

SHAKESPEARE
36TH ON THE SOUND

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

Directed by David Frederick Mold



SPONSORED BY



**SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.**

DARIEN
1001 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820

ROWAYTON
138 Rowayton Ave.
Rowayton, CT 06853



203.669.4113

support@drbank.com

DRBANK.COM



CONGRATULATIONS

**Shakespeare
on the Sound
on your
30th Season!**

(and let's *not* kill all the lawyers!)

**RUSSO & RIZIO, LLC
10 Sasco Hill Road, Fairfield CT
(203) 254-7579
www.russorizio.com**

Robinson+Cole

We are pleased to sponsor
the 30th season of
Shakespeare on the Sound
and this year's production of
Much Ado About Nothing. It
is an honor to support the
forum for learning,
appreciation and celebration
of great dramatic works.

Contact:

Patrick W. Begos | pbegos@rc.com | 203.462.7550

www.rc.com



from our
Executive Director

There has been “much ado” made about this 30th season of Shakespeare on the Sound. For thirty summers, audiences have had the privilege to gather here in Pinkney Park to be entertained and enlightened by a play by William Shakespeare. How fortunate you, dear audience member, are to have this devoted opportunity created by members from within your community! Many companies have come and gone, yet through all adversities this remains the only time of the year anyone in Southwest Connecticut can depend on seeing Shakespeare’s works. It is much to be grateful for.

By chance, this is my thirtieth year of working professionally in the theatre (speaking of adversities!). Even more, it is my thirtieth year knowing our production’s incredible director, David Mold has thoughtfully guided the company through this lively comedy with music and masterful staging.

With these three 30 year anniversaries all coincidentally culminating, I reflect to when I first started working, saying to myself that I could be happy if I only performed the plays of Shakespeare my entire career. Now, with each play I produce at Shakespeare on the Sound I still believe it to be true. I hope you are as pleased and delighted with *Much Ado About Nothing* as we have been creating it for you.

Whether it is your first or 30th time, thank you for your patronage and participating in our local ritual of live theater along the Sound. We could not do it without you and I thank you for coming.

Sincerely,

Aaron Simms

Executive Director

Inno di Mameli
Written by Goffredo Mameli
Set to music by Michele Novaro

Brothers of Italy
Italia has woken
With helmet of Scipio
Is bound to her capo.
And where is our victory?
We will let her bow down
All because god made her
To be the servant of Rome.

Let us join our cohorts.
We are ready to die
We are ready to die
Italia has called
Let us join our cohorts
We are ready to die
We are ready to die
Italia has called, Si!

a note from our Director



Shakespeare on the Sound has much to celebrate in 2026 with its three decades of Shakespeare performances in Rowayton!

We celebrate this milestone with one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies. *Much Ado About Nothing* is always timely to produce given its universal themes about the power of language, the capacity of people to deceive, the ease with which a lie can take hold, and the complexities of romantic love. This play is timeless because, just as it was 400 years ago in Elizabethan England, we live in a world in which language is manipulated for political gain, social forces believe opponents to be deceitful, falsehoods are presented as truth, and, today, with the internet and social media, romantic love is as complicated as ever. Adding to the timeless nature of the play, just as we live in a time of military conflict and ceasefires, the Elizabethan's were living through a similar experience with Spain, with on again/off again military engagements.

This play itself is a celebration, and may even have been written for one. It celebrates the power and fun of language, the triumph of truth over deceit, and the potential for love to overcome division and forces of evil. With humor, it provokes us to think about how we behave and the societal constraints and expectations that affect our behavior. The play reminds us how easily a lie can take hold and ruin lives and how good people can succumb to that lie. It also reminds us that when such a lie is challenged, and people stand up for what is right and honorable, then there is much to celebrate.

Our production is set in Messina, Sicily, but instead of the Renaissance setting of Shakespeare's time, our 30th anniversary production puts us in the mid-19th century. In 1861, the rebellions and wars among various Italian kingdoms, which had gone on for decades, came to an end, and Italy, including Sicily, became a unified country. At the beginning of *Much Ado About Nothing* soldiers are returning from war to a new life, so this mid-19th century Sicilian setting is appropriate for the action of the play. Live music fills our production with Sicilian and Italian folk and dance music, as well as music based on Sicilian folk tunes created by Chad Raines, our composer/sound designer, and the actors. Our music includes the Italian national anthem, written in 1847, which opens our performance. We ask you to join the actors in singing this anthem to begin tonight's celebration!

David F. Mold

David Frederick Mold, Director



A gathering of creative minds! It truly takes a village to bring Shakespeare on the Sound's productions to life.



from the President of the Board of Directors

Dear Friends...All...

Much Ado About Nothing, I don't think so! It's MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING – our 30th Anniversary!! In the world of theatre, that's SOMETHING!!! Join us in celebrating.

It's been said of this play that it's Shakespeare's "glorious puzzle." There is "love at first sight," the thrill of attraction, friends re-uniting, the angst rumors inflate, and the follies of misunderstanding. The Bard with humor in this comedy, not only gives us a picture, a glimpse of the human condition, but also methods and solutions to the vagaries and challenges of life.

In celebrating our 30th, the Shakespeare on the Sound board is ever grateful to our original Founders: starting with Megan McAllister, Susan Basche, Dorsey Gude (whose artist husband Karl designed the original 1996 poster and is revived now in 2026), Tim Massad, Adrienne and Steven Southworth, Andy Woolford and Ezra Barnes, Founding Artistic Director.

Our inaugural production in 1996 was '*Much Ado...*' In the cast then were two Rowaytonites – Steve Ryan, a member of Actor's Equity and Bettina Drummond-Hay. Other locals in that inaugural production were: Wendy Ryan, Music Director and Alyssa Nollman, Casting Director. Fifteen years later in 2011, we reprised it, so it seemed logical to revisit it again in this 30th 2026 season.

We've had crowds reaching a thousand, we've had staff and leadership shifts, we've survived rainouts, the pandemic, and tolerated cool nights and hot humid nights, we've performed in Greenwich and Rowayton, we've been in libraries, schools, community centers, run Senior programs, summer camps for kids, lectures, workshops, etc., etc., etc...

Importantly, we are also, ever mindful and grateful to and for our original funders, sponsors, and advertisers. They helped make it happen.

Suffice it to say, Pinkney Park is home for SOS. With ever heart-felt appreciation and gratitude, we thank YOU, our friends, advocates, sponsors, advertisers, funders, donors, volunteers, community organizations, merchants, let's raise a glass, clap our hands in a toast to the next 30 years.

What would we do without it? Can you imagine? I can't.

Cherie Burton, Board President

MAUREEN SULLIVAN
HOMES

Your Neighbor. Your Realtor.
Your Move.

As your local expert, I deliver a higher standard in real estate. Whether buying or selling, I will help you achieve your goals with a seamless experience.

646-610-2259
maureen.sullivan@raveis.com
@mosullivanhomes
22 Old Kings Highway S,
Darien, CT 06820

TEAM AFA
WILLIAM RAVEIS

***Congratulations on 30 Years
of Entertaining Local Families!***

*We also want to thank the cast and crew
for their tireless work.*

We are all romantics at heart.



**FAMILLE
JEWELERS**

23 Lewis Street Greenwich, CT 06840
www.famillegreenwich.com

SHAKESPEARE ON THE SOUND

AARON SIMMS
Executive Director

STEPHANIE EISS
Director of Education & Outreach

presents

William Shakespeare's

Much Ado About Nothing

Directed by
DAVID FREDERICK MOLD

with

Marco Antonio Cunha, Dot Davis, Spencer Evett, Katie Fanning*,
Mikaela Hanrahan, Monté J. Howell*, Josh Karam, James Rana*,
Ravyn Rochelle, Christopher Douglaston Ryan*,
Meri Stypinski*, Jater Webb

Set Design
BRIAN PRATHER

Lighting Design
JAMIE RODERICK

Costume Design
GRIER COLEMAN

Sound Design and Composer
CHAD RAINES

Choreographer
HAILA STRAUSS

Technical Director
MAIA ROBBINS-ZUST

Production Stage Manager
LAUREN NICOLE JACKSON*

Assistant Stage Manager
ABIGAIL (ABBA) WILSON*

Production Audio 1
DESTINY SCOTT

Audio 2
NICHOLAS MORAN

Wardrobe Supervisor
RILEIGH ERICKSON

Board Operator
COUTNEY WEIR

*denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

SHAKESPEARE ON THE SOUND 30 YEARS

Congratulations for
30 Wonderful
Seasons!

Heather and Jason
Anderson

Synopsis — Much Ado About Nothing

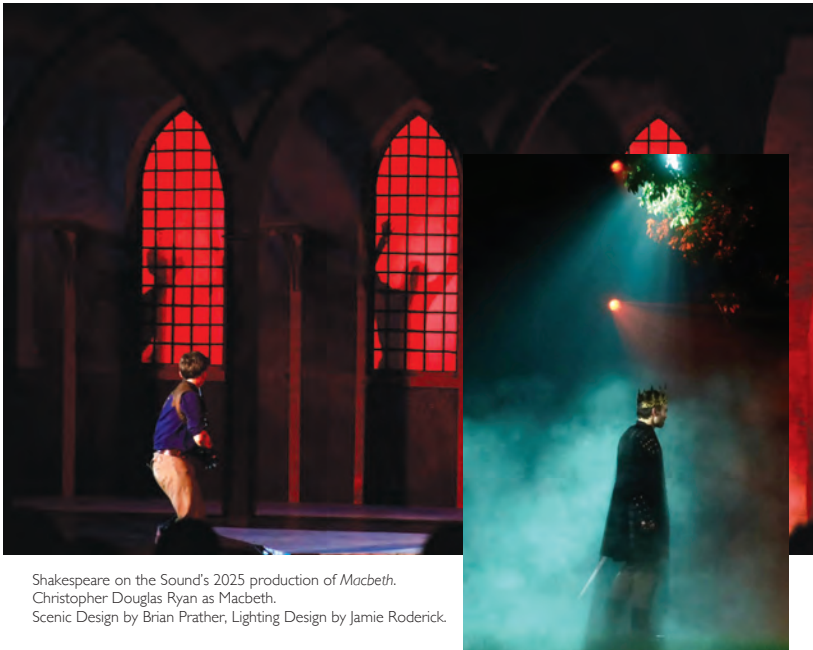
The primary plot of *Much Ado About Nothing* turns on the courtship and scandal involving young Hero and her suitor, Claudio, but the witty war of words between Claudio's friend Benedick and Hero's cousin Beatrice often takes center stage.

Set in Messina, the play begins as Don Pedro's army returns after a victory. Benedick, a gentleman soldier, resumes a verbal duel with Beatrice, the niece of Messina's governor, Leonato. Count Claudio is smitten by Leonato's daughter, Hero. After Don Pedro woos her in disguise for Claudio, the two young lovers plan to marry in a week. To fill in the time until the wedding, Don Pedro and the others set about tricking Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love with each other. Meanwhile, Don Pedro's disgruntled brother, Don John, plots to ruin Hero and halt her wedding. Claudio believes Don John's deception, is convinced Hero has a lover, and, at the wedding, brutally rejects her.

With Hero in hiding and falsely reported dead, Beatrice persuades Benedick to fight Claudio. Tragedy is averted when the bumbling city watch, having discovered Don John's treachery, arrives and clears Hero's name. With Claudio forgiven, both couples are ready to get married.



Scenic Designer, Bill Prather's sketch of the *Much Ado About Nothing* set, is brought to life at Pinkney Park.



Shakespeare on the Sound's 2025 production of *Macbeth*.
Christopher Douglas Ryan as Macbeth.
Scenic Design by Brian Prather, Lighting Design by Jamie Roderick.

Photos by Kaitlin La Du

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Marco Antonio Cunha. Borachio/Friar Francis
 Dot Davis. Verges/Balthasar
 Spencer Evett. Don John
 Katie Fanning* Beatrice
 Mikaela Hanrahan. Ursula
 Monté J. Howell* Don Pedro
 Josh Karam. Antonio
 James Rana* Leonato
 Ravyn Rochelle. Hero
 Christopher Douglaston Ryan* Benedick
 Meri Stypinski* Dogberry
 Jater Webb. Claudio

Additional Cast and Understudies (*u/s in parentheses*)

Gracie Conn (Borachio/Ursula) Ensemble
 Lucas Connor (Benedick) Messenger
 Skylar Dunn (Hero) Margaret
 Molly Kriskey (Verges/Balthasar/Don John) Watch Ensemble
 Franki Spinelli Mastrone (Antonio/ Dogberry) 1st Watch
 Alice McGill (Beatrice) Watch Ensemble
 Mike Riso (Claudio) Conrade
 Edward Santiago, Jr., (Don Pedro/Friar Francis) Town Clerk/Sexton
 Audrey Weir (Leonato) George Seacol/Second Watch

Taking photographs and operating recording devices of any kind is prohibited and will be secured during the performance.

As a courtesy to everyone, please turn off or disable any ringing of phones, but feel free to tweet and gram!



*denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Company

MARCO ANTONIO CUNHA (BORACHIO/



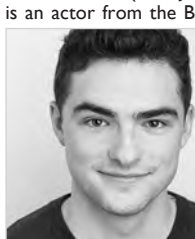
FRIAR FRANCIS) Theatre credits include: *The Popes of Farragut Street* (Theater for the New City); *Postal Madness* (American Theatre for Actors); *War Dance* (New York Theatre Festival); *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Adventures of Pericles* (Hip to Hip Theatre Company); *The Three Prayers Answered* (The Rogue Theatre Festival). BFA in Acting. Marco dedicates his work to his teachers—whose passion, sacrifice and service changed his life. <https://www.marcoantonio-cunha.com>

DOT DAVIS (VERGES/BALTHASAR)



is thrilled to join the cast as Verges. Other recent roles include Meat in *Bananas* at the The RAT NYC as well as Daisie in *Cooking with Butter?* at the Players Theater. They've also performed with their band, GIRLS CANT SKATE, at dozens of venues around NY/NJ. They're a constant seeker and advocate for the catharsis that live theatre brings for artists and audiences alike. @friendlygolfdad on Instagram.

SPENCER EVETT (DON JOHN)



is an actor from the Boston area, now based in Brooklyn, NY. A graduate of Skidmore College, he is currently pursuing an MFA at NYU Grad Acting. Spencer has also studied at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA. Recent credits include *The Imaginary Invalid* at NYU and *Memnon* at Classical Theatre of Harlem. Later this summer, with Innana's Children, he will be taking *The Witches of Macbeth* to the Edinburgh Fringe.

KATIE FANNING* (BEATRICE)



is thrilled to make her Shakespeare on the Sound debut! Favorite credits: *Rosalind, As You Like It* (Adirondack Shakespeare Company); *Ulysses, Troilus and Cressida* (BOVTS); *Adriana, The Comedy of Errors* (Hip to Hip Theatre); Beatrice, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Minnie (u/s), The Daughter-in-Law* (Mint Theater Company); and sole performer in *The Amazing Doctor She Medicine Show* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). MFA: Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

MIKAELA HANRAHAN (URSULA)



is a Brooklyn-based actor and musician, originally from Wisconsin. She is thrilled to be making her SOS debut! Mikaela has worked onstage with American Shakespeare Center, Expand the Canon, Heifetz Institute, Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company, and Richmond Shakespeare. She holds an MLitt and MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University. Many thanks to her family and friends for their continued love and support! mikaelahanrahan.com

MONTÉ J. HOWELL* (DON PEDRO)



is thrilled to be making his debut at Shakespeare on the Sound! Off Broadway: *Ajax* in *The Golden Apple* (Encores!). National Tours: *Les Misérables*. Select Regional credits include: *Ragtime* (City Spring Theatre), *Shrek* (Alliance Theatre), *Sister Act* (Arkansas Rep), *Les Misérables* (The Muny), *The Mountaintop* (Riverside Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stages St. Louis). BFA- Point Park University. MFA- University of Iowa. Monté currently serves as faculty in the School of Performing Arts at Sacred Heart University. Psalms 40: 1-5! @alldaymonte

the company

JOSH KARAM (ANTONIO)



is exuberant to make his SOS debut. Josh has a BFA in Music Theatre from The Hartt School. Regional Theatre credits: *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Joe), *MDQ* (Jay), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Lucentio), *Sweat* (Jason), *The Play that Goes Wrong* (Dennis), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Nick). Josh is also a Musician for Disney Cruise Lines and A Bard in the touring *Fantasy Tavern Show!* @karamjosh

JAMES RANA* (LEONATO)



Broadway: *The Band's Visit*. National/International: *The Kite Runner* (1st National Tour), *The Band's Visit* (1st Nat'l Tour/Toronto), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Macbeth* (Bonn Biennale). Off Broadway: *The Government Inspector* (Red Bull), *Shogun Macbeth* (Pan Asian Rep), *Serendib* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *Macbeth*, *Mother Courage*, *Marat/Sade* (Classical Theatre of Harlem). Regional: Lookingglass, The Curtain, Kennedy Center, Huntington Theatre, Denver Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Theatreworks Silicon Valley, East Lynne, Shakespeare & Co. Film: *Strays* (also wrote).

CHRISTOPHER DOUGLASTON RYAN* (BENEDICK)



is thrilled to return to Shakespeare on the Sound, having appeared last season as Macbeth. New York-based, his theater credits include *A Sherlock Carol* and *Shakespeare in Love* (Capital Repertory Theatre), *Cymbeline* (New York Classical), and *The Seagull* (Adult Film & Theater), as well as work at regional theaters including Westport Country Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Film and television credits include *FBI*, *American Horror Story: NYC*, *The Blacklist*, *The Hunting Party*, *Dementia 13*, and the upcoming *Nurture*.

MERI STYPINSKI* (DOGBERRY)



Shakespeare on the Sound debut! Regional credits include: *The Crucible* (Elizabeth Proctor), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura Wingfield), all with The Hanover Theatre Repertory; *A Christmas Carol* (The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts), *Hay Fever* (Peterborough Players), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Opera House Arts). Meri earned her BFA from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee and has been a member of Actors' Equity Association since 2015. @meristypinski meristypinski.com

RAVYN ROCHELLE (HERO)



is a proud, Tulsa, Oklahoma native that currently resides in New York City as a recent 2026 graduate from Columbia University with her MFA in Acting. She is honored to join Shakespeare on the Sound's 30th Anniversary season as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She's very excited to continue building her career on stage and in film while extending a heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the SoS team, her professors, and loved ones for the unwavering support.

JATER WEBB (CLAUDIO)



Past credits include "Romeo" in *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare on the Sound), "Simon" in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (The Juilliard School), James Mangold's *A Complete Unknown* (Searchlight Pictures), and *The Hunting Party* (NBC). Jater is a graduate of the Juilliard School's Drama Division, where he was awarded the Michel and Suria Saint-Denis Prize, and also trained in England at the British American Drama Academy. MJ Management and the Gersh Agency.

Professional Staff

production

Director David Frederick Mold
 Assistant Director Stephanie Eiss
 Production Stage Manager Lauren Nicole Jackson*
 Assistant Stage Manager Abba Wilson*
 Technical Director Maia Robbins-Zust
 Choreographer Haila Strauss
 Scenic Designer Brian Prather
 Costume Designer Grier Coleman
 Lighting Designer Jamie Roderick
 Sound Design and Composer Chad Raines
 Audio 1 Destiny Scott
 Audio 2 Nicholas Moran
 Board Operator Courtney Weir
 Wardrobe Supervisor Rileigh Erickson
 Company Manager Elanah Bruce
 Box Office Manager Brenna Connolly
 House Manager Henry Darby
 Front of House Manager Sophia Ellis
 Additional Music Dot Davis, Mikaela Hanrahan, Josh Karam
 Front of House Intern Annette McGuire

Professional Staff

artistic & administrative

Aaron Simms Executive Director
 Stephanie Eiss Director of Education and Outreach
 Rosemary Suchoff Bookkeeper
 Russell Coleman Sponsorship and Ad Coordinator
 Willa Ratner Playbill Design
 Original Poster Design Karl Gude
 30th Anniversary Poster Design Sarah Pratt
 2025/2026 Teaching Artists Keara Benton, Caeleigh O'Connor,
 Avi James, Ben Jesulaitis

Sound equipment provided by Ins and Outs

Lighting equipment provided by Main Light

Set constructed at Berkshire Production Resources

Special Thanks to:

The Sixth Taxing District, the community of Rowayton and the city of Norwalk, Rosco Laboratories Inc, The United Church of Rowayton, The Specialists and Carl Flanigan, Melissa Simms, Edwin C. Carlson, John Kremens at Kres Electric, The Shakespeare Theatre Association, IATSE Local 74, USA local 829, Actors' Equity Association, and TDF Costume Collection for Costumes.

WILLIAM RAVEIS

Congratulations SOS

on another great season in Pinkney Park!

All the best from your friends at William Raveis

Let William Raveis Find MacBeth A New Home



Tammy Langalis
203.644.2393



Meghan Gatt
203.904.8064



Katie Sparkman
203.981.4815



Missy Dye
646.528.6005



Judy Hyers
203.856.9301



Mary Lynn Martin
203.219.5444

159 Rowayton Avenue | Rowayton, CT 06853 | 203.854.5116

Congratulations Shakespeare on the Sound

To all the players - bravo!
Wishing you a wonderful season.

From your friends at

Sound Coffee
soundcoffees.com





THANK YOU TO OUR
2026 SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Robinson+Cole

SUPPORTING SPONSOR



UNDERWRITERS

NEIL HAUCK ARCHITECTS



A member of the Tokio Marine Group



Fairfield County Bank

Caring for the Community Since 1871

Festival Fun for the Whole Family

Upcoming **FREE** performances everyone can enjoy!

Much Ado About Nothing (for kids) in 30 minutes

Tuesday – Sunday at 6:30pm

Location: Behind the education tent at Pinkney Park

Ages: Everyone

Shakespeare on the Sound presents its annual tour of Shakespeare for Kids! This year we are presenting a 30-minute version of *Much Ado About Nothing*. This interactive production will have your children quoting Shakespeare without them even realizing it. Shakespeare on the Sounds seamlessly combines the text of Shakespeare with everyday language in a fun and inventive way. By the way...when we say kids, we mean kids of all ages from 5 to 95. All are welcome and encouraged.



A record crowd took advantage of a beautiful evening to enjoy Shakespeare on the Sound's 2024 production of *Romeo and Juliet*.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Night Pre-show Reception 6-7:30pm on Saturday, June 13.

Come celebrate the Opening Night! Open to all! Light bites, beer, wine, soda included. 6pm-7:30pm. \$50 with the purchase of your Main Stage performance ticket.

SOS Book Club 6pm on Thursday, June 18

Join Director of Education and Outreach Stephanie Eiss and educator and former Board President John Love for a guided discussion about the play. \$25 with the purchase of your Main Stage performance ticket.

Alumni Night Reception Pre-show from 6-7:30pm on Saturday, June 20th.

Raise a glass to 30 years! Anyone who has worked with SOS as a volunteer, board, cast, crew, or die-hard supporter is invited to attend. Light bites, beer, wine, soda included. 6pm-7:30pm. \$50 with the purchase of your Main Stage performance ticket.



Open. Progressive. Welcoming.



United Church of Rowayton
UCRowayton.org

210 Rowayton Avenue, Rowayton CT



The Production Team

LAUREN NICOLE JACKSON* (STAGE MANAGER) is a New York based AEA Stage Manager. PSM credits include: *Franklinland* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Smart* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Summer of 1976* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare on the Sound), *Peace and Love in Brooklyn* (Origin Theater). ASM: *Sense and Sensibility* (Syracuse Stage), *The Irrepressible Magic of the Tropics* (INTAR Theater), *Only Gold* (MCC Theater). Upcoming credits include: PSM: *Southern Harmony - A Murder Ballad* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater). laurennicolejackson.com

ABBA WILSON* (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is a stage manager based in Brooklyn and raised in nearby Westchester. She is excited to be back in Pinkney Park for her second summer with Shakespeare on the Sound, following *Romeo & Juliet* last year. Recent credits also include *Franklinland* at Ensemble Studio Theatre, *4000 miles*, *Kim's Convenience*, and *Straight White Men* at the Westport Country Playhouse, and *Anecdotes of a Lesbian Princess* at the Spark Theatre Festival. She is a graduate of Pomona College, where she studied theatre and math.

DAVID FREDERICK MOLD (DIRECTOR) Associate artistic director, Hip to Hip Theatre, which for 20 years has toured Shakespeare outdoors to parks in the NYC area; directing credits include *Hamlet*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *Gymbeline*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Other credits – American Globe Theatre: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Action & Reaction*; Museum of Jewish Heritage: opera, *The Yellow Star*; On the Leesh Productions: *Break*; *Naked Angels: Social Progress*; Third Eye Repertory: *Down the Road*; cabarets at Triad Theatre. David has directed for theatres in Boston, Chicago, and Indianapolis. Emeritus Professor, Marymount Manhattan College; MFA, The Theatre School, DePaul University.

BRIAN PRATHER (SCENIC DESIGNER) Off-Broadway: *Daniel's Husband* (Primary Stages), *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Gingold Theatre Group), *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (Westside Theatre), *Freud's Last Session* (New World Stages) and many more. International: Chungmu Hall (South Korea). Regional and other: Asolo Rep., Alley Theatre, TheatreWorks

Hartford, Goodspeed Musicals, Barrington Stage Co., Capitol Rep., Delaware Theatre Co., and many others. Regional Emmy nominee, Jeff Award and two-time Berkshire Theatre Critics Award winner. Professor of Scene Design at Central Connecticut State University. www.brianprather.com

HAILA STRAUSS (CHOREOGRAPHER) staged over 250 dances for New York and Regional Theatres, film, television and dance concert stage. Paul Green's *The Lost Colony*; first regional production *The Robber Bridegroom*, Alliance Theatre; Roundabout Theatre's long-running revival of Harold Rome's *Pins and Needles*; Princeton Triangle Show; *Kuni Leml*, winner four Outer Circle Drama Critics' Awards. Most recent: "Why I Live at the Post Office" Eudora Welty International Conference. Professor Emerita, Theatre Arts, Marymount Manhattan College.

GRIER COLEMAN (COSTUME DESIGNER) is happy to return to Shakespeare on the Sound where she has designed *Romeo and Juliet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Regional Credits: Miami New Drama, Playmakers Repertory Company, Weston Playhouse, Virginia Theatre Festival, Virginia Stage Company, and Yale Rep. Educational Credits include seventeen seasons at The Juilliard School designing Drama, Dance, and Opera; NYU, Columbia, The New School, Washington College, Auburn University, Amherst College, and the University of Virginia. BFA: University of NC-Chapel Hill. MFA: Yale School of Drama. United Scenic Artists, Local 829 www.grier-coleman.com

JAMIE RODERICK (LIGHTING DESIGN) Off-Broadway: *Stalker*, *Empire*, *Make Me Gorgeous*, *Small*, *¡Americano!*, *Disney's Winnie The Pooh*, *Emojiland*, *Stranger Sings*, *Midnight at the Never Get (Drama Desk Nomination)*, *Arms and The Man*, *Candida*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Caesar & Cleopatra*, *Safeward*, *Accidentally Brave*, *We Are The Tigers*, *Red Roses*, *Green Gold*, *The Woodsman*, *Afterglow*, *A Dog Story*. London: *Afterglow*, *It Happened in Key West*. Regional: *Super You*, *Denis DeYoung's Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, *The Bikinis*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Midsummer*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*. JamieRoderick.com



By land or by sea since 1978



A FAMILY OF BRANDS

The
BAIT
SHOP
INC.

The Restaurant

The Market

PEARL

production team

CHAD RAINS (SOUND DESIGN AND COMPOSER)
For the last 15 years Chad has been Composing and Sound Designing for Off-Broadway, Regional Theater, Art Installation, Podcast and Television and Film. He also occasionally performs and tours as a musician. Visit www.chadraines.com

MAIA ROBBINS-ZUST (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)
has been Technical Director for Shakespeare on the Sound since 2011. She has a BFA in arts management from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and is an ETCP Certified Rigger and Entertainment Electrician. Currently she is Technical Director for Williams College's Department of Theatre. She also owns Berkshire Production Resources, a small production company that provides technical support for theatre companies in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Maia & her company have worked with Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival, Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Opera Festival, Boston Early Music Festival, Berkshire Theater Group, Capital Repertory Company, Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Young Jean Lee Company, The Civilians and many others..

STEPHANIE EISS (DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH)
is an actor, Applied Theatre practitioner, teaching artist, and arts administrator who has worked in NYC and Connecticut for 15 years. She has worked with such organizations as CUNY Creative Arts Team, Elm Shakespeare, and Southern Connecticut State University facilitating arts in education programming and the creation of original theater by students

from kindergarten through college. As an actor, she has worked with Target Margin Theater, AliveWire Theatrics, The Wisteria Project, and FEAST: A Performance Series. As a program manager and teaching artist, she has partnered with NYC Public Schools, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, and The Burberry Foundation, among other organizations. She holds a B.A. in Theater from Bard College and an M.A. in Applied Theatre from CUNY School of Professional Studies.

AARON SIMMS (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)
is a New Yorker from Cincinnati with over thirty years of experience in creating regional, Off-Broadway, and Broadway theater. He is the founder and Executive Producer of Inwood Art Works where he produces the Inwood Film Festival, Film Works Alfresco, Community Concert series, and On Air podcasts in New York City. He has held management and producing positions at the York Theatre Company, Maximum Entertainment Productions, Snug Harbor Productions, Richards/Climan, Inc., Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Realm, DR Theatrical Management, and ICM Partners. He is on the board of the Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights and Inwood and was the founding co-chairman of Northern Manhattan Arts and Culture. He holds a B.A. in Theater from Butler University, and an M.F.A. in Theater Management & Producing from Columbia University.

BARRETT BOOKSTORE



Established 1939

The working bookstore for the reading class

5 Corbin Drive, Darien CT 06820

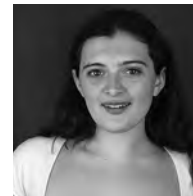
203.655.2712

www.barrettbookstore.com

Apprentice Company

In its 16th year, Shakespeare on the Sound's Apprentice Company is comprised of emerging artists from across the United States. Each apprenticeship is unique, and the size of the company varies from year to year. Our extremely talented apprentices function as an integral part of the organization and have the opportunity to work directly with the accomplished and professional artists responsible for creating *Much Ado About Nothing*. Each apprentice is given the opportunity to attend mainstage rehearsals and work closely with professionals in their discipline. This year's apprentices attended Master Classes in costume, acting Shakespeare, and devising, to name a few. Two years ago, we initiated an understudy run through, where each apprentice understudies a major role in the main stage production and will have the chance to perform it as a company of their own. This year marks the 3rd annual understudy run through to be performed on Saturday, June 20th at 1pm. The program offers each apprentice deeply meaningful and educational opportunities for growth and artistic development. Our relationship with our apprentices continues beyond the six weeks they spend with us.

Our 2026 Apprentice Company Acting Apprentices



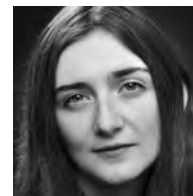
Gracie Conn



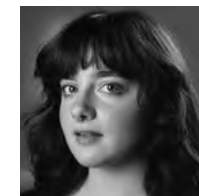
Lucas Connor



Skylar Dunn



Molly Kriskey



Franki Spinelli Mastrone



Alice McGill



Mike Riso



Edward Santiago, Jr.



Audrey Weir



Our 2026 Apprentices.

Top Row, left to right: Mike Rizzo, Audrey Weir, Alice McGill, Lucas Connor

Bottom Row, left to right: Edward Santiago, Jr., Franki Spinelli Mastrone, Gracie Conn, Skylar Dunn, Molly Kriskey

PALMER'S
MARKET

GOURMET CATERING

CELEBRATING
made SIMPLE.

Signature Selections for Everyday Entertaining

Available for pick-up or delivery – fully prepared
& ready-to-serve with 48-hours notice.

Palmer's Market 264 Heights Road, Darien CT www.palmersdarien.com

2026 Apprentice Company Underwriters

Neil Hauck Architects

Meghan McCallister

Tim Pettee

Pure Insurance

Russo and Rizzio

Michael Sagalyn



from the Director of Educational Outreach

Thank you all for joining us in celebrating 30 years of Shakespeare on the Sound! As I complete my first year as Director of Education and Outreach, it has been such a pleasure to carry forward the tradition of creative and educational excellence that is the hallmark of Shakespeare on the Sound's programming. We've successfully brought our workshops and residencies to schools and community hubs across Fairfield County and as far south as Pelham, NY. Our teaching artists have demystified Shakespeare's language and encouraged students to make connections between his plays and their lives, working with elementary, middle, and high schools across the year.

I am so deeply proud of the work this year's Apprentice Company has done, beginning with devising a brand new version of *Much Ado About Nothing* geared towards children and families. They've brought their ideas to life on our stage here at Pinkney Park and in touring performances at 10 different libraries, elementary schools, and community centers this May and June. They've also had the opportunity to understudy roles in our mainstage production, honing their craft as they've observed and internalized the work of our incredible company of professional actors. Finally, for the first time in Shakespeare on the Sound's history, each Apprentice has been offered the opportunity to participate in the mainstage show, giving them a unique professional experience they can carry forward in their careers.

I find myself deeply inspired by Shakespeare on the Sound's educational programming ethos of bringing community together through the arts. We believe that Shakespeare's works are for everyone, with connections to be made across the depth and breadth of human experience, and it is our goal to reach people of all ages, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. We thank you all so much for joining us in the park this summer, helping us to realize our vision of community coming together to share in a collective theatrical experience, and look forward to continuing to connect as we move forward beyond our summer season.

Thank you for joining us tonight.

Stephanie Eiss

Stephanie Eiss



ROWAYTON ARTS CENTER

A new exhibition every month
Classes and workshops
for artists of all levels

Art lives here!

Visit rowaytonarts.org for a schedule
of adult and children's classes,
upcoming exhibitions, plus events.

follow
@rowaytonarts

online gallery



145 Rowayton Ave, Rowayton CT 06853
(203) 866-2744



SOS Acting Apprentices rehearsing their lines for this summer's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Educational Programs Camps

The Globe Company (ages 7 –12)

The Globe Company will build a brand new piece of theatre, creating their own versions of some of Shakespeare's most beloved scenes from across his works. The Globe Company is designed for 7-12-year-olds who are both serious about acting and new to it.

Campers will learn about understanding and performing Shakespeare's text, work as an ensemble as they discover character, and develop their very own performance. Members of the Globe Company will work with an SOS Actor and Teaching Artist to choose scenes and monologues from across Shakespeare's works. Everyone will get a chance to participate and be an active member of the ensemble. No Shakespeare experience necessary for any of our camps!

Exact dates, times, and locations TBA.

Please see our website for updates!

<https://www.shakespeareonthesound.org/summer-camps>

Workshops

One of our goals as educators is to have our students actively participate instead of passively observe, which is honestly how most students experience theatre and Shakespeare. Theatre is meant to be active and we want students to experience that. We take this approach with our camps and in-class workshops. We've had the pleasure of working with schools as far south as Pelham, NY and as far north as Avon, CT. Workshops on *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night* and the success of our educational program, *Page to Stage: Hamlet* are this year's highlights.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE SOUND

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR
2027 EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF...

R+J4EVR

R+J4EVR is an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring only the title characters. This program is a fun, innovative and immersive performance that sheds a brighter light on Romeo and Juliet's choices. What leads them to decisions they made? Students engage with the actors throughout the performance and debate their choices and actions in a guided talkback, leading them to see the play in a brand new light.

Darien Toy Box

Innovative, Traditional & Fun

15 Corbin Drive, Darien CT 06820
203-202-2992



Proudly supporting
Shakespeare on the Sound's
30th Season!

Rowayton Fuel & Oil Co., Inc.



W.F. KIGGINS & SONS

Since 1929



**Your Local Oil Company
Still Family Owned and Operated**

- Branded, High-Quality Heating Oil and Diesel Fuel
- Trouble and Time-Saving Oil Burner Service
- Air-Conditioning Service
- Water White Kerosene



For Sales & Service call:

866-9616



Serving Darien,
Rowayton and
Norwalk

Shakespeare on the Sound

board of directors

Charlotte Lyeth Burton, President

Michael Sagalyn Vice President

Viola Yee, Secretary

Peggy Parsky, Treasurer

Daniel Barzach

Andrew Bevan

Gery Brownholz

Russell Coleman

Kristen Ennis

Bruce Fagerstrom

Peter Gwynn

Justin Hokin

John Hollywood

Taylor Manning

Maria Mendoza-Smith

Peggy Parskey

Rob Russo

Michael Sagalyn

Viola Yee

founders

Ezra Barnes,

Founding Director

Susan Reed Basche

Dorsey Gude

Tim Massad

Megan Crowley McAllister

Adrienne Southworth

Steven Southworth

Andrew Woolford

Our Mission Statement

Shakespeare on the Sound is committed to producing affordable, professional open-air productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and related authors in Fairfield County. Working in collaboration with area civic, business and educational institutions, Shakespeare on the Sound presents an annual theatre festival, which brings great dramatic works to a broad audience, creating a forum for learning, appreciation and celebration.

Our educational programming goal is to build community through the arts, giving the works of Shakespeare a vibrant life beyond the summer festival with a variety of school, library, adult education, and art programs as a means to reach a diverse cross-section of people of all ages and economic backgrounds.

Thank You!



is incredibly grateful to all our donors!

Our community support has always been widespread and the foundation of our work. We still need your help to meet our final goals and continue to provide educational opportunities and professional performances in your backyard!

Make a Donation Today!

Visit ShakespeareOnTheSound.org and click Donate Now
or, mail a check to: PO Box 15, Rowayton, CT 06855

Keep Affordable Shakespeare in your Parks & Schools!

Instagram, X, Facebook: shakesonsound



Donors

We are so grateful to all those who donated!
Contributions made through May 26, 2026

Diamond Circle
\$50,000 +

Anonymous

Leadership Circle
\$20,000 – \$49,999

Charlotte Lyeth Burton
S&L Marx Foundation

Lord Chamberlain's Circle
\$10,000 – \$19,999

Robinson & Cole
Sixth Taxing District

Angels
\$5,000 – \$9,999

Heather and John Anderson
Russell Coleman
DR Bank
Excelerate Foundation
Dave Hokin Foundation
John Hollywood
Alice Jacks
Palmer's Market
Tim and Sheila Pettee
Russo & Rizio
Andrew and Melissa Woodford

Patrons of the Bard
\$2,500 – \$4,999

Fairfield County Bank
Megan and Keith McAllister
Alyse Pashman
Pure Insurance
Rowayton Civic Association
Michael Sagalyn

donors

Poet's Circle \$1,000 – \$2,499

Emily Bryan
Dupre Cochran
CT Supporting Arts
John and Christine Love
Brooke Megrue
Maria Mendoza-Smith
Pitney Bowes Foundation
Marie Reynolds and Jim Golden
RSR LLC
Betsy Sue and Martin Shannon
James and Margie Shaughnessy
Leila & Nick Shields
John and Nancy Sommi
Tierney Family Foundation
Town of Darien
Patrick and Sarah Wayland

Director's Circle \$500 – \$999

Timothy and Laura Callaghan
Ryan and Christina Casupanan
CT Office of the Arts
CT Tech Education
Defeo Family Foundation
Autumn and John Howard
Robert Kettenmann

Deborah Lyeth Master
Evelyn and Steven Millman
Sarah O'Neill
Michael Sagalyn
Kerry and Jed Stevens Family Trust
Marie Reynolds and Jim Golden

Much Ado
About Nothing
Performance Sponsors
June 18 : Heather and Jason Anderson
June 20 : Russell Coleman and Kristen Ennis

donors

Friends \$250 – \$499

Diane and Perry Caminis
Pamela Clark
Connor D'Amico
B Eydt Robert
Susan Hardesty
Ron Holland
Robert Kettenman
Tammy Langalis
Mettler Family

Frank and Catherine Nash
Stephen and Laura Petricone
Michelle Riley
C Robertson
Jennifer and Andrew Ryan
UCBC Cafe
Terry Wettergreen
Stephanie Zeigler

Community \$1 – \$249

Robert Augustyn
Vanda N Baker
Diane and Perry Caminis
E Casey
Jane Bergere
G Craft
E Conway
Fred and Pam Elliott
Kniffen Faily
Brian Filanowski
Wouter and Hanneke Goedkoop
Carol Gruendel
Barbara Hapolenu
Carol Hinnant
Autumn and Thomas Howard
K Hurley
K Kirschner

D Seeley Hubbard
Gary Kniffen
Drew Lamm
Tom & Wendell Livingston
Susan Miller
Patrick Milliman
Hedi and Kevin O'Connor
Tanya Leonard
Nancy Meany
Joy Rendahl
Martha Risom
Jennifer Russey and Jessica Taylor
Doris Trivisonno
William Wilson
With love for Shakespeare, the Zeman
grandchildren: Max, Theodora, Sawyer &
Ozzie

Volunteers

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

When we went to press, we were in the midst of filling our roster of festival volunteers, whose work in the park is crucial to the success of our production. The great outpouring of enthusiasm and support from our volunteers in the community is remarkable and truly appreciated.



CHRIST
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Proud Supporter of
Shakespeare on the Sound

Sunday Service: 10am
988 Post Road, Darien CT
contact@christcommunityct.org
www.christcommunityct.org

Forbes
— AMERICA'S TOP 200 —
**RESIDENTIAL
ARCHITECTS**
2025

NEIL HAUCK ARCHITECTS

Darien - Delray Beach

Help Us Celebrate
Our 30th Season!

SHAKESPEARE
30TH ON THE SOUND

**ONLINE AUCTION
to SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION!**

Bidding: June 21– June 28

Sports tickets, restaurants,
bars, family entertainment,
golf outings, birthdays,
jewelry, gifts, beauty,
wellness, wine,
and more!

*Browse the online catalog
TODAY!*



<https://new.biddingowl.com/shakespeare>

MUCH ADO ABOUT
Something

**A Festive Evening
Friday, October 16**

Join us for a night of cocktails,
delicious bites, entertainment,
dancing, and live and silent auctions.



The House
Up On The Hill
HMTX Industries
27 Seir Hill Rd.
Norwalk, CT

Get on the invitation list, or volunteer to help:
contactus@shakespeareonthesound.org