I have been in shows such as *Julius Caesar*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *Henry IV, Part 1*. In my free time, I enjoy reading, art, knitting, traveling, and being with friends and family. I hope you enjoy the show!

CHARLIE BIEGER/demetrius



I'm Charlie, a freshman at Tappan Zee High School. For my 5th year with CST, I'm playing Demetrius. I've had a blast exploring the nuance and progression of my character's emotions and actions throughout the play. I enjoy working on my startup, CBX Apparel, listening to music, and spending time with friends in my free time. I'm thrilled to be back on stage with CST and hope you enjoy the show!

JACK BIEGER/flute, thisbe



Hi, my name is Jack. I'm playing Flute in *Midsummer* and I've been in CST for three years. It's been so fun and I'm really excited to play Flute in the play. I love traveling and going places with friends and family. I hope you enjoy the play and thanks for watching!

Cast and Crew



SILAS BOBROW/*oberon*

Hi! I'm Silas, a 7th grader currently enrolled at Blue Rock School! I'm playing Oberon in this fantastic production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! I have been doing productions with CST for 6 years, in roles including Lucius in *Julius Caesar*, Lord Bardolf and Pistol in *Henry IV, Part 2*, and almost performing Touchstone in *As You Like It*! In my free time, I enjoy playing guitar, fencing, schooling, and ending every sentence with an exclamation point!



EMILIA FALKNER/*titania*

Hi, my name is Emilia and I am going to be playing Titania! This is my 6th season with CST and my last with the Knaves. I love this role so much and I loved bringing it to life even more. My past shows include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *Henry IV, Part 1&2*, *Richard III*, and *As You Like It*. In my free time, I enjoy riding my bike, playing with my dog, hanging out with my friends, and listening to music. Thank you so much to Brady, Bridget, Maureen, and Grey for making this production possible! Enjoy the show!



HELA GIAEVER/*peter quince, u/s helena*

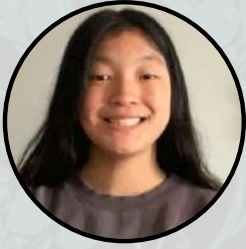
Hello! I'm Hela and I'm playing Peter Quince! This is my 11th show with CST! In the past, I've played a Gravedigger, Robin, Lady Percy, Jessica, and even Mustardseed in my very first CST play! I'm in 10th grade, and I do acting outside of theatre as well as making short films with my friends. I play guitar and I like to make art! I hope you enjoy the show (and the show within the show)!



JOSH GRITMON/*egeus, snug*

Josh is a fourth-grader at Upper Nyack Elementary School. This is his first full show with CST, though he participated in the summer program last year. When Josh is not doing theater (and even when he is!) he is usually drawing, reading, hanging out with his friends or his little sister Ellie, or playing Pokémon Legends: *Arceus*. His favorite color is magenta and his favorite food is sushi.

Cast and Crew



BEATRICE GUNTHER/snout, u/s theseus

This is Beatrice, she's playing Snout and understudying Theseus. She's been with CST since she was 7(wow!). You might've seen Beatrice behind the tech table in this season's *Hamlet* or in previous plays. In her spare time, she likes eating Goldfish, yelling, playing volleyball, and of course, not memorizing her lines.



TESSA LI/theseus, u/s bottom

This is my third full production and second year at CST. *Pyramus and Thisbe* was actually the first comedic Shakespeare work I read and part of what got me interested in Shakespeare in the first place. I honestly can't wait to get to see it live (and remark on the play within a play in character), and I'm sure you'll love it as well.



ADDIE MACRI/philostrate, pease-blossom

Addie is in the 7th grade and this is her 5th year with CST. Past CST productions include *Henry IV, Part 2*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *As You Like It*. In her spare time, she loves to bake, hike, paint, and play with her puppy, Ginger. Hope you enjoy the show!



VALENCIA MASSARO/lysander

Valencia is thrilled to be playing Lysander. She is a freshman at Tappan Zee High School and has been acting with CST since she was in third grade. Some of her favorite CST roles have been Gertrude in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and Poin in *Henry IV, Part 2*. In her spare time, she loves to read, write, play piano and go thrifting. She would like to thank Brady for everything she has done for this show. Enjoy the performance!

Cast and Crew



KIERA McDERMOTT/helena

Hi, I'm Kiera McDermott and I will be playing Helena. I'm a senior at Pearl River High School and this is my last play as a member of CST. Following tradition, I have chosen to leave the Bio to the very last minute. I would like to thank our amazing directors and the rest of the cast for helping to put this show on in such a difficult time. I hope that you enjoy the show.



SUNAYA MUELLER/nick bottom

Sunaya is a senior at Dwight-Englewood School and has been in CST for 8 years. She is playing Nick Bottom, and past roles include Brutus in *Julius Caesar* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. When she is not at rehearsal, Sunaya enjoys dancing, playing classical guitar, baking, and playing with her black lab.



ELLIE NEWTON/hippolyta, cobweb

Ellie Newton is in 7th grade and is playing Hippolyta and Cobweb in the play! She has been in one other CST show (*R & G Are Dead*) in which she played Hoola Hoopa, one of the players in the show. She loves to read, do crafts, be outside, and listen to and play music. This is her first substantial speaking part in a CST show, and she is so excited to be a part of the play!



JOSIE ROTHMAN/hermia

Josie is thrilled to be playing Hermia in her 2nd production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She's a freshman at Nyack High School, and when she isn't running away into the woods, she enjoys baking, singing, playing the guitar, and playing volleyball. She has previously appeared as Rosencrantz in *Hamlet*, Mistress Quickly in *Henry IV, Part 2*, and Snout in her first *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Cast and Crew



MIA REIMANN VALDES/Starveling/Moonshine

Mia is a 5th grader at Upper Nyack Elementary School. This is her first time doing a CST show. When Mia isn't doing theater, she is doing violin, reading, or biking.



MYLA ZIMBLER/moth

Myla is a 4th grader at Cottage Lane Elementary and this is her first show with CST. She plays Moth, one of Titania's fairies. Myla has done the summer camp for one summer, where she did Puck's final monologue. When she is not doing theater, she loves biking, art, swimming, and playing on the computer.



MAUREEN BUSCARENO

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Maureen is delighted to be working on her first show at CST and had a blast writing music for *The Fairies* and *Bottom* and working with this talented cast and crew. Maureen has two MAs in Music: one in Music Education from Columbia University and the other in Ethnomusicology from The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at The University of Limerick. She loves all aspects of theater, including directing plays/musicals, theatre tech (lighting & sound), conducting pits, puppeteering, and more. She loves performing and teaching harp, piano, and voice and helps run an international harp fest, The Somerset Folk Harp Festival.



ZACHA TUTTLE

COSTUME DESIGNER

Zacha Tuttle is excited to join the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Zacha has worked on costume design teams for the productions of *Closer* performed by the Nyack Village Theatre as well as for the production of *The Heart, She Holler* produced by Comedy Central's Adult Swim. She has taken costume design courses at the Fashion Institute of Technology. In 2014 she opened an online shop, AftertheZ, where she sells vintage clothing and handmade accessories.

Cast and Crew



BRADY AMOONCLARK

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR

Brady Amoonclark is the Artistic Director of Children's Shakespeare Theatre. Previous directing credits with CST: *Measure for Measure*, *Henry IV*, and *Hamlet*. Previous directing experience includes Helen Hayes Youth Theatre, *Closer* at Nyack Village Theatre, and *The Fantasticks* off-off-Broadway. Shakespeare experience includes Judith Shakespeare Company.



GREY JOHNSON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MANAGING CONSULTANT

Grey Johnson has been at play in the fields of the Bard since he helped to co-found Boston Shakespeare Company in 1975. He has since directed and produced Shakespeare and other plays Off-Broadway and regionally. He is the parent of a CST alumnus and is very happy to be bringing his skillsets to many aspects of CST's revival.



BRIDGET EMSWORTH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

This is Bridget's first time working with CST. She is incredibly proud of and grateful for everyone involved in this production. She has been a full-time high school English teacher and part-time theater person forever, and she would have it no other way. Break legs, everyone!

*"Are you sure That we are awake?
It seems to me That yet we sleep, we dream."
(Demetrius 4.1)*



We are proud to be a part of The Phoenix Theatre Ensemble's month-long Arts Festival in beautiful Nyack coming this fall.

A celebration of arts and culture in the beautiful riverside town of Nyack, NY.

Theater, music, and arts events through the weekends of 9/16-10/16, 2022.

Learn more and get tickets at: nyackartsfestival.com

THANK YOU

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



**Council on
the Arts**

Children's Shakespeare Theatre is a proud recipient of a generous grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

The New York State Council on the Arts is dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich and diverse cultural resources that are and will become the heritage of New York's citizens.



THANK YOU

JEROME ROBBINS FOUNDATION

THE **JEROME
ROBBINS**
FOUNDATION

Children's Shakespeare Theatre continues to be supported by a generous gift from The Jerome Robbins Foundation. In memory of Dr. Daniel Stern, a dear friend of Jerome Robbins for decades and a long-time director of The Jerome Robbins Foundation.

Like Jerry, Dan shared a fascination for the power of movement and gesture to express humanity.

In particular, Dan's work was invested in the development and creativity of young minds, in how individuals interact with others and their environment.

The Children's Shakespeare Theatre exemplifies this both with playful joy and seriousness, as the actors explore the dynamics and drama of human relationships.

Dan's children and grandchildren have been active participants in CST for many years.



THANK YOU

ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES



Children's Shakespeare Theatre is a proud recipient of a generous grant from Orange and Rockland Utilities.

Through the Community Investment Program, Orange and Rockland Utilities provide grants for educational, environmental, arts and culture, and public safety programs.

These grants are funded by shareholders of O&R's parent company, Consolidated Edison, Inc.



THANK YOU

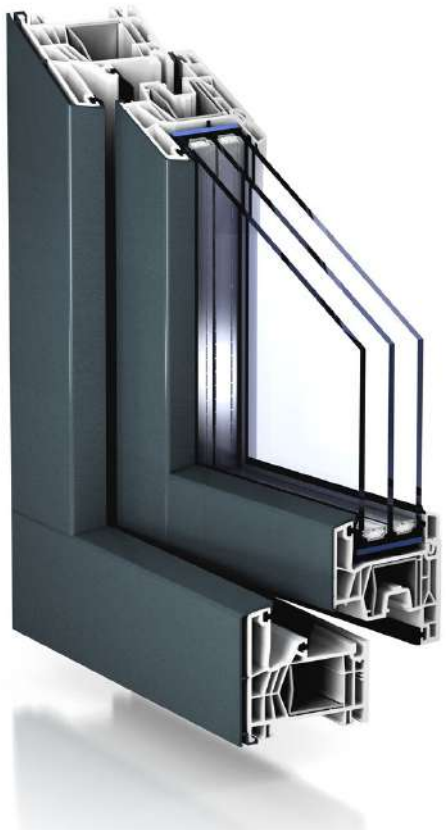
WYTHE WINDOWS



Children's Shakespeare Theatre is grateful to our sponsor, Wythe Windows, for their support.

Made in the USA, Wythe Windows, manufactures high performance triple pane tilt-turn windows in Ramsey, NJ for both commercial and residential buildings.

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THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTORS

The Season of the Supernatural is made possible by funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature. Significant additional funding has been provided by the Jerome Robbins Foundation, Orange and Rockland Utilities, and our many supporters.

New York State Council on the Arts
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Wythe Windows
Steven B Aveson
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Elise Stone
Derek Tarson
Margaret Umbrino
Kristin Van Dine
Joan Vogel
Rachel Wade
Brett & Gemini Watanabe
John and Boanne Wysoczanski

It truly takes a village. With special thanks to:

Diana Green, Elmwood Playhouse, Stage Left Children's Theater, Hickory Dickory Dock, James Sarna, Dr. Michael Stern, Cooper Rosen, Alex Barsanti, Bill Batson, Grey Johnson, Harrington Press, Nyack Farmer's Market, The Obernesser Family, George Rigney, Carol Knudson, Kate Bieger, The Falkner Family, Beth Davidson, Kim Macri, The Palisades Presbyterian Church, ROCA, The Tappan Manse Barn, The Palisades Community Center, Schuylkill Free Shakespeare, Michael Gnazzo, Greg Schultz, Congregation Sons of Israel

ABOUT

CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

OUR VISION

As a community-based children's theater company, we are committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment through the performance of Shakespeare's plays, allowing children to explore, in a safe and supportive educational setting, what it means to be human. We aim to inspire young actors to discover how Shakespeare's truths continue to resonate today.

OUR TEAM

Our Artistic Team, Administrative Team, and Board of Directors represent many backgrounds and perspectives, all united by their passion for Children's Shakespeare Theatre and their commitment to a thriving cultural community. We are deeply grateful to them for their leadership, vision, and generosity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Macri, Co-Chair
Daniela Pescher, Co-Chair
George Rigney, Treasurer
Kate Bieger, Secretary
Beth Davidson
Carol Knudson

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Brady Amoonclark

MANAGING CONSULTANT

Grey Johnson

GRAPHIC AND POSTER DESIGN

Alex Barsanti & Cooper Rosen

PLEASE SIGN UP

for our mailing list to
receive notices of all
upcoming CST events.



“The passion you have for what you do shows in every little detail, but also in every breathless twinkling of understanding as Shakespeare’s words engage something deep in the actors and therefore in us.”

— Grey Johnson, actor, director, CST parent



OUR MISSION

Children's Shakespeare Theatre strives to develop confident and creative young people through the performance of Shakespeare's plays.

Since our founding in 1999, we have been dedicated to offering quality educational theater building a community that enriches the lives of our young actors and their families.



JOIN US

CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

We are Children's Shakespeare Theatre Company.

We believe in nurturing talent and fostering a joyful atmosphere of excellence. To best serve the children of Children's Shakespeare Theatre, we rely on a company model. In this way, older and more experienced company members serve as role models to our newer members.

Company Auditions are held annually.

While our Workshops and Summer Sessions are open to all, company auditions are limited to invitation only. You are considered a company member once you have performed in a full production with CST.

We invite those who may wish to join us to see one of our shows or get to know how we work at one of our Workshops or Summer Sessions.

Summer Sessions 2022

August 15th-26th in Nyack

All children over 8 years old are welcome.

One week Come for Fun program and a two week Prepare to Play program ending in a Shakespeare performance for parents!

Please reach out to register and get more info at:
info@childrensshakespeare.org



"The actors were confident, articulate, engaged, fully professional, and had awesome diction. The direction was tight, exciting, innovative, and fun. My child was utterly inspired and jumped immediately on the idea of joining the company."

— Susan Levin, former CST parent

"These kids will have this treasure inside them, and it will inform their lives and the lives they influence."

**-- Cass Luddington,
long-time CST supporter**

Children's Shakespeare Theatre is a non-profit organization under 501c3.

We rely on the generosity of our supporters to keep our organization alive.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our work.

**DONATE
VIA PAYPAL**



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