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RICHARD II directed by Susannah Rose Woods

BACKYARD BARD —————>

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AND HAMLET
directed by Erin Day

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Welcome to GreenStage's 2017 Season of FREE Shakespeare in the Park!

Each year we are faced with questions regarding the continued performance of a centuries-old playwright; why do Shakespeare, why do theatre at all? Theatre is a living art form, a communion of souls both on stage and in the audience. Audiences do not watch a play, they complete it. You are what we've been missing, so thank you for being here.

When 'the curtain rises' we are confronted with our humanity. Follies, joys, bitterness, desire, etc. These are the things with which we navigate life, that shape us. This is what divides and unites us, not just now, but since the humanities' beginnings. This is what we all share, and it is important to be reminded, to be led

to the mirror and confront ourselves. That is the power and import of the theatre. This is why we continue to visit this centuries-old playwright; because Shakespeare was able to communicate that humanity, that essence of who we are. He challenges and inspires our very nature. It is not always easy to look at ourselves, but it is always vital.

Thank you again for being here and completing us. Please enjoy yourself and the community with which you are sharing this experience. This unique moment is ours to share, I am pleased to be sharing it with you.

— Erin Day, Artistic Director

ABOUT GREENSTAGE - GreenStage's mission is to inspire audiences to engage in live theatre as part of their recreation. The company always performs for free, collecting voluntary donations after performances.

Why free? Because experiencing a play is something that anyone should be able to do. If you enjoy what we do, we invite you to make a donation. No member of our audience is ever required to pay, but anything you can afford to give is greatly appreciated and helps fund our programs.

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Aubrey Kaye, Luke Saylor, Benjamin Nickols, Samie Jo Johnson, and Gavrielle Lent are this summer's Backyard Bard cast. (Photo: Ken Holmes)

BACKYARD BARD!

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and HAMLET

Adapted and directed by Erin Day

CAST – in alphabetical order

Samie Jo Johnson

Midsummer Egeus, Helena, Titania
Hamlet..... Polonius, Laertes, Horatio

Aubrey Kaye

Midsummer Hippolyta, Hermia, Quince
Hamlet..... Queen Gertrude, Ophelia, Osric, Bernardo

Gavrielle Lent

Midsummer Theseus, Puck
Hamlet..... Francisco, Second Clown, First Player

Benjamin Nickols

Midsummer Lysander, Flute, Oberon
Hamlet..... Hamlet

Luke Saylor

Midsummer Demetrius, Bottom
Hamlet..... King Claudius, Hamlet Ghost, First Clown

PRODUCTION TEAM

Chelsea “Mo” Moniz Stage Manager
Rexington Funk..... Costume Designer
Konstantin Lazarov..... Technical Director/Set Designer
Ryan Spickard Fight Choreographer
Gail Wamba Prop Designer

ABOUT BACKYARD BARD

Backyard Bard was born out of a desire to bring our shows to smaller, neighborhood parks, and to serve communities that weren't being reached with our larger shows.

Backyard Bard is a perfect fast-paced, fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants, abridged introduction to Shakespeare, meant for audiences young and old.

ABOUT THE PLAYS

HAMLET

Prince Hamlet of Denmark has a lot to figure out. His father, the king, dies suddenly, and his mom, Gertrude, up and marries his uncle Claudius in a big old hurry. If that isn't suspicious enough, the king's ghost appears to Hamlet to let him know that he was murdered by his brother, who then took the throne. Hamlet isn't sure if he should trust the word of a spectre; sometimes the walking dead have ulterior motives. Hamlet needs to find out if his uncle really murdered his father, and if so, when and how to get his revenge.

In the process Hamlet makes a downright pain of himself around Elsinore, and so his uncle has him dispatched to England for a little permanent vacation. By the time Hamlet evades an intended murder and returns to Denmark there are a lot of ill feelings going around. This may end badly for a lot of characters.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

It's the eve of the nuptials of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, the former queen of the Amazons. It's party time, but some romantic arrangements get a bit out of hand.

Hermia loves Lysander, but her father, Egeus, wants her to marry Demetrius. Egeus, being a loving dad and all, reminds Theseus of an old Athenian law that says a daughter must marry who her old man says—or die. The Duke offers plan B: perhaps Hermia should just be a nun. As you might expect, neither option appeals to Hermia, and she and Lysander elope to the forest. Demetrius pursues them, and Helena chases him.

In that same forest Oberon, king of the fairies, and Titania, his queen, are headed to the wedding, but they have a little marital spat going. He enlists the help of Robin Goodfellow, Puck for short, for a little trick involving a special juice that, when applied to the eyes of the sleeping, will make them fall in love with whomever they see first upon awakening. What could go wrong? Puck has all the wrong people all ga-ga for each other, but they sort things out by morning. Perhaps it was all a dream.



Daniel Wood in *The Comedy of Errors*. (Photo: Ken Holmes)



Gavin Douglass as Richard II. (Photo: Ken Holmes)

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Directed by David Gassner

CAST – in alphabetical order

Zandi Carlson.....Adriana
 Meghan Dolbey..... Antipholus of Syracuse
 Natalie Gress..... Antipholus of Ephesus
 Danny Herter..... Jailer / Balthazar / Abbess
 Jared Holloway-Thomas..... Courtesan
 MJ Jurgensen.....Dromio of Syracuse
 David S. Klein.....Aegeon
 Samantha Miller.....Luciana / Merchant
 Hannah Sweet..... Angelo / Pinch
 Anne Wiltgen.....Dromio of Ephesus
 Daniel Wood..... Duke Solinus

RICHARD II

Directed by Susannah Rose Woods

CAST – in alphabetical order

Meredith Armstrong.....Duchess of Gloucester
 Duchess of York
 Gavin Douglas.....Richard II
 Bob Downing..... Earl of Northumberland
 Eric Hampton.....Henry Bolingbroke
 Ken Holmes.....John of Gaunt / Bishop of Carlisle
 Rebecca Lane..... Queen Isabel / Earl of Salisbury
 James Lynch.....Bagot / Sir Stephen Scroop /
 Gardener / Murderer
 Chris MacDonald.....Duke of York
 Russell Mathews..... Bushy / Gardener / Exton
 Joseph Moore.....Lord Ross / Ensemble
 Isaac Pauls.....Duke of Aumerle
 Daniel Sarfati..... Green / Lord Willoughby
 Abbot of Westminster / Captain / Murderer
 Henry James Walker.....Thomas Mowbray
 Harry "Hotspur" Percy

PRODUCTION TEAM

Emma Hagerman..... Stage Manager (*Comedy of Errors*)
 Sarah Ross..... Stage Manager (*Richard II*)
 Julia Evanovich..... Costume Designer (*Comedy of Errors*)
 Elizabeth Power.....Costume Designer (*Richard II*)
 Konstantin Lazarov..... Technical Director/Set Designer
 Ryan Spickard..... Fight Choreographer
 Gail Wamba..... Prop Designer
 Matthew Bell..... Composer (*Richard II*)
 MJ Jurgensen.....Musical Director (*Comedy of Errors*)
 Alex Mann.....Assistant Stage Manager (*Richard II*)

SPECIAL THANKS

Paul Budraitis • Devlin Donnelly • Tony Driscoll • Lisa Harrington • Lisa Holmes • Laura Thomson
 Savage Color • Seattle Parks and Recreation • Rod Stewart • Randy Wiger

DIRECTORS' NOTES



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

As with so many of Shakespeare's comedies, *The Comedy of Errors* begins with a potential tragedy. Poor Aegeon, the old merchant from Syracuse, is condemned to death in the play's very first scene. And how did he get here, to the

city of Ephesus? He tells us all about it in his tale of woe: of the birth of his twin children, and of their twin servants; of how he was separated from his wife and one of his sons (and that son's servant) by a shipwreck; and of his travels in search of his family. And here in Ephesus, the Duke – in his own mind a fair man, bound by the rule of law – condemns him. Unless, of course, Aegeon can come up with a bit of coin. Then all would be forgiven.

So, what did Aegeon do wrong that he deserves death? Simple: He's from Syracuse. This is Ephesus, and citizens of Syracuse may not step foot in Ephesus on pain of death. Hey, wait a minute!! Aegeon is condemned to die because he's an undocumented alien??? So who then is this Duke? Who is this leader who claims to be ruled by law, but is so easily swayed by money? Could it be...

And so we come to this production of one of Shakespeare's earlier plays, a simple story of mistaken identity based on a classic Roman comedy, made suddenly more interesting by our current times and our current leader.

But don't worry – we aren't out to make a political statement, we're just here to have some fun. Our setting is modern, our players are a traveling troupe of comedians and musicians. And our duke? Well, let's just say that he's been known to let loose the occasional tweet.

— David Gassner



RICHARD II

King Richard II became a king at ten years old. Now a young man, he wastes money, raises taxes to support his opulent lifestyle and vanity, and is perilously out of touch with his kingdom. Shakespeare's *Richard II* is a poetic, luminous journey of a man's fall into grace. When Richard loses the crown to his cousin, Henry

Bolingbroke, he ultimately gains far greater things: his humanity and his soul.

When delving into this script, I was determined to expose each character's humanity and to illuminate what drives them forward. Who are these people? What is the cost of their choices?

Our rehearsals have been a journey of discovery and I am incredibly grateful to the actors for going deeply into the text with me. *Richard II* is the first of four plays that chronicle the House of Lancaster's rise and the onset of the War of the Roses.

— Susannah Rose Woods

BACKYARD BARD



Erin Day in The Merry Wives of Windsor
(photo by E. Harris Photography.)

It has been my great honor to work with this excellent group of artists. They have inspired and invigorated me with their enthusiasm, ethic and talent. Moving between these two plays, the lightness of *Midsummer* and the heaviness of *Hamlet* requires a great dexterity of mind and passion, and they have met it head on without reserve.

The plays have 'cracked us open' making us look at who we are, as individuals, together and in the broadest sense as citizens of the world. We have laughed at the foibles of love and the seeming haphazard forces that sometimes move us, felt the weight of questioning who we are and our worthiness, wept at our losses and injustice and ultimately embraced the joy of living.

Thank you for coming with us, please enjoy the journey.

— Erin Day

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SIMPLE SUMMARIES OF THE SUMMER SHOWS

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Duke Solinus wants to "Make Ephesus Great Again." With a well thought out policy based on his strongly held beliefs, he has proclaimed that any immigrants from Syracuse found in Ephesus will be put to death. But he's also OK with a hefty fine. When Aegeon, a merchant from Syracuse, shows up, not even a long, sad tale of twin sons separated at sea can move the Duke to pity. Sad!

Aegeon explains that many years ago he was separated from his wife during a shipwreck, just after she had given birth to twin sons. Each parent ended up with one of the sons, as well as one of a set of low-born twins purchased to serve as attendants to the sons. Aegeon's son Antipholus, with his servant Dromio, has also landed in Ephesus to search for his long lost brother. Very unfair!

What they don't realize is that there is another, identical, Antipholus and identical servant Dromio already living in Ephesus! Our boys from Syracuse split up, and in their exploration of the town, they are each mistaken for the local twin. Very confusing!

There's also a goldsmith, a chain, and a nun. More details to covfefe.

Follow the Duke on Twitter: @realDukeSolinus

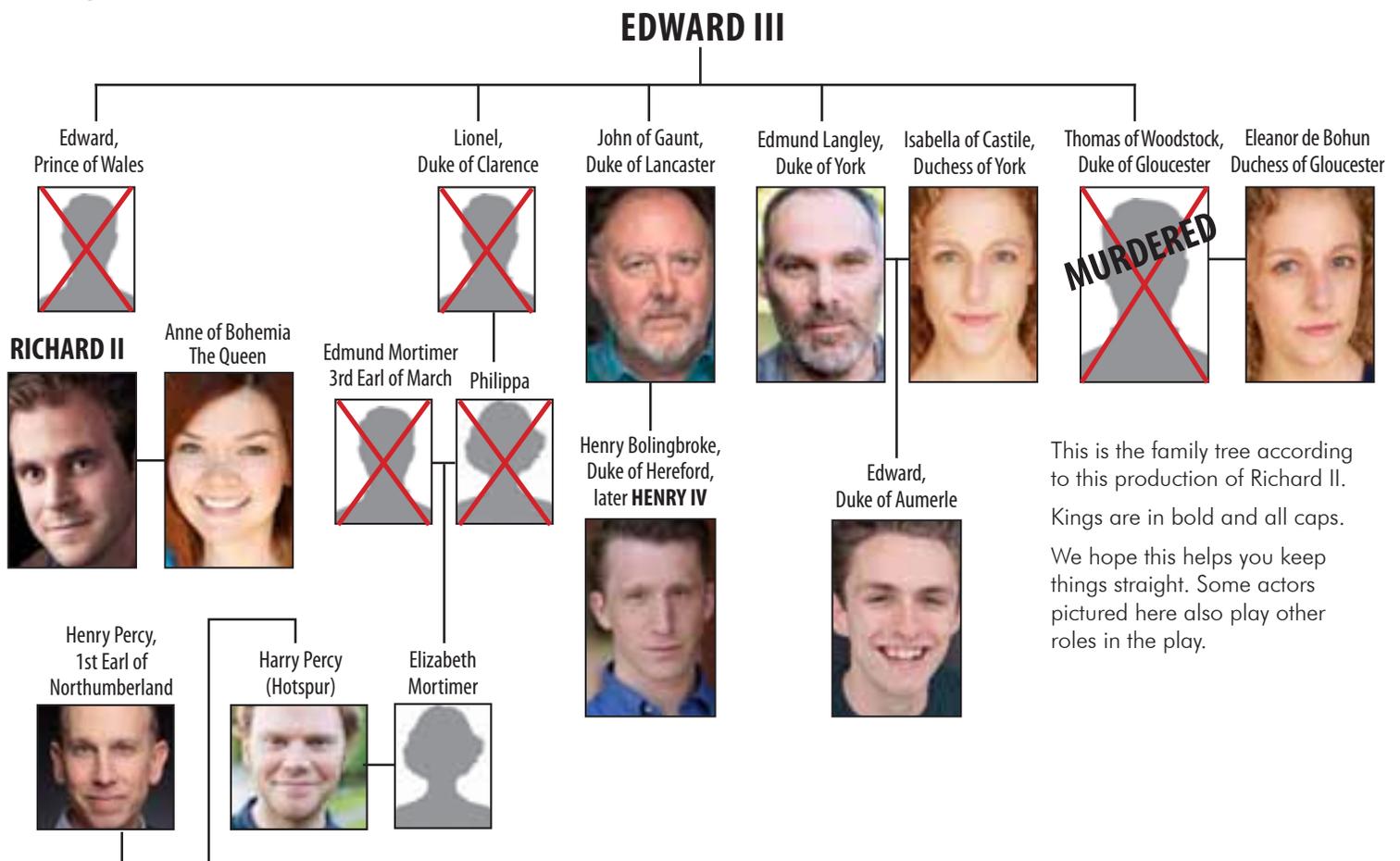
RICHARD II

Strife amongst the nobility is at the root of Richard II, both the play and the King's reign. Torn between his cousin Henry Bolingbroke, the Duke of Hereford, and Thomas Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk, over the murder of Richard's uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, the King finds himself stuck between a rock and a hard place. Banishing both men seems the easiest way out of his difficulties, and Richard is all for an expedient solution. However, it's when Bolingbroke's father, John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, dies that the trouble really begins.

In need of funds and determined to put down the Irish uprising, Richard seizes the freshly deceased Gaunt's properties and money in order to finance his campaign. He's the king by divine right, after all, and can do what he wants. But even a divine king must face the earthly consequences of his poor decisions, which Bolingbroke proves when he returns to claim what is rightfully his: the title, lands, and all else that belonged to his father.

To borrow from another of Shakespeare's works, civil blood makes civil hands unclean in this story of a successful insurrection and the overthrow of a king in the middle of a century of war.

RICHARD II FAMILY TREE



This is the family tree according to this production of Richard II.

Kings are in bold and all caps.

We hope this helps you keep things straight. Some actors pictured here also play other roles in the play.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS CAST



Zandi Carlson
(Adriana)

Zandi joyously returns to GreenStage, having previously played Chiron in *Titus Andronicus*. As a performer Zandi has acted in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Seattle Shakespeare Company, *The Wild Party* with Sound Theatre Company, *Perfect Arrangement* with ReAct Theatre, *Taming of the Shrew* with quiet theatre, and more throughout the Pacific Northwest. In addition to performing, she has directed with Arouet and STAGEright, and is a teaching artist, having taught with Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Youth Theatre Northwest and Taproot Theatre. She is also the former Director of Education at Bainbridge Performing Arts. Zandi holds a BFA in Acting from Oklahoma City University.



Meghan Dolbey
(Antipholus of Syracuse)

Meghan is pleased to be making her GreenStage debut. She is currently working on *Unsex Me Here* a solo show weaving together *Macbeth* and women's rights over reproductive health. Past productions include *Not All Fairy Tales Have Happy Endings* (Young Playwrights, ACT), *Hamlet* (Seattle Shakespeare Company), *Marvelous* (Live Girls), *The Children's Hour* (Intiman), and *Robin Hood* (Anything is Possible Theatre Company). Meghan holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Cornish College of the Arts, performs as her fierce Neo-Burlesque alter ego The Feline Frenzy, and works alongside Rafael Molina in their performance art group The Partners. Meghan hopes to continue to share Shakespeare's works to Seattle's communities, and pursue her passion for evocative challenging theatre.



Natalie Gress
(Antipholus of Ephesus)

Natalie is incredibly excited to be playing with GreenStage again this summer! Currently a student at Seattle Pacific University, she is studying Theatre and English Secondary Education. Natalie was last seen at Renton Civic Theatre in *The Game's Afoot* (Aggie Wheeler), and in the parks with GreenStage's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Anne Page) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snout). Past favorites at her university also include Sally Talley in *Talley's Folly*, Ballet Girl in *Elephant's Graveyard*, and Cordelia in *King Lear*. Natalie would like to thank her family and friends for the love and encouragement, and the audience for supporting outdoor theatre. Enjoy the show!



Danny Herter
(Jailer / Balthazar / Abbess)

Danny AKA Fresh Legs AKA Breauxtranh is a multi-disciplinary artist, director, choreographer, and performer, indigenous to Seattle. He has been working in the local performance scene for the past ten years, where his original works performed at Velocity, Chapel Performance Space, and On the Boards "...had edgy invention to spare." —The Seattle Times. Credits include work with Theater Schmeater, Ghost Light Theatricals, Mirror Stage Company, and Shakespeare Northwest, the latter with which he now serves as a member of the board of directors. He made his GreenStage debut in *The Duchess of Malfi* (Hard Bard), and is delighted to be part of the season this year.



Jared Holloway-Thomas
(Courtesan)

Jared is a classically trained actor and alien space invader. They are happy to be returning for another summer with GreenStage, appearing previously as Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Borraccio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Jared has also appeared in productions with Arouet and Seattle Immersive Theatre. In their free time Jared enjoys eating nondairy ice cream and preparing puny humans for the inevitable invasion of Earth by the third fleet of the Xahghadun Star Empire.



MJ Jurgensen
(Dromio of Syracuse / Musical Director)

MJ is thrilled to be spending some quality time this summer in Seattle's gorgeous parks. She has most recently been seen in *The British Baking Challenge* at Jet City Improv and *Cardinal Sins* at Centerstage!. Since graduating, MJ has worked all over the country with companies such as Holland America Princess, The Sierra Repertory Theatre, Great Plains Theatre, Maples Repertory Theatre, and NTC productions' National Tour of *A Christmas Carol*. MJ can't believe it has been 9 years since she shared the stage with her dear college friend, Zandi, as Bottom and Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Glad to be back at it. Thanks to David, my twin Anne, this lovely cast, and all at GreenStage. Love to Noel.



David S. Klein
(Aegeon)

David has been a working theater artist for 47 years. He has performed in over 150 professional productions as well as directed and taught acting. Prior to moving to Seattle in 1985, he ran a touring children's theater in rural New England for three years and performed at international avant-garde festivals in Baltimore and in Wroclaw, Poland. He has helped start five theaters, both here and in Boston, including Book-It Repertory Theatre, and is now a member of Theater 9/12, Tales of the Alchemysts Theater and Playworks. He has performed numerous Shakespearean roles with Seattle Shakespeare Company, GhostLight Theatricals, Seattle Repertory Theater and the Recycled Shakespeare Company and was seen earlier this year in *Macbeth* with the Fern Shakespeare Company.



Samantha Miller
(Luciana / Merchant)

Samantha is thrilled to be making her GreenStage debut! Other credits include *The Every 28 Hours Plays* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Juliet/Rosaline/Cleopatra in *Shakespeare's Other Women*, Dromio of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors*, Lauren in *Science Night*, Katana in *Kung Fury: LIVE!*, Simon in *The Cuban Swimmer*, Rennie in *The Most Massive Woman Wins* (Southern Oregon University), *A Christmas Carol* (Central Washington University), and *Sweeney Todd* (SecondStory Repertory). Samantha is a BFA candidate at Southern Oregon University.



Hannah Sweet
(Angelo / Pinch)

Hannah is a recent transplant from the D.C. theatre scene. Since moving to Seattle, she has appeared in GhostLight Theatricals' *Macbeth* (directed by Emily Harvey). Theatre credits from DC include *Henry IV, parts 1 and 2*, *The Bloody Banquet* (Brave Spirits Theatre), *A Bright Room Called Day* (Nu Sass), *Pinocchio!*, *Don Juan* (Faction of Fools), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Lean and Hungry Theatre), and *Twelfth Night* (Theatre Prometheus). She's looking forward to spending her summer in Ephesus with GreenStage!



Anne Wiltgen
(Dromio of Ephesus)

Anne has been a Shakespeare nut since joining *Twelfth Night* at The Masque Youth Theatre & School in Rochester, Minnesota. While her daytime career has spanned from hurricane cleanup to "marketing for dogooders", she has always found time for acting silly in public. Favorite roles include

Toinette in *The Imaginary Invalid*, Launce in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, the title role in *Peter Pan*, puppet designer for Smaug in *The Hobbit*, and director for Ames, Iowa's *Shakespeare in the Park*. She also enjoys trombone, hockey, and teaching the ways of the Force (and stage combat) in Star Wars-themed shows for charity. This is her GreenStage debut!



Daniel Wood
(Duke Solinus)

Daniel is returning to GreenStage Shakespeare in the Park for his seventh year in a row. Previous GreenStage credits include Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Don Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Edgar in *King Lear*, Buckingham in *Henry VIII* and Stephano in *The Tempest*. He also directed last summer's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. His most recent credits include the title role in *Macbeth* (Fern Shakespeare Company), *Krampus Christmas* (Seattle Immersive Theatre) and *Caught* (Seattle Public Theater). Additionally, he has performed with Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Sound Theatre Company, Theater Schmeater, Annex Theatre, Balagan Theatre, Macha Monkey and the Seattle Opera. Much love to his beautiful and talented wife, Julia Evanovich.



RICHARD II CAST



Meredith Armstrong
(Duchess of Gloucester / Duchess of York)

Meredith is excited to spend the summer playing two complex and strong women in this most poetic of the Bard's Histories. Favorite past GreenStage credits: Goneril (King Lear), Duchess (Hard Bard *The Revenger's Tragedy*), and Katherine (*Henry V*). Past favorites with other companies: Richard Henry Lee (all-female *1776*, Reboot Theatre Company), Hannah (*Arcadia*) and Catherine (*Proof*, Renton Civic Theatre), and Mercutio (all-female *Romeo & Juliet*, Hose & Britches). She holds a BA in theatre from Western Washington University and completed post-graduate work with the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York. Outside of acting, she's an author, aerialist, and bellydancer. This December she will bring the Bard to the air in an original aerial Shakespeare production at Versatile Arts. Love to Erik, Astrid, and Gunnar!



Gavin Douglas
(Richard II)

Gavin is a recent transplant to Seattle. He recently graduated from Southern Oregon University with a BFA in acting. This is his second show in Seattle, and his first with GreenStage. He looks forward to being a part of the community.



Bob Downing
(Earl of Northumberland)

Bob is thrilled to make his GreenStage debut as a rebel in this under-seen history play! This spring he appeared in Seattle Shakespeare Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Tom Snout. Other favorite roles include Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Bainbridge Performing Arts), Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Bremerton Community Theatre), the Professor in *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)* (Lesser-Known Players), the King in *The Snow Queen* (Dacha Theatre), and Cassius, Brutus, and Mark Antony in Bob's original one-man show, *The New Shakespeare Experience Presents Julius Caesar*. He lives happily in south Seattle with his partner Susan and daughter Emma Geneva.



Eric Hampton
(Henry Bolingbroke)

Eric is thrilled to be returning for a second season with GreenStage! A Puget Sound native, Eric returned to Seattle after receiving a BFA in Theatre from Abilene Christian University. You may have seen him last summer as Posthumus in GreenStage's *Cymbeline*. Other favorite roles include Faker in *Room Service* (Taproot Theatre Company), Richard in *The Lion in Winter* (SecondStory Repertory), and Prince Hal in *Henry IV Part 1* (Abilene Shakespeare Festival). Many thanks to wife Melanie and daughter Rowen who provide endless love and encouragement.



Ken Holmes
(John of Gaunt / Bishop of Carlisle)

Since joining this company in 1993, Ken has worn many hats – from actor to director to administrator and many more. He's very happy indeed to be jumping back on stage, after taking a bit of an acting hiatus for the past few years. Ken was last seen on stage as Prospero in GreenStage's *The Tempest*, and has also worked with several other companies around town. For the past two summers with GreenStage Ken helmed the Backyard Bard tours, adapting and directing productions of *Pericles*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Macbeth*. He sends much love to his lovely wife Lisa, and daughter Ruby. Thank you for supporting free theater!



Rebecca Lane
(Queen Isabel / Earl of Salisbury)

Rebecca is incredibly excited to be making her Shakespeare and GreenStage debut! Previously she has been seen on stage with Storybook Theater, Reboot Theatre Company, Seattle Musical Theatre, SecondStory Repertory, and Twelfth Night Productions. She is also an Associate Producer at Reboot Theatre Company – a company dedicated to reinterpreting established works in new ways. Thank you to Susannah for this adventure! Lots of love to Novio, M&D, and the Corgis!



James Lynch
(Bagot / Sir Stephen Scroop / Gardener / Murderer)

James is thrilled to be back with GreenStage! James last appeared with GreenStage as Flute and Mustardseed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. James graduated from Seattle Pacific University, with a BA in Theatre. Other past credits include: Caliban in *The Tempest* (Rebatensemble), The Strongman in *Elephant's Graveyard*, and Cornwall in *King Lear* (Seattle Pacific University). He spends his weekdays working with Dandylyon Drama, teaching and directing theatre at elementary schools, and his weekends improvising with Turbo Turkey. Special thanks to Cassie.



Chris MacDonald
(Edmund of Langley, Duke of York)

Chris is delighted to be touring the parks again this summer with GreenStage. He appeared last year in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Past credits include roles at many fringe theaters including: Red Rover, 18th & Union, Theater Machine, Theater Schmeater, Wooden O, BASH, WET, and Annex Theatre.



Russell Mathews
(Bushy / Gardener / Exton)

Russell is excited to perform his first show with GreenStage. Russell's has also performed in Seattle with Twelfth Night Productions in *First Date* as The Waiter. Russell has also performed for Princess Cruise Lines in *The Music of Denali*

in Alaska. He also toured for seven seasons with Nebraska Theatre Caravan's *A Christmas Carol* as Scrooge's nephew, Fred. Highlights from his past performances on the East Coast include *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Milburn Stone Theatre, *The Wedding Singer* and *The Full Monty* at the Candlelight Dinner Theatre and *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Oklahoma* at The Lost Colony.



Joe Moore
(Lord Ross / Ensemble)

Joe Moore is a recent graduate of Roosevelt High School. He is super excited to work with GreenStage for the first time. Joe has done most of his plays at Seattle Public Theater and at Roosevelt High School.



Isaac Pauls
(Duke of Aumerle)

Isaac is ecstatic to be working with all these wonderful people here at GreenStage for the first time as The Duke of Aumerle in this production of *Richard III*! When Isaac isn't goofing around with his improv team, The Hot New Jam, you can find him studying at Central Washington University as a BFA candidate for performance in Theatre Arts. Other recent production credits include Don John in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at Icicle Creek's Center for the Performance Arts, as well as playing James in Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Central Washington University. Hope you enjoy the show!



Daniel Sarfati
(Green / Lord Willoughby / Abbot of Westminster / Captian / Murderer)

Daniel's heart is absolutely aflutter to rejoin GreenStage for his second Shakespeare in the Park in as many summers. A native of Texas, Daniel found his way to this strange, enchanted city by way of the Amazon a handful of years ago, and has since worked on perfecting his chameleon-like ability to meld with his surroundings to convince the locals that he is one of them by growing out his hair, avoiding a certain chain of coffeehouses, and refusing the aid of an umbrella. He hopes you've brought sunscreen and a spirit of Shakespearean abandon. He also should maybe check on that heart flutter with a doctor.



Henry James Walker
(Thomas Mowbray / Harry "Hotspur" Percy)

Henry is excited to get some grass stains, sun, and Shakespeare this summer with GreenStage. Born and raised in the PNW, Henry has performed up and down the I-5 corridor and has enjoyed the last few years acting and biking around Seattle. You might have caught him recently at The Schmee in *Money & Run*, Sound Theatre Company's *One Man, Two Guv'nors*, or at The Pocket Theater's Fringe Fest. When not on stage, Henry enjoys helping actors of all ages hone their craft—teaching intensives and workshops with Studio East in Kirkland, local high schools, and currently running a monthly Commedia Jam at The Slate Theater. He loves bringing his creative passion to new projects, cultivated by Western Washington University and the Commedia School in Copenhagen.

BACKYARD BARD CAST



Samie Jo Johnson

Samie Jo feels quite fortunate to be spending her first summer in Washington gallivanting through the great outdoors with these plays so near and dear to her. She's an actress, poet, and playwright originally from Denver, Colorado. Some of her favorite stage credits include Dee, a janitor trying to find her way in life, in *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (University of Evansville), the vocabulary challenged Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals* (Denver School of the Arts), and a runaway girl dancing through the streets of Italy (literally) in *In. Sight. Out.* (La Mama Umbria). Samie Jo received her BFA in Acting from the University of Evansville in Southern Indiana.



Benjamin Nickols

Benjamin is a recent graduate from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a BA in Theatre and Dance with an emphasis in Performance. This will be his second production credit since moving to Seattle, the first being *Trump the King or POTUS Drumph*, at Theater Schmeater. He is extremely grateful for this opportunity, and is excited to stop making pizzas for a minute to actually use his degree.



Aubrey Sara Kaye

Aubrey Sara Kaye is a recent graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) in California and is delighted to make her Washington debut with GreenStage. Her last foray into Shakespeare in the park was in Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival's *Hamlet* (Player Queen, Ophelia u/s) and *The Tempest* (Spirit). Other favorite roles include Audrey in *As You Like It*, Cassandra in *The Trojan Women*, Female Authority Figure in *Spring Awakening* (California Lutheran University), Corryn u/s and Heather u/s in *Gidion's Knot*, Duchess of York u/s in *Richard III* (PCPA), and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing* (PCPA-Conservatory Rep). Aubrey also holds a degree in Computer Science and works as a software developer in Seattle.



Gavrielle Lent

Gavrielle is super excited to make her GreenStage debut! This is her second Shakespeare production, after playing a gender-flipped composite of most of the Capulet servants in Recycled Shakespeare Co.'s *Romeo and Juliet* last year. Other theatre credits: half the Gilbert & Sullivan canon with a society in California, including appearances as Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor

in *Patience* and Jack Point in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. When not pranking foolish mortals, governing Athens, or serving as court musician of Elsinore, she can be found singing (and playing various instruments) with the Northwest Firelight Chorale, tap-dancing, studying languages, or doing computational linguistics research. (Ask her about her statistical analyses of language patterns in Shakespeare!)



Luke Saylor

Luke is back for his fourth summer with GreenStage. Regulars might remember him as Suffolk in *Henry VIII* directed by Teresa Thuman, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Ken Michaels and several roles in Backyard Bard *Macbeth* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* directed by Ken Holmes. His other recent credits include Shmendiman in Bainbridge Performing Arts' production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Stanley Stubbers in Sound Theatre Company's *One Man Two Guvnors*, and the Emperor Caligula in Arouet's production of *Caligula*. Luke is from the great Pacific Northwest and is a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts. Luke thanks you for attending live theatre.

Top border photo credits.

Page 4: Jennifer Crooks and Laura Lee Caudill in Backyard Bard *Twelfth Night* *; Page 5: Paul Shapiro in *The Merry Wives of Windsor***; Page 6: Katherine Jett and Samuel Hagen in *Cymbeline***; Page 7: Gavin Sakae McLean and Jennifer Crooks in Backyard Bard *Pericles**; Page 8: Laura Lee Caudill, Jennifer Crooks, and Tyler Dobies in Backyard Bard *Pericles**; Page 9: Warren Haney and Sally Brady in *Cymbeline***; Page 10: Helen Roundhill and Natalie Gress in *The Merry Wives of Windsor***; Page 11: Eric Hartley, Chris Macdonald and Nicole Vernon in *The Merry Wives of Windsor***; Page 12: Eric Hampton and John Bergeron in *Cymbeline***; Page 13: Nicole Vernon, Paul Shapiro, and Erin Day in *The Merry Wives of Windsor***; Page 14: Tyler Dobies as *Pericles**; Page 15: The cast of *Cymbeline***

* Photo by Ken Holmes

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PRODUCTION TEAM

David Gassner

(Director – Comedy of Errors)

David is Producing Director of 18th & Union, an arts space in Central District, and Radial Theater Project, for whom he directed the world premieres of *99 Layoffs*, *Beating Up Bachman*, and *Karaoke Suicide is Painless*. He served for several years as Artistic Director at Theater Schmeater, where he directed *Kvetch*, *The Mandrake*, *Maria/Stuart*, *The American Pilot*, and *Mamet Schmame!* Other favorites include *HAIR* at ArtsWest, *Edith Can Shoot Things* and *Hit Them* at Seattle Public Theater, and *Trout Stanley* at Balagan Theater. He's also directed for ACT Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival, Mount Baker Theatre Summer Rep in Bellingham, theater simple, and 14/48. As an actor, he's appeared locally with Seattle Shakespeare Company / Wooden O, Seattle Public Theater, New City Theater and others.

Susannah Rose Woods

(Director – Richard II)

Susannah Rose Woods is formerly the Founding Artistic Director of Island Shakespeare Festival on Whidbey Island. She has served as Artistic Director for three theatre companies in the San Francisco Bay Area and has worked across the country with both professional and youth theatre companies, including Staged Hereafter, Marin Shakespeare Company, Whidbey Children's Theater, The Curtain Theatre, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Seven Stages Shakespeare Company. She is a professional screenwriter and playwright as well as a ghost writer and poet. She was awarded a commendation from Senator Barbara Boxer for her work with youth theatre and is the recipient of a number of awards for both her writing and directing, including the Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, Humanitarian Teacher of the Year Award, Bay Area Critics Award, and a variety of national and international awards for her screenwriting.

Erin Day

(Director – Backyard Bard)

Since moving from Washington D.C., Erin found a home in GreenStage and finds nothing grander than playing with them and with you. Around town, she has performed at Seattle Public Theater, Theatre Babylon, Seattle Fringe Festival, The Washingtonians! and others. She is currently a member of The Midnite Mystery Players and is honored to serve as Artistic Director for GreenStage. Thanks to her amazing family and especially to you. Enjoy the show!

Sarah Ross

(Stage Manager – Richard II)

This is Sarah's fourth year with GreenStage, and she can't think of a better way to spend a summer in Seattle. Recent stage management credits include *War Bride* (Bound Productions), *The Twilight Zone: Live!* (Theater Schmeater), *Cymbeline*

(GreenStage), *Annapurna* (Theatre22), and *Arcadia* (Lakewood Playhouse).

Emma Hagerman

(Stage Manager – Comedy of Errors)

Emma is ecstatic to be working with GreenStage for her second summer as Stage Manager on *Comedy of Errors*. Last year she worked for GreenStage as ASM on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Since earning a BA in Theatre at the University of Nevada, Reno two years ago, she has established herself in the Seattle arts community. She has worked as a Stage Manager, ASM, spotlight operator, props designer, dresser, and stage hand for local theatre companies. She is also delighted to celebrate her debut performance as a musician; playing violin with this talented company.

Chelsea "Mo" Moniz

(Stage Manager – Backyard Bard)

Mo is very happy to be a part of this wonderful experience. She has always wanted to go and see Shakespeare in the park, but never thought she would be the stage manager! She has been stage managing around the PNW for over ten years and has worked with company's like Stone Soup Theatre, Sound Theatre, Basement Theatrics, and Sound Theatre Company. Thanks to everyone who has supported her and lifted her up! We hope you enjoy the show!

Julia Evanovich

(Costume Designer – Comedy of Errors)

Julia is a costume designer, seamstress, and painter. She is honored to be working on *Comedy of Errors* with GreenStage. This production has been such a delight. Some past favorite productions include: *Money & Run*, *Attack of the Killer Murder of Death*, *The Secretaries*, *Fallen Angels* and *The American Pilot* (Theater Schmeater); *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Backyard Bard Macbeth* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Tempest* (GreenStage); *SHOGGOTHS On The Veldt* (The Rogues Gallery). Love to Daniel.

Elizabeth Power

(Costume Designer – Richard II)

Elizabeth is thrilled to be back playing in the park with the wonderful GreenStage actors. She is so happy you chose to join us today and she knows you are in for a treat! This is her eighth show with GreenStage. Other times of the year she makes costumes for area high school musicals, most recent in Everett for *Little Mermaid* and *Urinetown* at Everett Kidstage. Favorite past shows with GreenStage include *Duchess of Malfi*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, and last year's *Cymbeline*.

Rexington Funk

(Costume Designer – Backyard Bard)

Rex is a technical apparel designer and producer, working for several local companies that focus on American based eco-friendly business practices and products. She feels

most at home working on costumes, and making everything in life more theatrical.

Konstantin Lazarov

(Technical Director/Set Designer)

Konstantin is happy to be a part of GreenStage's 29th season. He began his scenic design and technical theater career as a student at the University of California Santa Cruz. There he received an MA in theater arts with an emphasis in set design and a BA in world literature. Design credits include props design for *Money and Run* (2017) directed by Wayne Rawely, set design for *Peer Gynt* (2013) directed by Kimberly Jannarone, *The Illusion* (2012) directed by Amelia Wade, *Medea* (2012) directed by Jenna Tamimi, *Vinegar Tom* (2012) directed by Jenna Tamimi, and many more. He would like to thank his parents for their constant support and all the people who have helped mentor and guide him.

Ryan John Spickard

(Fight Choreographer)

A native to the Northwest, Ryan is a BFA graduate from Cornish College of the Arts and a member of the Society of American Fight Directors as well as the United Stuntmen's Association. As a working fight choreographer and actor in the Seattle area, Ryan has performed with various theaters such as the Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It Repertory Theater, GreenStage, Balagan Theater, Theater Schmeater and others. Regional Credits include work with the Idaho Shakespeare Company and the Colorado Shakespeare Company where he was nominated as best supporting comedic actor for *The Comedy of Errors* by the Denver Post. In 2009, along with other members of the stage combat community in Seattle, he formed Performers' Forge, a theater company dedicated to the performance and education of staged violence, of which he is currently Co-Artistic Director

Gail Wamba

(Prop Designer)

Gail is excited to return after designing props for GreenStage's 2017 season: *Hard Bard - The Duchess of Malfi*, and all 4 summer Shakespeare productions, while also completing her 12th Shakespeare season onstage with Last Leaf Productions. Gail designed bloody gore & sparagmos props, and originated the role of 'Hebe' in the rock opera, *Aleister Crowley's The Rite of Jupiter* (Eleusyve.com), which releases on video July of 2017. Gail has directed, designed, and performed all over Puget Sound, bringing a lifetime of laughter, creativity & performance experience to her work. Other work includes award-winning sci fi film props, getting hilarious with "live radio" Midnight Mystery Theatre, belly dance as Javarah & choreography for The Wild Blossoms. Offstage, Gail can be found developing code, hiking, gardening and other things that let one wander into the weeds. Thank YOU for supporting live theater. Love to Josh, Rufus & Serenity and our family!

STAFF

Erin Day - Artistic Director

See production team bios

Ken Holmes - Managing Director

see *Richard II* cast bios

Sarah Stillion - Education Director

Sarah has taught drama for 19 years and been involved in theatre for over 25. She regularly teaches around the Puget Sound and has taught drama or directed a baker's dozen of elementary schools, two middle schools, three high schools, two colleges and three parks and recreation programs. She got into teaching at Seattle Children's Theatre as an intern and young teacher at Youth Theatre Northwest. She also cut her teeth at Stone Soup Theatre and SecondStory Repertory. She spent nearly seven years as the Education Director at The Driftwood Players in Edmonds. He once directed at New Everett Theatre and still shares a healthy relationship writing scripts and directing shows at Baylight Dinner Theatre at Warm Beach that is part of the Lights of Christmas. She has her BA in Theatre from Northwestern College and her MFA from California Institute of the Arts in Theatre Performance and Playwriting. She

acts, writes, and directs wherever they enjoy her work and presence. She is a wife to her amazing mandolin playing husband and a Mama to her extraordinary-seventh grade son. Her current project is teaching the GreenStage *Julius Caesar* camp plus gearing up to obtain her degree to teach Special Ed and ELL to K-8 with some artistic projects on the side through her Bare Bones Productions.

Greg Scheiderer - Marketing Director

Greg is a Shakespeare lover who has viewed the Bard's entire canon, having finally checked off *Timon of Athens* and the *Henry VI* plays over the past year. In addition to theatre, Greg enjoys stargazing and writes and podcasts at SeattleAstronomy.com. His other interests include baseball, music, writing, reading, gardening, and baking bread. He and his wife Cynthia live in West Seattle with their cats Archie and Theodolinda. Greg is a freelance writer with more than 30 years of experience in journalism, media relations, public relations, and public policy advocacy.

Michelle Rodriguez - Production Manager

This is Michelle's seventh year working with GreenStage and her fifth year as Production Manager. In years past she has stage managed for GreenStage on *Taming of the Shrew* (2012), *Hamlet* (2008) and *Richard III* (2007). Since receiving her BA in theatre at the University of Southern California, she has worked at theatres in and around Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle. Local haunts include Burien Actors Theatre, Centerstage, ReAct, SecondStory Repertory, and Taproot Theatre. She would like to thank her family for their love & support.

Meredith Armstrong - Facilities Manager

see *Richard II* cast bios

Will Peterman - Website Manager

In college, Will tried to prove that Oxford wrote Shakespeare, but accidentally found that Spenser wrote Marlowe. (Stratford, yo!) After a few years as a code herder and half a career explaining programmers to other programmers, he chucked it all and ran off to chase bees. He's probably stalking one now. Bees need dirt!

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Here's a special shout out to the donors who gave through Seattle Foundation's 2017 GiveBIG campaign. GreenStage received nearly \$6,000 in donations and matching funds. THANK YOU for Giving Big!

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16 RICHARD II - 2 pm Midsummer - 4 pm Hamlet - 5 pm Volunteer Park SOTF COMEDY - 3 pm High Point Commons	17	18	19	20 COMEDY - 7 pm Lower Woodland Park	21 RICHARD II - 7 pm Lower Woodland Park Hamlet - 7 pm Wallingford Playfield	22 RICHARD II - 3 pm COMEDY - 7 pm Lower Woodland Park DOUBLE FEATURE Midsummer - 7 pm Wallingford Playfield
23 COMEDY - 3 pm RICHARD II - 7 pm Woodland Park DOUBLE FEATURE Midsummer - 3 pm Hamlet - 4:30 pm Salmon Bay Park DOUBLE FEATURE	24	25	26	27 COMEDY - 7 pm Lynnndale Park in Lynnwood	28 RICHARD II - 7 pm Fall City Park COMEDY - 7 pm Camp Long Hamlet - 7 pm View Ridge	29 RICHARD II - 7 pm Camp Long COMEDY - 7 pm Lake Burien Park
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30 RICHARD II - 3 pm Discovery Park CHAT COMEDY - 5 pm Lake Wilderness Park Midsummer - 3 pm Hamlet - 4:30 pm David Rodgers Park DOUBLE FEATURE	31	1	2	3 RICHARD II - 7 pm Lynnndale Park in Lynnwood COMEDY - 7 pm Lincoln Park	4 RICHARD II - 7 pm Lincoln Park COMEDY - 7 pm Fall City Park Hamlet - 7 pm Othello Park	5 RICHARD II - 7 pm Lake Burien Park COMEDY - 7 pm Lincoln Park Midsummer - 7 pm Othello Park
6 RICHARD II - 3 pm Lincoln Park COMEDY - 3 pm Discovery Park CHAT Midsummer - 3 pm Hamlet - 4:30 pm Sandel Park DOUBLE FEATURE	7	8	9	10 COMEDY - 7 pm Magnuson Park	11 RICHARD II - 7 pm Magnuson Park COMEDY - 7 pm Othello Park Midsummer - 7 pm Cowen Park	12 RICHARD II - 3 pm COMEDY - 7 pm Magnuson Park DOUBLE FEATURE Hamlet - 7 pm Cowen Park
13 RICHARD II - 5 pm Lake Wilderness Park Midsummer - 3 pm Hamlet - 4:30 pm Delridge Park DOUBLE FEATURE	14	15	16	17 RICHARD II - 7 pm Volunteer Park	18 COMEDY - 7 pm Volunteer Park RICHARD II - 7 pm Othello Park Midsummer - 7 pm Pratt Park	19 Midsummer - 1 pm Hamlet - 2 pm COMEDY - 4 pm RICHARD II - 7 pm Volunteer Park QUADRUPLE FEATURE
Midsummer Night's Dream and Hamlet are part of Backyard Bard. – See inside! SOTF – Seattle Outdoor Theatre Festival – See inside for details! CHAT – Chat with the cast after the show at Discovery Park.						

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