

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

December 2022

Dear theater family & friends,

Brookfield Theatre is so grateful to be back to doing what we love so much here on stage and in the community. It has been an eventful 65th year filled with wonderful live performances. We are so proud to end this year with one of Shakespeare's most popular and challenging shows through the expert guidance of Jane Farnol, an alumna of the American Shakespeare Theatre and member of the Brookfield Theatre Board of Directors, who has adapted the script for modern audiences by focusing on action. We hope you will agree that this version offers a new understanding of the play and makes it more accessible while retaining Shakespeare's language and prose.

Our 65th anniversary year ends as it began, as a welcoming and supportive place for artists and people discovering talents, practicing the craft of acting, and sharing a sense of community and friendship. This building and organization are here today thanks to all the board members past and present who have invested an incredible amount of time, talent, and treasure to keep Brookfield Theatre strong, and all the volunteers on stage and off who have given so much to create shows and events that Brookfield Theatre is rightfully proud of.

Some special thanks are due to our treasurer **Danette Bottelsen** who helped us secure much needed grants, to the generosity of our **donors**, and to our loyal **subscribers**, who helped us weather the pandemic and keep going! Thanks also to **Andrew Okell** for being the theatre handyman and reorganizing the shop area, **David Jurman** and **Art Stueck** for repairing the outdoor snack shed, **Art Stueck** for rejuvenating the landscaping, **Chris Fay** for redecorating & repairing the actors' area, **David Anctil** for designing, building and decorating the new green room, and **Jane Farnol** and **Vermilion Novak** for reorganizing and sorting costumes and props. Thank you!

Here's how you can help:

- Spread the word—tell your friends about us or bring them to a show!
- Support us with your donation, subscription, or membership!
- Join us as a volunteer and help make wonderful theatre happen!

Enjoy The Show,

Lou Okell, President

OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Cicala and Dot French when they placed an ad in the local newspaper asking, "Are you a ham?" They found many hams to join their ranks and their first play was produced in 1958, performing in schools and church halls. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of Brookfield's community theater. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc." to reflect this commitment. At the same time, plans began for the building of a lobby annex to offer a gathering place for social events and concerts, and gallery space for art exhibits. The new lobby was dedicated in 2005. This year marks Brookfield's 65th year as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing quality live performances, cultural events, and educational workshops to the community.

Thank you for supporting our work—please help us spread the word!

HAMLET

Prince of Denmark

BY **William Shakespeare**

adapted & directed by **Jane Farnol**

music composed by **Emma Okell**

fight choreographer **Adam Battelstein**

Brookfield Theatre's 65th Anniversary Season
is made possible with the support of the Department of Economic
and Community Development, Office of Arts;

Support has also been provided to Brookfield Theatre from
CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by
the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community
Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the
Connecticut State Legislature;

Along with the generous donations of our many
supporters and subscribers.

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with copyright laws, the taking photos or recordings of any kind is strictly prohibited. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL** non-essential electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons are welcome to text or tweet in the lobby.**

HAMLET

Prince of Denmark

BY **William Shakespeare**

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Characters

(in order of appearance)

BARNARDO, Danish soldier	
HORATIO, Hamlet's friend and confidant.	Sean Latasa
MARCELLUS, Danish soldier	Jimmy Collins
THE GHOST	John Taylor
HAMLET, Prince of Denmark, son of	Thomas Samuels
the late King Hamlet & Queen Gertrude	
QUEEN GERTRUDE, widow of King Hamlet, . . .	Maureen Gallagher
now married to Claudius	
KING CLAUDIUS, brother to the late King Hamlet . . .	Miles Everett
OPHELIA	Jennifer Wallace
LAERTES, her brother.	Kevoy Sommerville
POLONIUS, father of Ophelia and Laertes,	Christopher Bird
councillor to King Claudius	
ROSENCRANTZ, a courtier.	Jared Reynolds
GUILDENSTERN, a courtier	Collin Larson
PLAYER KING	
PLAYER QUEEN	Jimmy Collins
LUCIANUS, a player	Tom Heydenburg
PLAYER	Ron Malyszka
GRAVEDIGGER	Tim Breslin
PRIEST	Ron Malyszka
FUNERAL ATTENDANTS	Jared Reynolds, Tom Heydenburg

SETTING

Elsinore Castle, Denmark

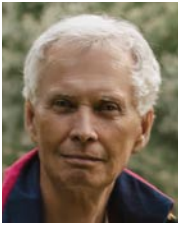
There will be a 15 minute intermission.

BIOGRAPHIES

Adam Battelstein (FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER) spent 19 years with world renowned dance company, Pilobolus. He left something of himself with them and brought something of them with him when he left. His is the founder of Catapult Entertainment which performed 4 times on Season 8 of America's Got Talent for the judges and for millions of viewers. The live audience leapt to their feet before prompters could tell them to; the judges gave standing ovations and America was captivated. Adam has traveled the world as a performer and director, soloed at Carnegie Hall, performed at the 2007 Academy Awards, danced on the Oprah show and can even fit his entire body inside a suitcase.



Christopher Bird (POLONIUS) studied at HB studios with graduate training at American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, and worked in film and television. Stage credits include MOON OVER BUFFALO, MACBETH, GOD OF CARNAGE, THE NORMAL HEART, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, RAVENSCROFT, CAUGHT IN THE NET, VERONICA'S ROOM, MURDERERS, TEMPEST, MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, and others. He has also performed in several virtual Shakespeare productions with Jane over the pandemic.



Tim Breslin (GRAVEDIGGER) comes late to acting. Except for a role in a high school play, his first performance was as Reggie in QUARTET at Theatreworks in New Milford in 2019. Since then he has played in several zoom Shakespeare performances under Jane Farnol's direction. In 2021, he was Theseus in an outdoor version of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, also under Jane's direction.



Jimmy Collins (MARCELLUS/PLAYER QUEEN) is excited to be returning to the stage at Brookfield, fresh off his ensemble role in DISASTER! back in May. He is very excited to be performing as both Marcellus and Player Queen! Jimmy thanks the cast and crew for helping him grow as an actor during this run. He hopes you enjoy the show and thanks you for coming!

Irine Dumitrascu (SET PAINTING/POSTER DESIGN) comes from a theatrical family and was exposed to many aspects of acting throughout her young life. Her first love is the visual arts and she is very excited to show her artwork in the Brookfield Theatre Gallery. She is currently a high school sophomore.



Miles Everett (CLAUDIUS) has appeared at Brookfield Theatre as Felix in THE NORMAL HEART and Rothko in RED. Recent roles have included Morris in THE HEIRESS, Dr Sugar in SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER, Michael in DANCING AT LUGHNASA, and Valmont in DANGEROUS LIASONS. Miles has been a member of Theatre Artists Workshop of Norwalk and studied with Carole Fox Prescott, Marlene Wallace, Kristin Linklater, Nenette Charisse, and the Corvins.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jane Farnol (DIRECTOR) was born in England and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and Elmhurst Ballet School. At RADA, she developed an abiding love of Shakespeare under the tutelage of octogenarian Miss Nell Carter. Her New York acting credits include Teresa in Brendan Behan's *The Hostage* at the Sheridan Square Playhouse, the Chorus in *The Trojan Women* directed by Theodore Mann at Circle in the Square, and Ann in the Broadway production of *Hail Scrawdyke!* directed by Alan Arkin. At the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, Connecticut, her roles ranged from Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* playing opposite to and directed by Cyril Ritchard, to Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* directed by John Houseman. On television, Jane had running roles on *The Guiding Light* and *As The World Turns*. Jane's movie *The Colonial Naturalist* is shown as a permanent feature at Colonial Williamsburg. At WCBS Radio, Jane was Dave Garroway's assistant and Executive Director of Lee Theodore's *American Dance Machine*. Since moving to Connecticut Jane has directed over thirty-five plays in eighteen years at various venues.



Maureen Gallagher (GERTRUDE) is pleased to be joining Jane and everyone at Brookfield Theatre on a visit to Denmark this holiday season. Favorite Shakespeare roles include, Princess of France (*LOVES LABOUR'S LOST*), Beatrice (*MUCH ADO*), Mistress Page (*MERRY WIVES*), Constance (*KING JOHN*), Titania (*A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTS DREAM*), and Tamora (*TITUS ANDRONICUS*). Roles in modern times include Dr. Livingston (*AGNES OF GOD*), Lily (*THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY*), and Ruth (*BLITHE SPIRIT*). Much love to my family who never met a line they wouldn't run with me.



Tom Heydenburg (LUCIANUS) has been a resident of New Milford with his wife Laura, son Tim and daughter Abi for the past 35 years. Tom has been seen in productions at Sherman Playhouse, Sherman JCC, Shakespeare in Sharon, and Brookfield. "Along with having fun developing whatever talent I may have, I have most enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of my fellow actors. A special thanks to Lou and Jane."



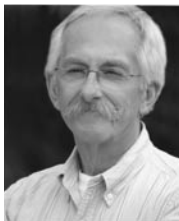
Collin Larson (GUILDENSTERN) This is Collin's first Shakespeare-ience. He was last seen on the Brookfield Stage in a staged reading of an original musical *TRUE NORTH*. He has been performing since age 4 starting with TheatreWorks Kids and has been in many productions over the years. Some of his favorite stage roles to date include Collin Craven in *THE SECRET GARDEN*, Amahl in *AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS*, Young Tommy in *TOMMY*, Danny Zuko in *GREASE*, and ensemble roles in *YOUNG FRANKENESTEIN* and *BILLY ELLIOT*. Collin most recently played the role of George Dawson in *CARRIE THE MUSICAL* at Sherman Playhouse. Collin graduated from Waterbury Arts Magnet School in 2020 and has been focusing on his professional acting career, which has changed a lot since COVID. Thank you to Jane for this wonderful opportunity, Suzi Pettibone for the coaching, and to Dad for the rides to and from rehearsal.

BIOGRAPHIES



Sean Latasa (HORATIO) is excited to be back at Brookfield after performing in the well received 3-person show NIGHT OF THE ASSASSINS. He has previously been seen here in the “Scottish Play”, MOON OVER BUFFALO, and several virtual shows (A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, MISS BENNETT: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY, MR. BURNS...). Other favorite shows include 1776, YOU CAN’T TAKE IT WITH YOU, TWELVE ANGRY MEN, and AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG. Sean thanks

Jane and Lou for this opportunity as well as the hard working cast and crew. Thank you for coming—enjoy the show!



Ron Malyszka (STAGE MANAGER/PRIEST) Over the last few decades, Ron has more than 50 credits in regional and community theatre productions throughout western CT and beyond. Performances here include NATIVE GARDENS (Frank Butley), MACBETH, THE LION IN WINTER, NOISES OFF, THE FANTASTIKS, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, and TUESDAYS WITH MORIE to name a few. Ron also appeared in the recent virtual productions of HENRY V, A MIDSUMMER

NIGHT’S DREAM, and RICHARD II. He is thrilled to be back working with Jane on HAMLET! Enjoy the show.

Andrew Okell (PRODUCER/SET BUILD-2011 Volunteer of the Year) first started in theatre at the tender age of 8 in THE TIME MACHINE. He has been building and designing sets at Brookfield since 2008 (more than 50 in total!). Favorites include LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS (Rose Brand Best Amateur Set Design 2012), STEEL MAGNOLIAS, LION IN WINTER, MOON OVER BUFFALO, and personal favorite NOISES OFF. Thank you to his building cohorts for enabling him, Lou for tolerating him, and Emma for letting him build her doghouse.

Emma Okell (MUSIC COMPOSER) studied music composition under Avner Dorman at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College. She has composed music for several plays as well as a virtual chorus production during the pandemic. She thanks Jane for the opportunity to compose original musical for HAMLET.

Lou Okell (SOUND & LIGHT DESIGN-2009 Volunteer of the Year) currently serves as theatre president. She is a graphic arts professional by day and began volunteering with Brookfield Theatre making free flyers in 1987. Her first show role was as Child Wrangler for PETER PAN in 2008 and she has had the time of her life working backstage (and once or twice on stage) on many, many shows. Most recently, she directed SWEAT which was nominated for several Broadway World Non-Professional Awards. She thanks the wonderful cast & crew for making tragedy such fun, the Board of Directors for the opportunity, Emma for the beautiful music, and to Jane for all the adventures—looking forward to the next one! Love always to Andy and Emma.

Anna Patin (SET TEAM) is a graduate of Parsons School of Design with a concentration in Photography. Anna is happy to join the set build team at Brookfield Theatre and thanks Sharon for encouragement and love.

BIOGRAPHIES



Jared Reynolds (ROSENCRANTZ) is excited to be back on the Brookfield stage for the third time this season. The last time he performed Shakespeare was in AS YOU LIKE IT back in 2017, making this an exciting return to a genre he adores. Other credits on the Brookfield stage include the Favorite Son in AMERICAN IDIOT, Chad in DISASTER, and a featured singer in Brookfield's 65TH ANNIVERSARY CABARET. Many of his short plays received a virtual reading with Brookfield in 2021, including E.Y.E., THE MISSING CONNECTION, BLIZZARD, WHATEVER YOU'RE HAVING, WORLD'S AWAY, and EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION; the last of which also received a professional production at the Nelson Hall Theatre.



Thomas Samuels (HAMLET) Thank you for coming—I really hope you like our show. This play is very personal to me, and since you chose to read this instead of your phone, I'd love to tell you why. To me, Hamlet speaks to the big questions that we all have to answer: what's worth doing and why? What really matters? How are we supposed to live this life. I don't pretend to know the answers, but I know that this play helps me to live from within and not to be so distracted by the "ghosts" of our modern world. I hope it does the same for you. I hope you find your Ophelia. I hope you hold them tight.



Kevoy Somerville (LAERTES) is excited to return to Brookfield after performing here as Chris in SWEAT and, before that, lending a hand as Jake/Chef in DISASTER! He also performed here as Justin in BLOOD AT THE ROOT and in a virtual RICHARD II (Duke of Aumerle). Other credits include SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUES with Shakespeare in Sharon, Wren in a staged reading of INSOMNIACS at Playhouse on Park, and Beleaguered Geek in HEATHERS at Landmark.

Kevoy is a graduate of NVCC where he performed in numerous shows including MR. BURNS, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE LARAMIE PROJECT, GOLDEN BOY, HEARTS LIKE FISTS, CABARET, and GODSPELL. Kevoy has also directed and run tech for many shows. He thanks his family and friends for their continuing support.

Sharon Suchecki (SET TEAM) has volunteered over at Richter and has done some indoor construction work renovating kitchens. Sharon thanks Andy for making me part of the set team!



John Taylor (GHOST) With principal roles in two movies and twelve weeks on Broadway in THE EXES during 2019 behind him, he was "on a roll". Then came Covid! It set him to dreaming of the Shakespearian Age and a return to simpler days. With this in mind, he founded Shakespeare in Sharon which performed at various venues during the pandemic.

BIOGRAPHIES

Joanna Tucker (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) was last scene as Snug's Wife in AMND and behind the scenes for MOON OVER BUFFALO (Brookfield). Favorite roles include Hermia (AMND), Clara (PYGMALION), Sorel in (HAY FEVER), Louka (ARMS AND THE MAN), Cicely (EARNEST), Viola (TWELFTH NIGHT), all directed by Jane. Joanna currently is an Orton Gillingham practitioner and Director of Community Service at Marvelwood. Love always to daughters Bella and Irine.



Jennifer Wallace (OPHELIA) is thrilled to be back at Brookfield Theatre, having made her debut earlier this year in the 65TH ANNIVERSARY CABARET. Other favorite stage credits include THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Edith) and IL MIKADO (Pippa) with Troupers Light Opera, WEST SIDE STORY (Clarice/Somewhere Soloist) at Wilton Playshop, and SCROOGE: THE MUSICAL (Isabel/Helen) with Brewster Theater Company. Jennifer can also be heard as a voice actor on various episodes of the Phoenix Theatre & Arts Company's Audio Drama Series Podcast. Many thanks to Jane and Lou for this opportunity, to the wonderful cast and production team, and to her family and friends for their support.

SPECIAL THANKS to our 65th Anniversary Partners

Thank you to spring intern **Bella Dumitrascu** and summer intern **Penelope Wade** for their work in discovering and documenting images from Brookfield Theatre's past. Special thanks to **Beth Young** for all her work on the 65th Anniversary video project, to **Chris Bird** for his videography and creative input, and to all those who were interviewed for sharing their stories. We look forward to sharing their work with you later this year!

HAMLET

Prince of Denmark

BY **William Shakespeare**

adapted & directed by **Jane Farnol**

Production Crew

DIRECTOR	Jane Farnol
PRODUCER	Andrew Okell
COMPOSER	Emma Okell
STAGE MANAGER	Ron Malyszka
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Joanna Tucker
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER	Adam Battelstein
LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN	Lou Okell
SET DESIGN	Sharon Suchecki
COSTUMES	Maureen Gallagher, Jane Farnol
LIGHTING TECHNICIAN	Timothy Klapprott
SOUND TECHNICIAN	Savannah Loftus
SET BUILD & DECORATION	Irine Dumitrascu, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Anna Patin, Sharon Suchecki
MAKE-UP ARTIST	Ashley Colombo
POSTER DESIGN	Irine Dumitrascu
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER	Stephen Cihanek
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	Andy & Lou

Special Thanks

Arketype Graphics, Stacey Snyder, Suzi Pettibone,
Caroline Brody, Renee Purdy & Warner Theatre Costume Shop

In compliance with CDC recommendations, please follow current mask & social distance guidelines. Remain seated throughout the performance and mingle with cast and friends in the lobby or outdoors after the show.

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.
