

The Ballad of Young Will Jones

by David J. Dodge



Love, Laudanum
& Licentiousness
in 1785

UNSinkable
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The Story of *The Ballad of Young Will Jones*

The Ballad of Young Will Jones is a comedy about life in the theater in 1785 America. America in 1785 was not a good place to be a theater artist. The theater in general was frowned upon and in many places was illegal, being classified with other unsavory pastimes as prostitution and gambling. Told from the perspective of an aging narrator, the play follows two days and two nights in the life of a company of struggling actors led by Henry Hallam and his wife Kate.

Henry and Kate are English and have migrated to America to form "Henry Hallam's American Theatrical Company". Two other English actors, Morris and Hodgekinson, are also in the company as are Fife and Drum the company musicians, and Will Jones and Molly Tuke, two young American actors.

As the play starts Will is in love with Molly, Molly is engaged to Hodgekinson, Morris is drunk, and Hallam has gambled his way into the pockets of his landlord, Mr Hickey. In an attempt to pay his debt, Hickey allows Hallam the use of his courtyard to stage a play by young Will Jones. Mrs. Hickey, however, does not want the play performed.

Trouble begins when some wayward laudanum (liquid opium) makes the rounds as the company tries to persuade Mrs. Hickey to allow them to perform their play. Mayhem ensues as the actors struggle to endure the cold realities of the theater. But in the end, the dark prince is defeated, kingdoms are conquered, and the River Nymph sings.

This year marks GreenStage's second foray into the Seattle Fringe Festival. Last year's very successful productions of Douglas Soderberg's *The Root of Chaos* and David Dodge's *The Bind* played to sold out audiences. The members of GreenStage are looking forward to making an annual appearance in the Festival.

For GreenStage the Fringe Festival represents a unique opportunity to step out of the boundaries Shakespeare's canon and flex their artistic muscles with the presentation of new works like *The Ballad of Young Will Jones*.

David J. Dodge started working on *The Ballad of Young Will Jones* nearly five years ago. Unfortunately, he hit the proverbial wall known as writer's block. Unable to finish *Will Jones* he began work on another play which became *The Bind*, an insightful and hysterical comedy about the perils, pitfalls and profits of writer's block. After *The Bind*'s successful run in last year's Fringe Festival, Mr. Dodge finally found the inspiration he needed to finish *The Ballad of Young Will Jones*.

The Ballad of Young Will Jones

by David J. Dodge

CAST

Old Man, The Narrator.....Edward L. Poole

Young Woman, his niece Amelia Meckler

Members of Henry Hallam's American Theatrical Company

(in order of appearance)

Morris, an English actor David J. Dodge

Will Jones, a poet and actor Jason Marr

Hannah, a prostitute (who joins the company)Rachel Hornor

Drum, a musician Eli Sklov Simons

Fife, brother to Drum, also a musician.....Mark McQuinn

Henry Hallam, an English theatrical manager Ken Holmes

Kate Hallam, actor and wife of Henry Hallam..... Erin Day

Molly Tuke, actor Courtney Bitner

Richard Hodgkinson, an English actorTony Driscoll

Mr. Hickey, the proprietor of the

courtyard and landlord to Henry Hallam Paul Prappas

Mrs. Hickey, wife of Mr. Hickey Lisa Viertel

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors • Tony Driscoll & Ken Holmes

Stage Manager • Amelia Meckler

Costumes • Angie Stutting

Fight Director • Mike Mahaffey

Props • Alison Mcrae

Production Manager • Linda Lombardi

SPECIAL THANKS

Susan Biles, Garfield High School, Barb Adams, Seattle Mennonite Church, Al Reamer, Burien Little Theater, Ivars, Sudden Films, Rick Horner, Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Homer of Fremont Detail, Nathan Rodda

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

COURTNEY BITNER (Molly Tuke) Courtney is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound where she appeared in such roles as Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Liz Morden in *Our Country's Good*, and Corky in *Giving up the Ghost*. She has also appeared with Centerstage in *Under Milkwood*, and at the Tacoma Repertory Theater in *A Christmas Carol* and *The Voice of the Prairie*. This is her first show since moving to Seattle. Many thanks to Toby for his continual love and encouragement.

ERIN DAY: (Kate, Queen) In addition to five seasons with GreenStage, Erin has worked locally with Alice B., Theater Babylon, D.A.M.N., and in several Seattle Fringe Festivals. Most recently she played Gertrude Stein in *The Artists at Gertrude Stein's and Alice B's*, a collaborative work with Planet Earth Theater. Last summer she had the great fortune to play Timon in GreenStage's *Timon of Athens*. Erin also serves on the GreenStage board of directors and is a proud member of the Washingtonians.

DAVID J. DODGE: (Writer, Morris) A native of Schenectady, NY, David is a founding member of GreenStage and serves on the board of directors. With the company he has directed *Julius Caesar*, *Pericles* and *Measure for Measure*. His acting credits include Richard in *Richard II*, Lysander in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Young Lucius in *Titus Andronicus*, and the jailor in *Two Noble Kinsmen*. He is also the author of GreenStage's 1999 Fringe Festival entry, *The Bind*.

TONY DRISCOLL: (Co-Director, Hodgkinson) A proud resident of Georgetown, Tony has been with GreenStage since the early days of 1991. With them he has directed numerous productions including *Richard II*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Cymbeline*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Acting credits with the group include roles in *Measure for Measure*, *Julius Caesar*, and *The Bind*.

Tony has directed past Fringe shows including *Loose Canons - A Musical about Oliver North*, *Birth, Death and Something Soft in the Middle*, *Maytags* and *You'll Feel a Prick*. He would like to thank the Washingtonians Choir and The Purdins for putting up with him.

KEN HOLMES: (Co-Director, Hallam) Ken was last seen on stage with GreenStage in the role of York in *Richard II*. Ken has also been a long time company member and board member, starting his tenure in 1993. Since then he has performed in fourteen of the nineteen shows produced by the company and has directed two. Most recently he directed *Timon of Athens* and acted in both of last years Fringe Festival entries. On stage he has been seen as Bottom in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cloten in *Cymbeline*, Jacques in *As You Like It*, and Aaron (the evil party clown) in *Titus Andronicus*. He has also worked with Centerstage in *Bus Stop* and *Under Milkwood*. Ken is also a proud member of the Washingtonians Choir.

RACHEL HORNOR: (Hannah) *The Ballad of Young Will Jones* is Rachel's second show with GreenStage, having previously appeared in *Timon of Athens* last summer. Rachel has performed in a wide range of shows from *Oleanna* to *The Fantasticks*, and most recently, as Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* with Emerald City Players. She can also be found making stuff up with Taproot Theatre Company's *Nightcap Comedy Improv*. She thanks Dave for giving us this play.

JASON MARR: (Young Will Jones) You may have seen Jason in the Fringe last year in the other Dave Dodge original, *The Bind*, as Valentino. Other favorite GreenStage roles include Antipholus of Ephesus in *Comedy of Errors*, Sir Peregrine in *Volpone*, Bushy and Lord Fitzwater in *Richard II* and Arcite in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.

MARK A. McQUINN: (Fife, music) Mark is extremely proud to be involved in his ninth GreenStage production. Although

originally recruited as a musician, he has been encouraged and challenged to expand his acting range as well. Favorite roles include some of the ones with lines. He hopes you enjoy the music.

AMELIA MECKLER (Young Woman, Stage Manager) Amelia really enjoys multi-tasking, so she's thrilled to be pulling double-duty for GreenStage. If it weren't for this incredibly talented and passionate group of people, well, she'd be working somewhere else (or back in NY), but she wouldn't be as happy about it. Previous GreenStage roles include Lord Lucullus in *Timon of Athens* and Lady Would-Be in *Volpone*; other favorite roles include Diana in *Absent Friends* and Clytemnestra in *Iphigenia*. And then there's all that SM stuff... Pug 22.

PAUL PRAPPAS (Mr. Hickey) Paul has worked professionally in theater and music for twenty-five years in Detroit, New York, Seattle, Montana and on the road. He's followed

THE BARD'S BIRTHDAY BASH

GreenStage and the Frye Art Museum invite you to join them for a Shakespeare Celebration on Saturday April 22, the day before his birthday.

As April is National Poetry Month, the sonnets seemed a natural choice for this event. We will read and explore selected sonnets through a variety of interpretations and art forms, and even get the audience involved! ***So, brush up your Shakespeare and be part of this unique event!***

DATE: Saturday, April 22

TIME: 2 p.m. — passes available at 1 p.m.

ADMISSION: FREE

LOCATION: Frye Museum auditorium
704 Terry Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104

GreenStage's journey through the canon of Shakespeare and is pleased to be working with them on an original work.

EDWARD L. POOLE: (Old Man) So many plays, so little time. Ted has been performing for more than sixty years. He has appeared with the Surrey Playbarn, the Windsor Light Opera Guild, the Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society and founded the Emerald City Players more than twenty-five years ago. Some recent health problems have reduced his participations, but he could not resist Tony's request to join in this Fringe production.

ELI SKLOV SIMONS: (Drum) Since joining the group in 1992, Eli has performed over twenty roles in eight shows. "Wow!"

ANGIE STUTTING: (Costumer) This is Angie's third costuming adventure with GreenStage and her first Fringe show. Her costuming credits with GreenStage include *Timon of Athens* and *Volpone*. She is looking forward to working on *Henry IV, Part One* this summer. She is pleased to be working with such talented, buff and buxom actors and a very talented writer, David Dodge. Angie would like to thank Connie Stutting (her mom) for giving her confidence in her creativity. Thanks Mom!

LISA VIERTEL: (Mrs. Hickey) Lisa is thrilled to be back at the Fringe with GreenStage after having directed *Root of Chaos* in last year's festival. As an actor with GreenStage she has played Audrey in *As You Like It*, Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Metellus Cimber in *Julius Caesar*. Other fave roles abroad include Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*, Tiersias in *Oedipus Rex*, Jo in *Low Level Panic*, and Masha in *The Seagull*. "Boldness has power and genius in it. Begin it now."

GreenStage Board of Directors

Erin Day, David J. Dodge, Tony Driscoll, Ken Holmes, Linda Lombardi, Lorn Richey, Tom Sunderland, Lisa Viertel

GreenStage has been performing throughout the Puget Sound region since 1989, originally as Shakespeare Northwest. The name was changed in 1995 to honor our beautiful region, to reflect our Shakespeare in the Park roots, and to symbolize our commitment to the growth of our parks program.



Timon (Erin Day) invites Apemantus (David J. Dodge) to the feast in 1999's Timon of Athens.

GreenStage has produced more than a third of Shakespeare's Canon, some of his most loved plays and some of his lesser known and rarely performed plays. We have also grown steadily, from performing one play each summer, to four productions in a year round season. We have produced such classics as Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Volpone* by Ben Johnson. Last year made our first foray into the Seattle Fringe Theater Festival.

A GreenStage History: to

give an idea of the ground that we have covered.

1999 *The Bind, Root of Chaos, Comedy of Errors, Timon of Athens, Volpone*

1998 *Midsummer Night's Dream, The Two Noble Kinsmen, Richard II*

1997 *As You Like It, Julius Caesar, Cymbeline*

1996 *Measure for Measure, Love's Labour's Lost*

1995 *Twelfth Night, Pericles, Titus Andronicus*

1994 - 1989 (as Shakespeare Northwest) *Midsummer Night's Dream, The Cherry Orchard, Twelfth Night, Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet*

WHAT GREENSTAGE DOES

GreenStage is committed to providing quality productions of classical theater and new works and insuring that they are available for everyone.

In the tradition of Public Art, whenever possible, we do not charge admission. Rather, donations are given on a voluntary basis and are graciously accepted. This summer we will perform in Lincoln, Discovery, Woodland, and Volunteer Parks in Seattle, Lynndale Park in Lynnwood, Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater, Kent Canturbury Faire and the NW Arts Center in Bellevue, bringing free Shakespeare in the Park to thousands of area residents. As Seattle's veteran Shakespeare in the Park Company, our productions focus on telling the story, bringing the play's characters to life, while celebrating creation, poetry, and the human spirit.



The play within the play from Midsummer Night's Dream at Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. (Emily Riesser, Ken Holmes, John Shores, Erin Day)

For GreenStage, all the world is indeed a stage.

Join GreenStage in our effort to make theater an activity anyone can afford!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Become a GreenStage contributor!
The generous support of our audience
allows us to keep going.

All donations are tax deductible
under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
Revenue Code.



The cast of 1999's *Comedy of Errors* greets the crowd
after a performance at Volunteer Park.

Contributors

PRODUCERS \$300 and up

Glenn & Shirley Kloss , Ron & Janice Perey

BENEFACTORS \$150-\$299

William & Lois Dodge , Thomas Sunderland , Barbara Zepeda

PARTNERS \$50-\$149

J. Willard Bath, Gretchen Day, Alex Duncan, Robin Green, Berny Lai, Nancy Lewis, Tracy Maher & John Girt, David Mayer, Jan Sheppard, Stokes Lawrence PS, R.C. Simons & M.L. Buss, Jo Viney

MEMBERS \$25-\$49

Inger and Benjamin Brodey, Betty Carter, Anna Fletcher, Terry Foster, Karl Myers, Ann Philipp, Ann Ray, Walter Roubik, Jeff Taylor, Eugene Wan



Membership Form

Contributors receive mailing of schedules and name on our programs and web site as well as the premiums listed below.

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Name _____

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Plus: Shakespeare Saucer™

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GreenStage • PO Box 9594 •
Seattle, WA 98109

GreenStage 2000 Season

Henry IV, Part One

Summer Shakespeare in the Park • July 15 - Sept. 4

The second in our chronological production of Shakespeare's histories (which began with our 1998 production of Richard II). This coming of age story concerns the king, Henry IV, whose England is in trouble, and his son, Prince Hal, who spends most of his time hanging out in taverns with men of ill repute. Henry is under continual attack from the Scots and the Welsh, and dealing with internal disputes from his once-closest allies. One of which, the brave yet hotheaded Hotspur, joins with the Scots and the Welsh to overthrow Henry. An action that requires Prince Hal to take responsibility and join his father in a fight to save the throne.

Much Ado About Nothing

Summer Shakespeare in the Park • July 28 - Sept. 3

One of William Shakespeare's most popular comedies, with a theme from ancient times. The young Hero is falsely accused of unfaithfulness by her lover's jealous cousin, Don John. Meanwhile, Beatrice and Benedick, who have both sworn off having anything to do with the opposite sex, let alone each other, are tricked into thinking the other is in love, and their true affection for each other grows. After much ado, both couples are united at the end and the evil Don John gets his just rewards.

The Winter's Tale

Richard Hugo House • October 27 - November 19

In an epic story of romance, love, jealousy, and retribution, the King of Sicilia, suspecting an affair between his wife and his best friend, the King of Bohemia, goes into a fit of mad jealousy. Thinking his infant daughter a result of the affair, he sends her to certain death in the wilds of Bohemia. But, his daughter is rescued and raised by a poor shepherd, and she grows up to fall in love with the son of Bohemia's King. Their forbidden love is discovered by the King, and the couple flees to Sicilia as events spiral out of control until the surprising final moments of the play.

Summer Shakespeare in the Park Calendar

Henry IV, Part One

Sat & Sun afternoons at 3:00 (except where noted)

Discovery Park, Seattle

Sat & Sun, July 15-16 • 3:00

Lynndale Park, Lynnwood

Thur, July 20 • 7:00

Location to be announced

Sat & Sun, July 22-23 • 3:00

Woodland Park, Seattle

Sat & Sun, July 29*-30 • 3:00

Lincoln Park, West Seattle

Sat & Sun, Aug 5*, 6, 12*, 13 • 3:00

Volunteer Park, Capitol Hill Seattle

Sat, Aug 19*, 26* • 3:00

Sat, Sun, Mon, Sept. 2*, 3*, 4 • 3:00

Much Ado About Nothing

Fri & Sat evenings at 8:00 (except where noted)

Woodland Park, Seattle

Fri & Sat, July 28-29* • 8:00

Lynndale Park, Lynnwood

Thur, Aug 3 • 7:00

Lincoln Park, West Seattle

Fri & Sat, Aug 4, 5*, 11, 12* • 8:00

Volunteer Park, Capitol Hill Seattle

Fri & Sat, Aug 18-19* • 8:00

NW Arts Center, Bellevue

Fri, Aug 25 • 8:00

Volunteer Park, Capitol Hill Seattle

Sat, Aug 26* • 8:00

Fri, Sat, Sun, Sept. 1, 2*, 3* • 8:00

** Double feature days! Catch Henry at 3:00 and come back for Much Ado at 8:00!*

The Ballad of Young Will Jones

The year is 1785 and a traveling band of actors are struggling to survive in an America where theater is barely tolerated and a pastime best left to charlatans, scoundrels and rogues. This comedy centers on a young playwright trying to make it against all odds. Love, laudanum and licentiousness rule the day in this rollicking new play by David J. Dodge.