



San Francisco Shakespeare Festival



Shakespeare on Tour 2025

by William Shakespeare

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO AND JULIET

CAST

Authority/Mercutio/Friar Laurence	Valerie Fachman
Abram, Montague Servant/Romeo	Frances Domingos
Sampson/Capulet Servant/Juliet	Izzy Roth
Benvolio/Nurse	Mikki Johnson
Tybalt/Lady Capulet/Paris	Rebecca Pingree

Alternates: Christopher Prescott (alternate to Valerie Fachman); William Brosnahan (alternate to Frances Domingos); Sylvia Abrams-Wolffsohn (alternate to Izzy Roth); Magdalena del Castillo (alternate to Mikki Johnson); Anthony Doan (alternate to Rebecca Pingree)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Props	Katja Rivera
Assistant Director/Rehearsal Stage Manager.....	April Ballesteros
Fight Director/Artistic Director	Carla Pantoja
Vocal and Text Coach.....	Andy Alabran
Costume Designer	Chris Steele
Intimacy Director	Jeunée Simon
Tour Manager.....	Frances Domingos
Tour Program Manager	Evan Held

SYNOPSIS

Romeo Montague is in love with the unattainable Rosaline and, in an attempt to cure his lovesick misery, his friends persuade him to go disguised to a party at the home of his family's sworn enemies, the Capulets. Romeo reluctantly agrees to go when he learns that Rosaline has been invited.

At the party, he meets Juliet, daughter of the Capulets, and they fall instantly in love. Shocked by the discovery that their families are sworn enemies, both Romeo and Juliet are determined to marry, and choose go-betweens to help them arrange a secret wedding. Romeo asks Friar Laurence to conduct the ceremony, while Juliet sends her nurse to meet Romeo and learn the arrangements he has made.

Secretly married to Juliet, Romeo encounters her aggressive cousin, Tybalt, who challenges him to a duel. Romeo is unwilling to fight with him, but his closest friend, Mercutio takes up the challenge. Romeo steps between them in an effort to stop the fight, and Mercutio is stabbed to death. Romeo then kills Tybalt in a rage and is forced to flee. Romeo is distraught and runs to the Friar for advice and help. Juliet, unaware of the death of her cousin or her new husband's banishment, awaits Romeo's arrival. When she learns what has happened, Juliet is so distraught that the Nurse promises to arrange one night together for the newly-weds before Romeo must leave Verona. The following morning at dawn, the couple part sadly, promising each other that they will find a way to be together forever.

Juliet's mother believes that her grief is caused by Tybalt's death so they suggest she should marry Count Paris immediately.

Realizing that she is so desperate that she might commit suicide the Friar advises her to go home and make peace with her parents. He then gives her a potion that is guaranteed to make it appear that she has died in her sleep. He promises to send a letter to Romeo immediately, explaining the situation and asking him to return in time to be with Juliet when she awakes.

Juliet takes the potion and is discovered 'dead' when her nurse and mother try to wake her for her marriage to Paris. Her 'corpse' is then taken to the crypt. Instead of learning of the Friar's plan, Romeo hears news of Juliet's supposed death. Devastated, he purchases poison to kill himself and hurries back to Verona, planning to die by Juliet's side.

Having learned that his messenger had not reached Romeo, the Friar runs to the crypt and reaches Juliet's side just as she revives. Unable to persuade Juliet to leave her dead husband, the Friar runs away, leaving Juliet alone with Romeo's body. Discovering that their plans have failed, she pulls his dagger, stabs herself and dies.

Realizing their feud has brought about the deaths of their children, the warring families are reconciled and agree to build a monument to the young lovers.

Shakespeare on Tour is supported by:



DID YOU KNOW...

- Shakespeare's original title for the play was *The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*.
- *Romeo and Juliet* was based on an Italian story called *Mariotto and Gianozza*.
- The play takes place in Verona, Italy over a period of 4 days.
- 90% of the play is written in verse.
- Thousands of love letters are sent to Juliet's house in Verona on Valentine's Day each year.

CAST



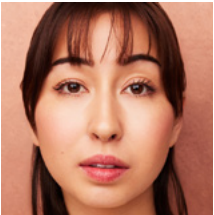
VALERIE FACHMAN - (L TO R) AUTHORITY/MERCUTIO/FRIAR LAURENCE

Valerie (she/they) welcomes this opportunity with SF Shakes, to explore Shakespeare with fresh minds and re-discover how his stories can be relevant today. They've spent 15+ years working as actor, singer, designer, co-producer, and writer in the Bay Area, after working in Chicago theatre about 15 years. In 2024 they played Belarius in Berkeley Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, then Antipholus of Ephesus/ Duke of Marin Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*. Last fall, they portrayed Seth in world premiere *People of the Shifting Sands*, by Nirmala Nataraj—paired with Pinter's *One for the Road* and *New World Order* as the cautionary *Interrogations on the Eve of the Election*, produced by Performers Under Stress, a company Valerie has shared with AD Scott Baker for over 30 years.



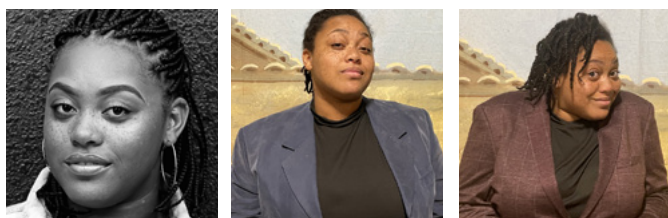
FRANCES DOMINGOS - (L TO R) ABRAM, MONTAGUE SERVANT/ROMEO

Frances (they/he) is a UCSB graduate and a recent Bay Area arrival. You may have caught them as King Richard in Bard Theatre's *Richard II*, Orlando in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's *As You Like It*, and Shasta BabyCakes in Theatre Rhino's *Pride of Lions*. They are proud to be returning to San Francisco Shakespeare Festival for another season. They have spent the last year expanding their resume to include assistant directing, stage combat experience, and enjoying all the other mayhem that came along. When he isn't working on stage or backstage, Frances can be found running, button making, and reading. You can keep up with Frances' ventures at francesmdomingos.com and @ftdomingos on IG.



IZZY ROTH- (L TO R) SAMPSON/CAPULET SERVANT/JULIET

Izzy (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Bay Area theater debut with SF Shakes! She is originally from the East Bay, and just graduated from UCLA's School of Theater with an emphasis in Musical Theater. She has recently performed in *Twelfth Night* (Viola) and *Something Rotten!* (Bardette/Ensemble). She is very passionate about theater accessibility, education, and collaborative work. Her time outside of the theater is spent knitting, reading, throwing themed parties, and expanding her resume's special skills section (she's currently trying to master juggling). izzyroth.com IG: @izzy.r



MIKKI JOHNSON - (L TO R) BENVOLIO/NURSE

Mikki (she/her/he/him) is Vocalist and Bay Area native who studied Theatre Arts (with the concentration of Acting and Musical Theater) at California State East Bay. He has recently been seen onstage as Paulette in *Legally Blonde* with the Ray of Light theater company and previously in *Ms. Bennett's Christmas at Pemberley* with the Altarena theater company and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Berkeley Shakespeare Company. Mikki is very passionate about voice artistry and amplifying BIPOC and LGBTQ+ presence in the theater and entertainment world. IG: @MikkiRJ93



REBECCA PINGREE - (L TO R) TYBALT/LADY CAPULET/PARIS

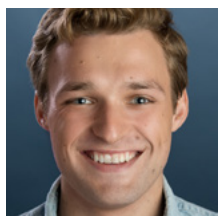
Rebecca (she/her) holds an MFA from Rose Bruford in London, and co-founded Analog Theatre Collective (analogtheatre.org). Recent credits include Dromio in *Comedy of Errors* at Marin Shakespeare, Molly in *A Thousand Natural Shocks* at PlayGround, *As You Like It* with SF Shakes on Tour, May in *People Where They Are* at SJ Stage, and Sulla/Alquist in Chris Steele's adaptation of *R.U.R.* at Cutting Ball. She's a long-time member of PlayGround's Acting Company, a regular deviser/performer for Analog Theatre's Mask Monday series, and, whenever possible, you can find her making masks and puppets at the Compound Gallery Studios in Emeryville.

ALTERNATES



CHRISTOPHER PRESCOTT - (L TO R) AUTHORITY/MERCUTIO/FRIAR LAURENCE

Christopher is a prolific actor, producer, director, standup comedian, writer, and teaching artist. During his career in theatre, he has had the opportunity to work with such astounding theatre companies as We Players, Stanford Repertory Theatre, Theatreworks, Merlin Entertainments, American Immersion Theater, Northside Theater, Pear Avenue Theater, and many others. He is the recipient of the Hal Todd Award for Excellence in Acting from San Jose State University (2010), as well as a Theatre Bay Area Award for Best Ensemble (2015). This production marks his third tour with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.!



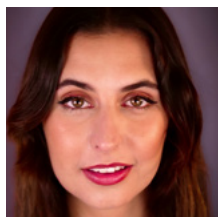
WILLIAM BROSNAHAN- (L TO R) ABRAM, MONTAGUE SERVANT/ROMEO

William (he/him) is pumped to be returning for a second year at SF Shakes on Tour. He is a graduate from Carnegie Mellon School of Drama and has loved making the Bay his new home. His past roles include Orlando in SF Shake's *As You Like It*, a handyman/daemon in Mas Marami Art's Filipino family drama *Maldysion*, and you catch him in Shotgun Player's production of *Yellow Face* in the role of Marcus beginning May 17.



SYLVIA ABRAMS-WOLFFSOHN - (L TO R) SAMPSON/CAPULET SERVANT/JULIET

Sylvia (he/they/she) is a local actor from Oakland/Berkeley who graduated from Oakland School of the Arts in 2018 and UCLA School of Theater in 2022, tackling acting and directing both pre- and post-pandemic. These bizarre-wonderful-strange theater experiences prompted Sylvia to return home to the Bay Area theater community with bells on and has since performed with Marin Shakespeare, African American Shakespeare Company, and now SF Shakespeare Festival. Sylvia works behind the scenes too, previously at CalShakes and currently as a House Manager at The Marsh. Besides theater, Sylvia enjoys feeding birds and spending time with their beloved cat, Stanley.



MAGDALENA DEL CASTILLO - BENVOLIO/NURSE

Magdalena (she/they) is a local actor and Bay Area native from Marin County and is excited to be a part of the San Francisco Shakespeare touring team. Recent credits include *As You Like It* with Jacobethan Theatre Workshop, *Lysistrata* with Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Green Show, and *Best Available* with Ashland New Plays Festival. They have a BFA in Theatre with an emphasis in Acting from Southern Oregon University, in addition to undergrad training at American Conservatory Theatre. When not acting you can find her doing improvised lights for BATS Improv, walking dogs that aren't hers, or listening to an audiobook on Libby. IG: @mag.del



ANTHONY DOAN - (L TO R) TYBALT/LADY CAPULET/PARIS

Anthony Doan (he/they) is delighted to return to San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. They are a queer, first-generation Vietnamese-American theatre artist currently based in the Bay Area. Notable acting credits include *Notable acting credits include Celia/Adam/Phebe* in last year's educational tour of *As You Like It*, Nguyễn/Quang/Sam in the world premiere in the world premiere of *Colonialism is Terrible, but Phở is Delicious* (Aurora Theatre Company & Oregon Contemporary Theatre), *The 39 Steps* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Cyrano de Bergerac: A Queeroic Comedy* (Island Shakespeare Festival), *Vietgone* (City Lights Theatre Company), and *Porcelain* (Brown Bag Theatre Company). Anthony strives to viscerally entertain and challenge audiences, provoke political thoughts, and inspire people to empathetically listen to the world in a different vibration. IG: @theanthonydoan

(CREATIVE TEAM



KATJA RIVERA - DIRECTOR, PROPS DESIGNER

Katja is a Theater Artist, Bodyworker and Abuela. She is originally from Los Angeles, and studied theater at LACC Theatre Academy and Drama Studio London at Berkeley. Bay Area acting credits include: Shotgun Players, Magic Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Center Rep. Directing credits include Shotgun Players, Theatre Cultura, Douglas Morrison, CustomMade, RPE (Danville), SF Playground and TheatreFIRST. She is a long-time company member of Shotgun Players, an associate producer with PlayGround-SF and a member of Latinx Mafia. Recent directing credits include: *Yerma* (Shotgun Players) *La Vida Loca* (Theatre Cultura) *References To Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (Custom Made Theatre).



APRIL BALLESTEROS - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

April (she/her) is an actor, director, educator, and stage manager. She is the Associate Artistic Director of Theatre Cultura and worked in the Artistic Learning Department at the California Shakespeare Theater for 7 years. She has worked with SF Playhouse, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, SFBATCO, and Shotgun Players, to name a few. She earned a BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, East Bay, and hails from East Los Angeles. With every project she does, she hopes to empower and uplift BIPOC voices and stories.



CARLA PANTOJA - FIGHT DIRECTOR/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Carla (she/they), born and raised in the South Bay, is also an actor, teaching artist, intimacy director, and mom of two – as well as artistic director for San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. She's been a Resident Artist since 2014 and recently served as Director of Vision for the 2021 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, directing episodes 2 and 4. In 2020, she was in the acting company at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, returning in 2022 as the festival's first female fight director. Carla is an associate instructor for Dueling Arts International and serves on their governing body as Vice President. She is also a proud member of Making Good Trouble, an anti-racist training cohort based in the Bay Area. Carla has directed SF Shakes' Shakespeare on Tour previous productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Comedy of Errors* and Assistant Directed the 2017 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Hamlet*. She played Paulina in Free Shakespeare in the Park's *The Winter's Tale*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*. She's performed with Cal Shakes, Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, Playground, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, and the SF Mime Troupe in the Bay Area to name a few.



CHRIS STEELE - COSTUME DESIGNER

Chris (they/she) is a queer trans nonbinary performance artist, writer, designer, and activist. Their work centers on highlighting queer narratives throughout history and combating bigotry and white supremacy. Her award-winning drag persona Polly Amber Ross can be found on instagram @pollyamberross. As a producer, Chris specializes in Marketing and Communications, and is the founder of Poltergeist Theatre Project.



ANDY ALABRAN - VOICE AND TEXT COACH

Andy received his B.A. in Theater from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and his M.F.A. in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. He is a teacher, director, and performer. He has taught at the American Conservatory Theater Young Conservatory and Studio, California Shakespeare Theater, Oakland School for the Arts, 826 Valencia (Tenderloin), Voice One, Stagebridge, Mission High, Burton High School, and Hayward High School. He was the Voice and Speech coach for Y.C. productions: *Begets and Wolves*. He directed the Y.C. Actor's Ensemble productions: *Electra*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Discovering Beckett*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He has performed with Theatre First, the Shotgun Players, and *Killing My Lobster*. A current company member of the Shotgun Players since 2000, his acting credits include *Woyzeck*, *The Death of Meyerhold*, *A Seagull in the Hamptons*, *Truffaldino Says No* (world premiere), and *Mother Courage*. He served as Creative Director with San Francisco's premiere sketch comedy group *Killing My Lobster*.



JEUNÉE SIMON - INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Jeunée (she/her) is bicoastal actor, director, and consent educator. She is dedicated to creating braver spaces where artists can be vulnerable and play. Recent intimacy direction credits include: *The Tutor* (NCTC), *Lear* (California Shakespeare Theater), *The Code* (A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory), *Coming Soon* (Z Space), *Boys Go to Jupiter* (Word for Word), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Berkeley Playhouse), and more. Simon is a proud recipient of the 2017 RHE Artistic Fellowship and was a 2019 Directing Apprentice with PlayGround. www.jeunesimon.com.



EVAN HELD - TOUR PROGRAM MANAGER

Evan (he/him) is a graduate from the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts (PCPA), and excited to be working with Shakespeare on Tour's *Romeo and Juliet*! He's been involved in numerous Shakespeare productions across the years. He's done shows all over Sonoma and Marin counties with companies such as Shakespeare in the Cannery, Redwood Theater Company, Ross Valley Players, Spreckels, Word for Word, and Marin Summer Theater. He also performed in SF Shakes touring production of *The Comedy of Errors*.

AN EVENING in VERONA

SAN FRANCISCO
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL

Annual Gala

Featuring a Performance of
ROMEO AND JULIET

APRIL
26

Saturday

5:30
PM

Get Your Tickets Now for An Evening in Verona, our gala fundraiser celebrating San Francisco Shakespeare Festival with art and artists!

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's annual gala returns on Saturday April 26, 2025 to the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club in the vibrant North Beach neighborhood. Mark your calendars for a fun and festive event that includes excellent food and drinks, exciting auction prizes, and a one-hour performance of Romeo and Juliet.

[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#) OR CALL 415-558-0888
OR EMAIL SFSHAKES@SFSHAKES.ORG





What else does the Shakespeare Festival do?

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK



This summer the 43rd season of our [Free Shakespeare in the Park](#) program, which has helped to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, presents *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. In this entertaining comedy two young men journey from a small Midwestern town – rooted in simplicity and tradition – to the alluring promise of California, where dreams are made and shattered in equal measure.

When finalized, dates, times, and locations will be posted at sfshakes.org. Get on our [notification list](#) for updates as they are announced!

BAY AREA SHAKESPEARE CAMP



For over 30 years San Francisco Shakespeare Festival has been offering [Shakespeare Camps](#) for kids of all experience levels, ages 7 to 13. Two-week camp sessions meet weekdays in San Francisco's Jerry Garcia Amphitheater in McLaren Park. Our teaching artists are working actors, stage managers, directors, and designers. In each session campers engage with each other in activities ranging from games and basic acting skills to more specialized training and deeper exploration of the themes and language of Shakespeare, culminating in a live performance attended by family and friends

IN-SCHOOL SESSIONS



We also provide [in-school sessions](#) to help educators in the classroom. Let our expert teaching artists activate your students' creativity, connection, and confidence. Building upon the foundation of your classroom, we facilitate the artistic and personal growth of each student while transforming the group into a fun, engaging, interactive ensemble, using curriculum that is specifically tailored to learning objectives and adapts to students. Our Education program brings over 30 years of educational and theatrical expertise to students for an immersive experience that they will never forget! Most of our programs can be taught in-person or virtually.

Pricing or education questions? Contact education@sfsakes.org

SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR



2024 touring production of As You Like It

For 35 years our [Shakespeare on Tour](#) program has traveled across California to bring a one-hour version of a Shakespeare play to thousands of students. Our touring troupe brings sets, props, costumes, and music to enliven their active and engaging performance. The tour visits more schools and libraries than any other theater group in the state!

SHAKESPEARE'S HEARTBEAT



Shakespeare's Heartbeat uses the Hunter Heartbeat Method developed by Kelly Hunter of Flute Theatre, utilizing the iambic pentameter (heartbeat rhythm) of Shakespeare's words and the physicality of his characters to engage with students on the autism spectrum. It is also effective across a constellation of abilities. Geared towards grades 4-12, this program's interactive games and gestures are paired with short phrases from Shakespeare's works to improve social skills and help with identifying and expressing emotions.

SHAKESPEARE FOR ALL NEIGHBORS



Shakespeare for All Neighbors (S4AN) is a pilot storytelling workshop series taking place in San Francisco's Tenderloin. This ongoing program meets Friday afternoons. Neighbors experiencing homelessness in the Tenderloin engage with workshops in Shakespeare and Storytelling. Festival teaching artists lead group exercises in creative thinking, acting, improv, and storytelling.

For more information about these exciting programs and others, please visit sfshakes.org or call us at 415-558-0888.

We'd love to hear from you!



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