

**ENGINEERED FLOORS
CHEROKEE BREWING
AND PIZZA COMPANY
AND WALNUT HILL FARM**

PRESENT

**THE CONASAUGA
SHAKESPEARE COALITION
AND CREATIVE ARTS GUILD
PRODUCTION OF**

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

**A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM**

DIRECTED BY LANE DAVIES

**JUNE 16, 17, 18
PRATER'S MILL HISTORIC SITE**

**JUNE 23, 24, 25
BURR PERFORMING ARTS PARK**

CAST

COURT

THESEUS BOB BOUDREAUX
HIPPOLYTA AMANDA JONES
PHILOSTRATE JOEY PARROT
EGEUS STEVE RAY

LOVERS

LYSANDER NATHAN DAVIES
DEMETRIUS CHAD DANIELS
HERMIA BRIELLE CHAMBERS
HELENA ELEANOR AIKEN

RUSTICS

QUINCE DOUG MAY
BOTTOM/PYRAMUS BRIAN WEBB RUSSELL*
SNUG/LION RYAN LANGHAM
SNOUT/WALL KIRT JOHNSON
FLUTE/THISBE BRYAN BASIL
STARVELING/MOON WILLIAM BROOKS

FAIRIES

OBERON LANE DAVIES*
TITANIA KATIE HARTEL
PUCK ADAM STARK
PEASEBLOSSOM EMERY MERRITT
COBWEB SARAI PUENTES
MOTH HENLEY GREEN
MUSTARDSEED MARLEY KILGORE

THESEUS' ATTENDANTS

JACKSON KERSEY
ELLIS STEPHENS

*MEMBERS OF ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR LANE DAVIES
PRODUCERS CHASE PARKER, WES PHINNEY
STAGE MANAGER CHRYSTAL AYERS
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER TIFFANY PETTIT
SET DESIGN STEVE RAY
COSTUMER JORDAN JAKED CARRIER
MAKEUP SYDNEY HOLLOWAY
LIGHTS AND SOUND DAVID PASQUA
CHOREOGRAPHY FALLON GARRETT
COMPOSER CHRISTIAN WIG
MUSICAL DIRECTOR MATTHEW CARLTON
PHOTOGRAPHY TIFFANY PETTIT

CREATIVE ARTS GUILD

DIRECTOR AMANDA BROWN
GREATER DALTON MARKETING DIRECTOR SARAH MURRY

CONASAUGA SHAKESPEARE COALITION

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SECRETARY JEFF BURR **TREASURER** ALLEN BENTLEY
BOARD MEMBER CHASE PARKER

SPECIAL THANKS:

DALTON HIGH SCHOOL
DALTON LITTLE THEATRE, ARTISTIC CIVIC THEATRE
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CHATTANOOGA THEATRE CENTER, UTC THEATRE COMPANY
MATT STOKES, ELAINE WATKINS, CHUCK FETZER
PRATER'S MILL FOUNDATION
BRUCE AND KITTY DAVIES, BETHANY DAVIES
LYNN STARKS

**THE CAST OF "SANTA BARBARA SHAKES" (A. BONE MARTINEZ,
HARLEY JANE KOZAK, LOUISE SOREL, JUDITH MCCONNELL,
NICOLAS COSTER, SHERILYN WOLTER AND JERRY & BRIDGET
DOBSON (THE CREATORS OF *SANTA BARBARA*)**

THE COALITION



“Here’s a marvelous convenient place for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our stage, this hawthorn-brake our tiring-house.”

A Midsummer Night’s Dream III, 1

In the summer of 2018, a small but merry band of local Players and Shakespeare enthusiasts that included Lane Davies, Wes Phinney, Chase Parker, and Jeff Burr began discussing the idea of bringing together a group of local actors and fellow Bard-lovers to form the basis of a permanent Company that would present annual Shakespearean productions in [Burr Performing Arts Park](#). In addition to the permanent Company, local high school and college students would be invited to participate in designated productions, and some of the major/title roles might be filled by professional actors, giving Company members and participating students a unique opportunity to work alongside and in collaboration with working actors. The idea became The Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition (CSC), and, with the help of local attorney Chris Brown and CPA Allen Bentley, the CSC was established as a not-for-profit performing arts organization dedicated primarily to the collected works of William Shakespeare. The Coalition received the blessing and endowment of friend and supporter Jeanne Burr with the plan to perform annual productions at Burr Performing Arts Park in partnership with the Creative Arts Guild and in cooperation with the Dalton Little Theatre and Artistic Civic Theatre. With all of this in place, The Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition presented its first production, *Henry V*, in summer of 2019.

As Company members made plans for a return to the Park in 2020, the community, the country and the world were engulfed in a yearlong pandemic. In addition, CSC Members were crestfallen at the unfortunate passing of our principal benefactor, Jeanne Burr. Several Conasauga Shakespeare performers helped weather the storm by contributing to an online Shakespearean Monologue Series featured on the CSC Facebook Page in the summer of 2020, but the Company’s plans for a second production were put on hold. In March of 2021, seizing on the small window of opportunity provided by the emergence of vaccines to combat the pandemic, Company members began planning a return to the stage. With the support of our co-producers The Creative Arts Guild, the CSC came up with a revised plan for staging Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* in another semi-amphitheater location- the Spigel Pavilion of the CAG.

Now, in the summer of 2022, we are set to continue our Company's mission of **engaging local talent in combination with professional working actors in order to bring to life the works of William Shakespeare for our local communities**, and to return to Burr Park. We are excited to do so with a raucous, 19th century frontier version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will be presented at the Park and at the Prater's Mill Historic Site in Varnell. As always, we are eternally grateful to all those that have made this production possible, especially the Creative Arts Guild and our friends at Engineered Floors, Cherokee Brewing and Pizza Company, and Walnut Hill Farm, as well as all of our sponsors and Coalition members.

We ask you to join in our celebrating our return to the Park and to consider helping us achieve our goals. The Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition is a non-profit corporation and contributions are tax deductible. Please consider helping us help our community by making a contribution. We appreciate your support and, "as we are gentleman, we will live to be thankful to thee for't".



MEET OUR SPONSORS





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THANK YOU!

“As we are gentleman, we will live to be thankful to thee for’t”

Twelfth Night III, iv

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE SCENE ONE AT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WEDDING OF THESEUS, DUKE OF ATHENS, THE NOBLEMAN EGEUS ASKS THE DUKE TO COMPEL HIS DAUGHTER HERMIA TO MARRY DEMETRIUS. BUT HERMIA LOVES LYSANDER, AND DESPITE THE DUKE'S WARNING THAT SHE MUST MARRY HER FATHER'S CHOSEN SUITOR, HERMIA AND LYSANDER PLOT TO ELOPE. HERMIA REVEALS HER PLAN TO HER FRIEND HELENA, WHO LOVES DEMETRIUS, WHO JILTED HELENA FOR HERMIA, AND HELENA DECIDES TO REVEAL THE PLAN TO DEMETRIUS IN HOPES OF WINNING HIM BACK,

ACT ONE SCENE TWO A GROUP OF CRAFTSMEN/AMATEUR PLAYERS MAKE PLANS TO REHEARSE A PLAY TO BE PERFORMED AT THE WEDDING CELEBRATION.

ACT TWO SCENE ONE OBERON AND TITANIA, THE FAIRY KING AND QUEEN, QUARREL. SEEKING REVENGE, OBERON TELLS HIS SERVANT PUCK TO SPRINKLE THE JUICE OF A MAGICAL FLOWER IN TITANIA'S EYES WHILE SHE SLEEPS SO SHE WILL FANCY THE FIRST CREATURE SHE SEES WHEN SHE WAKES.

ACT TWO SCENE TWO AFTER VIEWING THE LOVERS IN THE WOODS, OBERON TELLS PUCK TO SPRINKLE DEMETRIUS AS WELL SO THAT HE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH HELENA. BUT PUCK MISTAKENLY SPRINKLES LYSANDER, WHO AWAKENS AND FALLS IN LOVE WITH HELENA.

ACT THREE SCENE ONE PUCK COMES UPON THE AMATEUR PLAYERS REHEARSING THEIR PLAY NEAR THE SITE OF TITANIA'S REPOSE AND PLAYFULLY TRANSFORMS THE HEAD OF THE BOASTFUL NICK BOTTOM INTO THE HEAD OF AN ASS. AS THE REST OF THE PLAYERS FLEE IN TERROR, TITANIA AWAKENS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH BOTTOM.

ACT THREE SCENE TWO OBERON TRIES TO CORRECT PUCK'S BLUNDER BY SPRINKLING DEMETRIUS, WHO THEN FIGHTS LYSANDER FOR HELENA, WHICH ANGERS HERMIA.

ACT FOUR SCENE TWO SATISFIED WITH TITANIA'S OBSESSION WITH BOTTOM, OBERON ORDERS PUCK TO UNDO THE SPELLS. THESEUS AND HIPPOLYTA ARRIVE AND WAKE THE SLEEPING LOVERS, WHO ONLY RECALL THEIR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

ACT FIVE SCENE ONE THE CRAFTSMAN GATHER IN ATHENS, AND THE TRANSFORMED BOTTOM REJOINS THEM TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR PLAY HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO BE PERFORMED AT THE WEDDING CELEBRATION.

ACT FIVE SCENE TWO THE PLAYERS PERFORM A HIGHLY AMATEURISH PRODUCTION OF THE STORY OF PYRAMUS AND THISBE (PART OF OVID'S METAMORPHOSES) FOR THE NEWLYWEDS AND REUNITED COUPLES AT THE WEDDING CELEBRATION.

THERE WILL BE A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

A VERY SPECIAL DEDICATION by Steve Farrow

There will be someone missing on the front row this year when all gather for the latest production of the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” For decades, **Dorothy “Dot” McCrory**, has perched herself on the front row at every local dramatic production, whether it be the Dalton Little Theatre, the Artistic Civic Theatre, the Dalton High School Players, or the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition. Sadly, we lost her on May 2nd of this year, just short of her 89th birthday.

Dot arrived in Dalton in 1964, and for the next thirty years, as the head of the drama program at Dalton High School, she introduced theatre into the lives of thousands of high school students. In her spare time, she also performed in and directed additional shows at the Dalton Little Theatre. Her tutelage during those years helped launch many, such as our own Lane Davies, into successful professional acting careers. But just as importantly, her influence allowed many of us to adopt the theatre as a lifetime hobby, and to incorporate its disciplines and skills into our career choices as well.

Since her retirement from Dalton High School in the early 1990s until her recent death, she had been a tireless advocate for many causes in this community, not the least of which was live theatre. After other local legends of the boards such as Janice Meadows, Emily Davies, Tut McFarland, and Jeanne Burr had gone and left us, Dot McCrory undisputedly assumed the role of the patron saint of theatre in Dalton, Georgia. Her shadow will loom large over any future theatrical events. And most of all, we will miss that distinctive “Miss Mac” laugh, giving all performers no doubt who was in the audience for that performance.

It is with love and affection that we dedicate this very special production to her memory.



*“When she shall die,
Take her and cut her out in little stars,
And she will make the face heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.”*

Romeo and Juliet
III, ii

A Midsummer Night's Dream

A popular comedy and a mature masterpiece

Probably written 1595-96, towards the end of a group of plays that included *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Merchant of Venice*, *Midsummer* is considered Shakespeare's first mature masterpiece, as well as the most widely performed play in the canon. First published 1600 in quarto (a book in which the printed pages are folded into four leaves or eight pages) and typeset from the dramatist's papers, the comedy was reprinted in 1619. By comparison, the Folio edition (1623) suggests that Shakespeare may have tinkered with Act Five.

In *Midsummer*, Shakespeare combines the wedding narrative of Chaucer's "Knight's Tale" (c. 1388) with a myriad of other sources (more so than any other play), including Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (Golding's 1567 translation) and Apuleius's *Golden Ass* (translation 1566). A long-standing theory posits that Shakespeare drew upon recollections of royal festivities held in Warwickshire (Shakespeare's county of birth) for certain plot points and in the creation of his mischievous sprites.

One of the reasons for the play's popularity is that it offers so much to so many. It is a comedy of love and lyrical lovers and a festive celebration of marriage set during the ancient festival of midsummer, celebrating fertility and fecundity. At the same time, it is a farcical collision of the human and fairy world, and a satirical take on amateur theatricals that still makes audiences laugh out loud, four centuries on. In a deeper consideration of the collision of worlds element, we can see the symbolism of Athens as the lawful, orderly part of existence as opposed to the ungoverned forest, as well as Shakespeare's use of language to create three distinct worlds. Without access to elaborate costumes and sets, Shakespeare helps us distinguish between nobility, fairies, and common laborers through characteristic speech. The laborers speak in prose, often garble images and use malapropisms. The nobility (including the lovers) speak in measured, balanced verse (iambic pentameter), a stately form that suggests status, control, and decorum. The lovers rhyme when they are particularly heated or emotional. The fairies also speak in verse, but whereas the lovers rhyme every ten syllables, the fairies speak in short lines that rhyme at every seven or eight

syllables, suggesting great energy and animation. Without sound or lighting, poetry was Shakespeare's greatest special effect.

Among the vast number of notable productions, the most revelatory was Peter Brook's 1970 Royal Shakespeare production at Stratford. Celebrating "the theme of theatre," Brooks set the action of the play in a three-sided white box hung with trapezes. The actors playing Theseus and Hippolyta doubled as Oberon and Titania, suggesting continuity between the couples, the young lovers were portrayed as "flower children," and the nature of Titania and Bottom's relationship was far-from-innocent. These elements helped Brooks' production become the coequal of the text. While not the first to reimagine Shakespeare, Brooks' *Midsummer* became the standard for doing so and helped to alter popular notions of what "classics" could be.

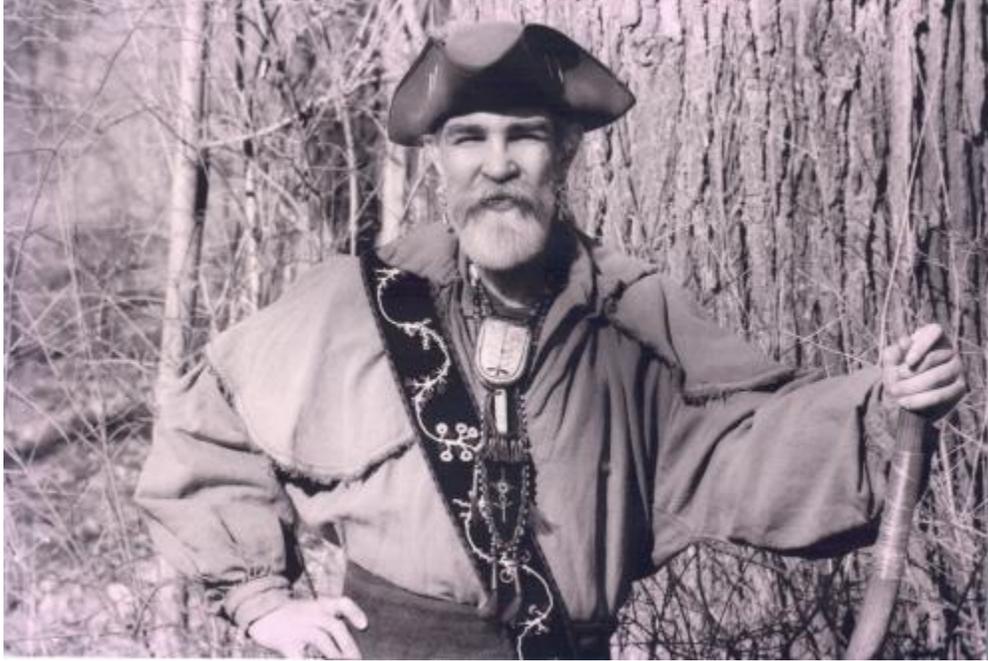
Director's Note

A Midsummer Night's Dream must be my favorite Shakespeare comedy—I've been involved in over a dozen productions over the years, either as actor, director, or both. It is almost bullet-proof. Besides Shakespeare's uncanny grasp of all aspects of the human condition, the play is just, plain fun—artfully plotted, linguistically splendid, with an alchemical blend of mythology and folklore that never fails to entrance an audience. Combine that with some of the most memorable characters in the Shakespeare canon, and you have a near-perfect play. The play can be set in almost any place or period, without compromising the author's intent. I've chosen early 1800's America, because it is a mythic time in American History, and one well-suited to the magic, mystery, and folklore of Shakespeare's most popular comedy. I hope you enjoy it.

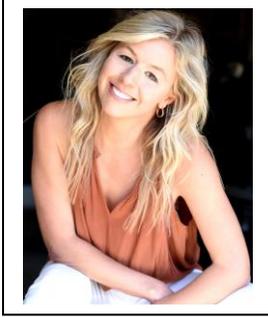
Lane Davies

A Note About the Music

All of the music in tonight's production is authentic, acoustic music of the period, performed almost entirely by musician, author, silversmith, and historian Christian Wig, a rustic Renaissance man of extraordinary talents. Sadly, Chris passed away last April, but left an incredible wealth of music and its history behind him. His legacy (and his CD's) can be found at <http://chriswig.com/home.html>. If you have any love of mountain music, we highly recommend you visit his site.



MEET THE CAST AND CREW



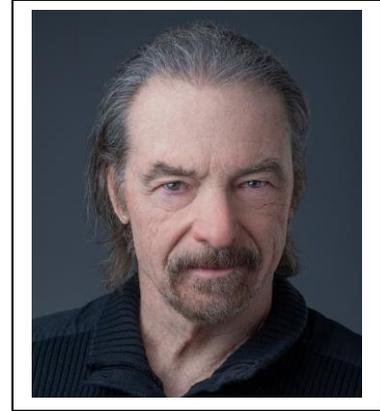
ELEANOR AIKEN (*Helena*) This is Eleanor's first show with Conasauga Shakes and she could not be more excited! She was most recently seen as Katherine in Scenic City's Shakespeare's production of *Loves Labours Lost*. Some of her past favorite roles include Catherine in the *Foreigner*, Annie in the musical *Chicago*, Hope in *Anything Goes*, and Elaine in *The Graduate*. Eleanor would like to thank her mom, dad and sister for their constant love and support in her pursuing her dreams in the theater!

CHRYSTAL AYERS (Stage Manager) Chrystal is a six-time Daytime Emmy winning producer for the Amazon Prime show *The Bay* and currently nominated for her seventh Emmy. She started her career in theatre before moving into film and television production. With twenty years experience, she's worked on over 70 productions such as *King of Queens*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Shake It Up*, and *Living With Fran*, *Mom*, *The Bay* and *yA*. She utilizes her many years of experience as a writer and producer to work as a talent agent at one of Atlanta's top agencies for the past six years. Now she has gone full circle and is getting back to her roots as stage manager for *Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition*.



BRYAN BASIL (*Flute/Thisbe*) is happy to be making his CSC debut. He recently appeared as King Ferdinand in Scenic City Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*. A former fitness model and RYT-200 yoga teacher, he now prefers to sit sedentary for hours and get high in the sky, as an aspiring commercial pilot.

BOB BOUDREAUX (*Theseus*) Bob Boudreaux is delighted to return for his second stint with the Dalton company after playing Capt. Fluellen in the Conasauga original production of “Henry V”. In Europe Bob is an Associate Artist of Prague Shakespeare Company. He recently played the role of Giles Corey in a Prague Shakespeare Company production of Arthur Miller's “The Crucible”, which he co-produced., and starred Lane Davies. Among many previous roles are Duke of Venice in “Othello”, Lord Stanley in “Richard 3rd”, President Woodrow Wilson in the PSC original “Masaryk in America”, Caesar in “Julius Caesar”, and both Dukes in “As You Like It”. Bob is also a member of the PSC International Touring group having played various roles on the company's performance tours to America, Egypt and India. He also co-produced the hit musical “Man of La Mancha”, starring Lane Davies where he played and sang the role of Governor. Bob can currently be seen across the Czech Republic in 2 National TV ad campaigns. He appears as a doomed TV reporter in the Netflix film “Army of Thieves”. Other credits include South African gangster Cyril Bilbeck in “Gangster Ka,” African Swedish Foreign Minister Christian Gunther in “Atlantic Crossing,” US Congressman John Rankin in “Einstein” (directed by Ron Howard), ill-fated Constable Tim Beaudry in “Walker, Texas Ranger” (with Chuck Norris) , and the leading role as the Old Hermit husband in the award-winning Czech short film “All Through the Night”. He has also appeared in supporting roles in “Puncture (with Chris Evans), “Borg” (with Shia Leboef). International gamers might know him as the voices of Captain Bernard and The Inquisitor in the hit “Kingdom Come: Deliverance,” which has sold millions worldwide. Now a permanent resident of Prague, Bob is a Texan from Houston who was a top rated local TV News Anchor for the Disney station, where he earned two regional EMMY AWARDS for broadcasting excellence before early retirement. He began acting while still employed in TV as a seasonal member of the Houston Shakespeare Festival, where he appeared in 41 productions in 21 years. After college at UMASS, Amherst Bob was commissioned an Officer in the US Army, where he became a helicopter pilot with a combat tour in Vietnam and later a flight instructor pilot prior to entering the career of a TV News Anchor. Thanks to the great people of Dalton and vicinity for welcoming this Texas vagabond.



WILLIAM BROOKS (*Starveling/Moon*) Name: William Brooks. Profession: Actor. Destination: Death Row, State Prison. William Brooks has been tried and convicted for the murder of his wife. But laws are made by men, carried out by men, and men are imperfect. William Brooks is innocent. Proved guilty, what William Brooks could not prove was that, moments before discovering his wife's body, he encountered a man running from the vicinity of his home. A man with one arm. A man who has not yet been found. William Brooks ponders his fate as he looks at the world for the last time and sees only darkness. But in that darkness, Fate moves its huge hand.

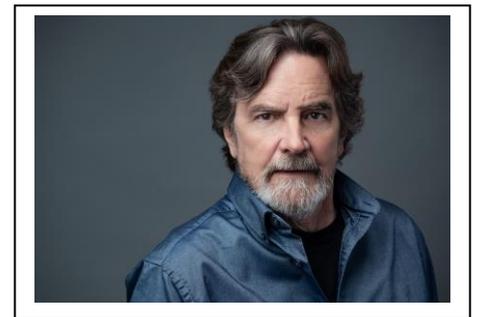
BRIELLE CHAMBERS (*Hermia*) Brielle Marie Chambers has spent eleven of her twenty-three years acting in theatre. She has her Bachelor of Arts from Lee University, but spent a number of years studying creative writing, literature, education, and theatre at Union University. She has most recently appeared in ACT Dalton's production of *CLUE* (Yvette) and in Mark Making's production of *Flannery's Cafè* (Grace and stage manager). Before 2020, Brielle was in a number of productions with East Hamilton Theatre Company (2011-2017), and she was in *Sherlock Holmes* (Madge Larabee) and *A Doll's House* (Christine Linde) with the Union University Theatre Company. When off stage, Brielle Marie works with children who happen to have special needs as a Behavioral Technician with Aptitude Behavioral Services, although acting is her true passion and career path. She hopes that you relax and thoroughly enjoy the show!



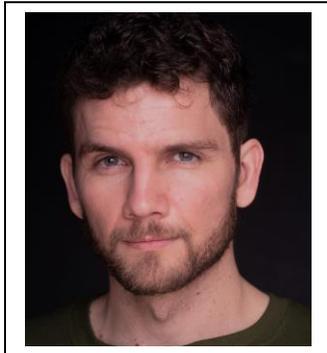
CHAD DANIEL (*Demetrius*) Chad is thrilled to perform in his second show with Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition; last summer he played Feste in their production of *Twelfth Night*. Chad has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre from Southern Methodist University and over 25 years of teaching, acting, and directing experience. He has acted and directed in London, Lyon, France, New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, Austin, Nashville, and Chicago. Some of his favorite roles have been Brave Sir Robin in *Spamalot*, Azor in *La Dispute*, and Cousin Kevin in the Dallas Theatre

Center's production of *The Who's Tommy*, although he values every role he has had the opportunity to play. Chad wants to send a big thank you to Lane Davies, Wes Phinney, and Chase Parker for giving him this opportunity.

LANE DAVIES (*Director/Oberon*) Although perhaps best known for sardonic roles in television comedy and drama, during decades as a stage actor, Lane has performed such roles as Hamlet, Macbeth, Richard III, King Lear, Shylock, Prospero, Petruchio, Henry V, Claudius, Marc Antony, Oberon, Capulet, Benedick, Orsino, Proteus, Tybalt, and Cyrano de Bergerac in companies from San Diego to Providence. For several years, he has been active in Europe with the Prague Shakespeare Company, as Edward IV in *Richard III*, Armado in *Love's Labors Lost*, Cervantes/Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, and Agamemnon in both *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Trojan Women*. More recently, he directed and played Vladimir in their production of *Waiting for Godot*, and Danforth in *The Crucible*. Lane has directed a dozen productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as productions of *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *12th Night*, and *Henry V*, among others. On television, he was the original 'Mason Capwell' on NBC's *Santa Barbara*, an international hit

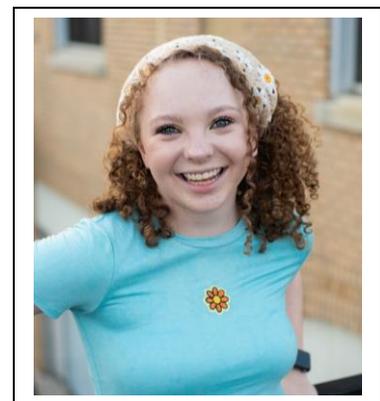


which has now played in over 53 countries worldwide. Other television credits include starring roles in four prime-time series, *Good & Evil*, *The Mommies*, *Whoops!* and *The Crew*. He appeared regularly as the psychopathic time-traveler 'Tempus' on *Lois & Clark - The New Adventures of Superman*, and recurred on *3rd Rock from the Sun* as 'Chancellor Duncan', on *The Practice* as 'Kyle Barrett', and on *Scrubs* as 'Dr. Simon Reid'. Television credits also include seven pilots and some 50 guest-star appearances, including such shows as *Seinfeld*, *Working*, *The Nanny*, *Ellen*, *Jesse*, *Coach*, *Major Dad*, *Clueless*, *Married With Children*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Good Luck, Charlie*, and most recently as 'Jack the Ripper' in Season 15 of *Supernatural*. He is one of a select few actors who have kidnapped a unicorn on screen. As Artistic Director for the Santa Susana Repertory Company, a professional resident theater company in Ventura County, Lane produced and/or directed over 40 productions and guided the company from its inception. He also founded and was Co-Artistic Director of the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival in Thousand Oaks, now in its 25th season, and was Artistic Director of the Tennessee Shakespeare Festival from 2008 to 2011. He is currently Artistic Director of the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition.



NATHAN DAVIES (*Lysander*) Nathan is grateful to be returning to the stage for the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition's 3rd production. Most recently in Dalton, Nathan could be seen as Sebastian in CSC's Twelfth Night, Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the ACT, Colonel Arbuthnot in *Murder on the Orient Express*, also at the ACT, and Henry V in the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition's inaugural production of *Henry V* at Burr Park in 2019. Nathan has recently returned from Prague where he enjoys working with the Prague Shakespeare Company and acting in various film and television projects.

HENLEY GREEN (*Moth*) Henley Green is an upcoming senior at Northwest High School and is involved in a plethora of theatre experiences. Most recently involving the state runner-up production of *Antigone*, the musical *Cinderella*, and the State Shakespeare competition! She is very excited to be a part of this amazing cast and hopes you enjoy the show!



KATIE HARTEL (*Titania*) Katie is an Atlanta-based actress and singer who recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Reinhardt University. She recently played Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*, Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*, Daniel in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised]*, and Viola in Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition's production of *Twelfth Night* last summer. Katie has a passion for Shakespeare and is so excited to be back with CSC as a part of this year's production. She wants to thank her family and friends for their support as well as everyone involved in this production for allowing her to witness their kindness and talent. Katie invites you to sit back, relax, and give in to the magic of experiencing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Enjoy the show!



KIRT JOHNSON (*Snout/Wall*) Kirt has been an actor since his first school play at the age of 5. Performing in various theaters around Chattanooga and NW Georgia for most of his life, a complete list of productions would be exhaustive. This is Kirt's third time working with Conasauga Shakespeare. Kirt would like to thank all of the friends, family, and fans who have encouraged him throughout his journey. Excelsior!

AMANDA JONES (*Hippolyta*) Amanda is so excited to be back onstage! She graduated from Northwest High School where she was a part of the drama club and performed in *Hairspray*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Grease*, *High School Musical*, and *Radium Girls*. At Millsaps college, Amanda performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and helped direct a production of *Romeo and Juliet*. She is currently a student at Dalton State College.





JACKSON KERSEY (*Ensemble/Theseus Attendant*)

Jackson Kersey will be a sophomore at Dalton High School in the fall of 2022. He has been in numerous ACT and school productions since he was seven years old. Recent roles and productions include Snoopy in “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown,” Beast in “Beauty and the Beast,” Mufasa in “Lion King, Jr.,” and Rapunzel’s Prince in Dalton High’s One Act “Into the Woods.” Jackson was named to the region All-Star Cast for his role of Prince. Other productions include “Where Do We Go From Here?,” “Click,” “The Neverending Story,” and “Frozen, Jr.”

MARLEY KILGORE (*Mustardseed*) Marley is excited to be a part of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and has enjoyed working with the director and cast on this newest venture! Her most favorite past roles have been as Caitlin in *Mockingbird*, Lavender in *Matilda Jr.*, and Annie in *Annie Jr.* She's also favored performing in *Billy Elliot*, *Shrek Jr.* and *Lion King Jr.* She is an upcoming 8th grader at North Whitfield Middle School and is a part of the Junior Theater Festival team. She enjoys hanging out with her friends when she's not on stage!



RYAN LANGHAM (*Snug/Lion*) Ryan Langham is excited to be a part of the *Midsummer Nights Dream* team with the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition. He previously appeared in their 2019 production of *Henry V*, and is happy to be back on stage with friends Lane Davies, his son Nathan, and the Coalition company.



DOUGLAS MAY (*Peter Quince*) Douglas May is thrilled to be returning to both Conasauga Shakespeare after appearing as Sir Toby Belch in last year's production of Twelfth Night, and to Midsummer Night's Dream, the first play he ever appeared in as Snug in a school production. He most recently directed the premiere of Flannery's Cafe at Chattanooga State and played Mister Sowerberry in Oliver at the Colonnade. after last appearing here as Harry Bright in Mamma Mia. In 2019 he also played in Murder on the Orient Express (Hercule Poirot) for ACT Dalton, Mamma Mia (Harry Bright) at the Colonnade, Murder on the Nile (Canon Pennefather) and in the premiere of Deeper Roots at the Bachmann Center, later recorded for

broadcast by WUTC. After getting his degree in theatre at University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Douglas worked in San Francisco for three seasons at 42nd Street Moon, as well as Guilty Theatre, Playground Emerging Playwrights Festival, the premiere of the long running Are We Almost There and a number of independent productions. Since returning to Chattanooga, he has played leading or featured roles in two dozen productions, directed at Oak Street Playhouse and Tennessee Valley Theatre and appeared in twenty local commercials. Favorite roles include Cogsworth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Peachum (*Threepenny Opera*), Cowardly Lion (*Wizard of Oz*), Kulygin (*Three Sisters*), good and evil twins in *As You Like It*, the villainous new landlord John Earl in *Fat Shirley's Trailer Park Opera* and anything with Ballet Tennessee. He is probably best remembered for playing The Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone* as guest artist at Chattanooga State.

EMERY MERRITT (*Peaseblossom*) Emery Merritt is 15 years old and recently started theatre in 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, since then she has been in multiple shows such as *The Never Ending Story* playing the Librarian and *Beauty and the Beast* playing Cogsworth. Though her first show was *Peter Pan* where she played Lisa, a maid. Her most recent show was *Little Women* playing a Hag.



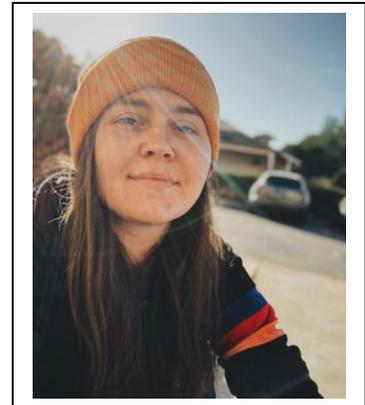


JOEY PARROTT (*Philostrate*) My “life” with Theatre began in 1975 when I played Mortimer in *The Fantasticks*, with Dalton Little Theatre – at Prater’s Mill. That led me to attending Shorter College and majoring in Theatre and Communications, with a little influence from Karen Keith who had directed *Lil’ Abner* at Murray County High School. During college days at Shorter, I played Bottom in *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, but I did come back to Dalton and assisted the director for *The Women*. After graduation, I

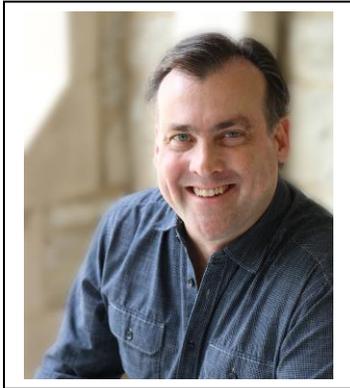
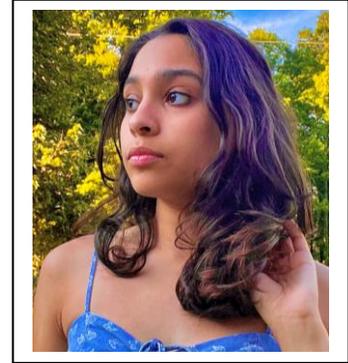
moved to Dalton and was cast in *Butterflies Are Free*; *No Sex, Please, We’re British*. Other shows included *Irma la Deuce*, *No Time for Sergeants*, and *Dracula*. I directed *California Suite*, and co-directed *Vanities*, then played Judas/John the Baptist in *Godspell*. Some of my other favorites include: *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo 10 years after my first production); the emcee in *Pippin*; *The Nerd* (Willum); *The Foreigner* (Owen); *Waiting for Godot*; *Red, Hot and Cole*; *Pump Boys and Dinettes*; *Wait Until Dark*; *Bells Are Ringing*; *My Fair Lady* (directed and played Professor Higgins); *Little Shop of Horrors*; *City of Angels*; *Spirit Walk*; *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*; *Beyond Therapy*; *Ten Little Indians*; *Born Yesterday*; *They’re Playing Our Song*; *The Man Who Came To Dinner*; 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; directed *Private Lives*; *Belles*; *Daddy’s Dying*, *Who’s Got the Will*; and *Sordid Lives*. Now in retirement after 35 years with Wells Fargo Bank, I travel the world with friends and family with Fun Club Travel.

TIFFANY PETITT (Assistant Stage Manager/Photographer)

Tiffany Petitt started her career in production working on hit shows like *2 Broke Girls* and *Two and a Half Men* in 2011. In 2017 she left LA and moved to Dalton GA. She has been working with the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition since 2019 with their inaugural performance of *Henry V*.

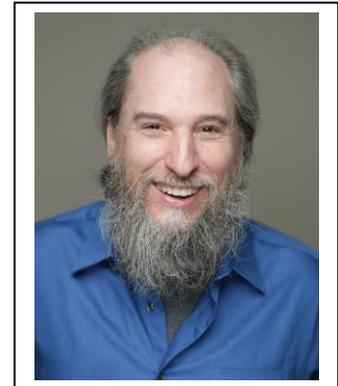


SARAI PUENTES (*Cobweb*) is a rising Dalton High School 10th grader that has participated in multiple Dalton Public School productions including: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Neverending Story*, *Phantom Tollboth* and *Peter Pan*. She was also an ensemble for Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition's presentation of *Twelfth Night*. She is fluent in both English and Spanish and has experience on both the Piano and Ukulele. Sarai is known for her creative ideas in design, video editing, and writing. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, photography, and cooking.

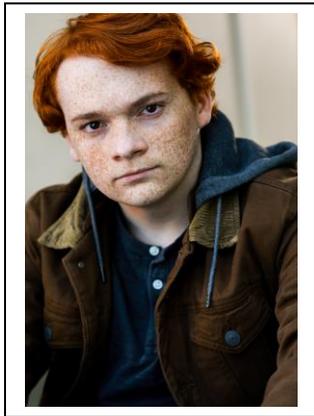


STEVE RAY (*Egeus/Set Designer*) is the Associate Head of the Department of Performing Arts at UTC and the Artistic Director of the UTC Theatre Co. He is a theatre generalist who has directed, acted, or scenic designed for such companies as the Birmingham Children's Theatre, the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, Theatre Tuscaloosa, the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition, the Chattanooga Theatre Centre, UA Opera, and Birmingham Festival Theatre. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Theatre Centre.

BRIAN WEBB RUSSELL (*Nick Bottom/Pyramus*) Brian is beyond grateful for the chance to come back to Dalton and the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition to perform in *MIDSUMMER*. Previously, folks here may remember him as the loud and abrasive Pistol in *HENRY V*. *MIDSUMMER* happily marks Brian's first real performance back on the wicked stage since the lockdowns of 2020, but before that, he was kept busy in a touring production of *MACBETH* for Nashville Shakespeare Festival, a five-person version of *CHRISTMAS CAROL* for Nashville Repertory Theatre, and a narrator role for Nashville Opera's *CINDERELLA*. No stranger to Shakespeare, Brian has been seen regionally in productions of *HAMLET*, *MERCHANT OF VENICE*, *THE TEMPEST*, *TWELFTH NIGHT*, *RICHARD III*, *JULIUS CAESAR*, *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, *TAMING OF THE SHREW* and *KING LEAR*. Adult Swim fans may remember him as the exotic loudmouth Cockey Rico in "Tropical Cop Tales", while country music fans might remember him in videos for Toby Keith, Shooter Jennings and Jeff Foxworthy. Brian has received accolades for his work in Nashville and St Petersburg, FL, and he was awarded the Tennessee Art Commission's Ingram Theatre Fellowship in 2010.



ADAM STARK (*Puck*) Adam is a veteran of the Stage, having performed in many shows for local theater, as well as the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition's previous two shows. He is excited to perform for the Coalition again this year.



ELLIS STEPHENS (*Ensemble/Theseus Attendant*) is a rising sophomore at Dalton High School with numerous acting credits to his name, including leading roles in “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” “Billy Elliot” and “The Neverending Story.” He has performed with the Conasauga Shakespeare Coalition and is a student at Catapult Acting Studios in Atlanta. Recent performances include: “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” “Into The Woods,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Murder on the Orient Express,” “The Book of Will,” “The Borrowers” and “Where Do We Go From Here?” He recently premiered his one-act musical “Click” during a workshop performance at Dalton Junior High. Ellis is a two-time NPR Student Podcast Challenge finalist. His film “Reflections” was the winner of the inaugural Studio D Journalism 1-Minute Film Festival and was selected into the fourth annual Georgia Thespian Film Festival.