

CNYP LAYHOUSE

presents

The Book of Will



Feb. 17-25, 2023

Book of Will Production Team

Director

Bella Lupia

Assistant Director

Stephen Shepherd

Producers

Dana Comfort & Alex Gilbert

Stage Manager

Rachel Briscoe

Set Designer

Bella Lupia

Sound Designer

Stephen Shepherd

Lighting Designer

Sarah Anson-Ordon

Costume Designer

Lynn Barbato King

Props

Cole LaVenture
& Imogen Whyte

Scenic Painting

Christopher James Lupia

Cast

John Heminges	Jack Sherman
Henry Condell	Aaron Alexander
Rebecca Heminges	Kathy Burke Egloff
Elizabeth Condell	Lynn Barbato King
Alice Heminges	Rose Hays
Ben Jonson	Nic MacLane
Richard Burbage	John Triana
William Jaggard	Bill Lee
Isaac Jaggard	Alex Sandler
Emilia Bassano / Anne Shakespeare	Amy Prieto
Susannah Shakespeare	Teagan Brown
Boy Hamlet/Ed/Horatio/Dering	Cole LaVenture
Barman/Crane/Francisco	Michael Dougherty
Barman/Compositor/Bernardo	Jim Molloy
Marcus/Crier/Marcellus	Jason Obie

Directors Note

A good friend discovered this play and knew it belonged in my hands. Many of my fondest memories include Shakespeare in some capacity, so it only makes sense for me to tell a story that commemorates him. Maybe one day I'll be brave enough to direct a legitimate Shakespeare play, but for now, this sweet little story is exactly my speed. I'm honored that some of my favorite actors have jumped on to tell this story with me, and my best friends for backing this project. I hope you all feel the heart of this show, whether you are privy to the Bard or not. I want to dedicate the message of commemorating a fallen friend to Barb Toman, as the actors proudly wear some of her pieces onstage. Thank you for being here.

"Here's to a life of ages and pages."

Bella Lupia,

Director of *The Book of Will*

The Book of Will is a play that highlights the importance of friendship and the effort it takes to make and maintain a legacy. Even in overwhelming circumstances, creativity can be published and preserved. Even when times get rough, friends are there to guide you back home. I'm glad to have the support of my friends in this production, and now it's time for these players to leave their mark on this stage. Please enjoy this production, recommend it to your friends, and let it linger in your memory. Thank you.

Stephen Shepherd,

Assistant Director of *The Book of Will*

Special Thanks

Thank you to Barbara Toman and family, Lorie Finger, Lynn Barbato King, and Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park for donating the production's costumes.

Biographies

Aaron Alexander (Henry Condell) is a BFA Theater graduate of the University of Buffalo. He's been acting for over 20 years in stage plays and musicals, both classical and contemporary, and is breaking into voice acting as well. He gives his utmost with everything he does, and strives to instill that enthusiasm in his fellow actors any way he can.

Lynn Barbato King (Elizabeth Condell, Costume Designer) is honored to have her first onstage role since Covid be in this stunning piece about preserving Will's words for the ages, since Shakespeare has been such a driving force for her artistic life! Favorite credits include *The Butterfingers Angel* (Mary) for Appleseed Productions, *A Man of No Importance* (Ms. Crowe), an *Into The Woods*/Midsummer Night's Dream Repertory (Florinda/Snug the Lion), *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens* (Nancy) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Capulet) all at The Redhouse; *Othello* (Desdemona) for Baldwinsville Theatre Guild, *Juliet*, *The Nurse* and *Titania* in Repertory for Avon Repertory Theatre, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ursula), *Henry the 5th* (Katherine of Valois) & *Richard III* (Lady Anne) all for the Syracuse Shakespeare Festival. Favorite roles at CNYP include *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff), *Our Town* (Prof. Willard), *The Night of The Living Dead* (Barbara), *Othello* (Emilia), *Flowers for Algernon* (Norma) & *Hamlet* (Ophelia). Most recently for CNYP, Lynn directed the one-woman show *The Belle of Amherst*, and the Workshop Production of the new musical *We Want More* by Ian Doherty. Lynn holds a BA in Acting and an MA in Children's Theatre from SUNY Brockport and MSLIS-SM from Syracuse University. By day, Lynn is the Teacher Librarian/Library Media Specialist at JCB High School in Phoenix. Lynn would like to thank her family for their unwavering support, and her son Sebastian for being her North Star.

Kathy Burke Egloff (Rebecca Heminges) is excited to be back onstage with CNYP. She's been seen locally in productions with Appleseed, BTG, RDP, Redhouse, Syracuse Shakespeare Festival, and Theatre First Productions as well as at the NY Fringe Festival with Covey Theatre Company. Favorite shows include: *Drowsy Chaperone* (Beatrice Stockwell), *Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher, SALT award), *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs), *A Man Of No Importance* (Mrs. Curtin), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Muriel), *Urinetown* (Josephine Strong), *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mom), *Lizzie Borden Took an Axe* (Abby Borden). In real life, Kathy is a retired music teacher and is principal flute in the Onondaga Civic Symphony. Many thanks to Bella and the entire team for this opportunity to bring live theatre back to our lives! None of this is possible without the support of family, friends & the community!

Teagan Brown (Susannah Shakespeare) is grateful to be part of this production and part of the CNY theatre community. Teagan is a senior at Syracuse University dual majoring in Broadcast & Digital Journalism and History. Chances are if you haven't seen her onstage, you've probably seen her on your TV for NBC3 or CBS5. This is Teagan's second show with CNYP following *Spacebar* (Jessica). Previous credits include *Newsies* (Katherine Plumber), *Noises Off!* (Belinda/Flavia), and *Something Rotten!* (Bea). Teagan would like to thank her father and sister for their support and love, as well as her friends Lauren, Josh, Thomas, Presley, Mikey, & Luke.

Michael Dougherty (Barman/Ralph Crane/Francisco) was last onstage at CNYP in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Tom Snout/Wall). More often, he's been backstage doing lights, sound, costumes, & set construction/painting. He's happy to be onstage in this production, and is delighted to play with this cast & crew.

Rose Hays (Alice Heminges) is a CNY-based actor and recent graduate from SUNY at Fredonia's BA Theatre Arts program. She's

Biographies

previously joined CNYP in *You Can't Take It With You* (Rheba). Recent credits: *Between Friends* (Josie), *Small Mouth Sounds* (Co-Stage Manager), *The Abduction from Seraglio* (Stage Manager) and *Frankenstein: A Radio Play* (Swing). When not doing theatre, you can find her procrastinating on whatever she should be doing by reading! Website: rosehays.com

Cole LaVenture (Boy Hamlet/Ed Knight/Horacio/Dering, Props Master) is thrilled to be making his post-COVID return to the stage. He recently was props master for *Clue*. As a person who typically does musicals, he's enjoyed growing his acting skills with this enchanting play. Previous credits include *The Producers* and *The Addams Family*. He'd like to thank his beautiful girlfriend Imogen for always supporting him and his cat Susu for letting him spend time away from home under the spotlights at CNYP.

Bill Lee (William Jaggard) is happy to return to CNYP where he has performed in *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Laramie Project*, and the world premiere of *Visiting Bammy Lewis* as well as directing the hugely popular staging of Frank Carpa's *It's a Wonderful Life*. Most recently, he was in SSITP's *A Man For All Seasons* (Archbishop Cramner). He's also been in *Footloose*, *West Side Story*, *All Shook Up!*, *Best Little Whorehouse*, *Harvey*, and *Bye Bye Birdie* at Cortland Rep; as well as *The Sound of Music* at Hangar Theatre. He thanks his wife Sandie, and sons Nate, Jake and Austin for their love and support.

Bella Lupia (Director) is so happy to be directing at CNYP again. Directing credits include *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Addams Family*. Bella is a Shakespeare enthusiast holding a B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in directing from Manhattanville College. She's been onstage in *Shakespeare in Love* (Viola), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *The Tempest* (Miranda), *Silent Sky* (Margaret). She'd like to thank anyone who has touched this production onstage, offstage or in the

audience for their help telling this story. Special thanks to Dana for introducing her to this play, Rachel and Stephen for being her sidekicks, and of course her husband Christopher for everything else.

Nic MacLane (Ben Jonson) is thrilled to join his first Shakespeare-centered play! He has recently been seen onstage in *You Can't Take It With You* (Henderson), *A Chorus Line* (Marc Anthony), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Bazzard); as well as in the pit bands of *We Want More* at CNYP, *Always, Patsy Cline* at BTG, and *Sister Act* at Redhouse. He would like to thank his friends, family, and Olivia for their love and support.

Jim Molloy Sr. (Barman / Bernardo / Composer) remains grateful to Bella for appointing him to play Judge Harper in *Miracle on 34th Street* four Christmases ago - a welcome diversion in his "restless retirement." Since then, he's enjoyed roles in *Rumors*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Shakespeare in Love*, and *Clue*. He's pleased to be invited back to work with the supportive staff and talented, fun players at CNYP - and Bella, his first director.

Jason Obie (Marcus/Crier/Marcellus) is excited to return to CNYP in *The Book of Will*. He did four years of improv during his time at SUNY University at Buffalo and just finished a run in *You Can't Take It With You* (Jim) at CNY Playhouse last December.

Amy Prieto (Emilia Bassano / Anne Hathaway Shakespeare) is beyond thrilled to be performing again with the CNY Playhouse. She was last seen onstage at CNY Playhouse in *Silent Sky* (Henrietta) and *The Matchmaker* (Dolly Levi). Outside of Central New York, Amy has performed with theatre groups in Maryland and California, and a few of her favorites include *Noises Off* (Belinda Blair), *Rumors* (Chris Gorman), and *Miracle on 34th Street* (Doris Walker). A big thank you to Bella and Stephen for the opportunity, and to the talented cast and production team. Special thanks for family and friends for their unconditional love and support.

The Book of Will

John Triana (Richard Burbage) grew up in the beautiful burroughs of Queens. He is excited for his first show at CNY Playhouse. He's also appeared in SSITP's *Love's Labours Lost* (Ferdinand), *Troilus and Cressida* (Nestor), *Macbeth* (Macbeth), as well as Fulton Art Center's *Radium Girls* (Arthur Roeder).

Alex Sandler (Isaac Jaggard) is excited to return for their third production at CNYP. Previously, Alex graced the stage in *We Want More* (Young Roger) and *Spacebar* (Fancy Magee, u/s Kyle). Outside the theatre, you can probably find them wandering the woods or experimenting in the kitchen. Alex sincerely hopes you enjoy the show and thanks you for supporting local arts!

Stephen Shepherd (Assistant Director, Sound Designer) is happy to be making his assistant directing debut with this heartfelt play and with this team of friends. Previously at CNYP, you may have heard Stephen's sound design in *Spacebar*. He has been onstage in the following CNYP productions: *Hamlet*, *Into the Woods*, *Mousetrap*, *Nevermore*, *Midsummer*, *Drood*, *Clue*, *You Can't Take It With You*. Stephen would like to thank his family for their continued love and support, and would like to thank Bella for this opportunity.

Jack Sherman (John Heminges) has appeared in three prior CNYP productions: *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Shelly Levine), *Move Over, Mrs. Markham* (Philip Markham), and *Rumors* (Lenny Ganz). He's now appeared in 19 separate Shakespeare productions with several companies, including SSITP, Ithaca Shakespeare Company, and Auburn Players. He's taken on such classic Shakespearean roles as Shylock, Henry IV, Oberon, Malvolio, Brutus, & Prospero. Thanks to Bella for allowing him to appear in this unique story about the founders of Shakespeare's legacy.