

CHORUS OF FOOLS PROUDLY PRESENTS

written by
William Shakespeare

directed by
Eric Satterfield



ROMEO & JULIET

in collaboration with
KTK Productions



APRIL 9 - 19, 2025

Special Thanks

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the individuals and organizations who played an essential role in bringing this production to fruition. Your support has been invaluable, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for being an integral part of this production.

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Artistic Ensemble

Kaylie Carpenter	Moira Healy	Jocelyn Padilla
Irene Cornett	Xander Huber	Zach Pierson
Andre Eslamian	LaWanda Jackson	Nikki Pilato
Celeste Gardner	Lexie Johnson	John Wolbers
Joseph Garner	Joseph Kercher	

Director's Note

People often ask: why *Romeo and Juliet*, and why now? I believe this story is more important today than it has ever been. We live in a world increasingly defined by our divisions—by the lines we draw, the sides we choose, and the walls we build. It is a stark, necessary reminder that division has consequences, and those consequences are almost always borne by the people we claim to love the most.

In this production, we've stripped away the ceremony to find the raw, visceral heart of that conflict. We wanted to explore the friction that occurs when passion and pride collide in a space where no one is willing to budge. What you see on stage isn't a historical reenactment; it is a mirror held up to our own modern impulses and the "mad blood" that still boils when we refuse to see the humanity in the "other."

Bringing a vision like this to life requires an immense amount of trust, and I am profoundly grateful for the collaboration that made this possible. This ensemble hasn't just rehearsed a play; they have built a community. From our veteran "Fools" to the new voices joining us for the first time, every artist in this room has leaned into the mess and the heat of this story with uncompromising honesty.

I am especially indebted to this cast and crew for their willingness to navigate the heavy stakes of this tragedy while maintaining a spirit of kindness behind the scenes. It is a beautiful irony that a play about the breakdown of a society was built through such a deep, unified connection. Thank you for stepping into the friction with us.

— Eric Satterfield, Director

Cast of Characters

ROMEO	Zach Pierson
JULIET	Tia René Williams
NURSE	Nikki Pilato
SISTER LAWRENCE	LaWanda Jackson
MERCUTIO	Rowan Van Horn
BENVOLIA	Moira Healy
TYBALT	Celeste Genevieve Gardner
SENATOR CAPULET	Mo Moellering
LADY CAPULET	Elizabeth Breed Penny
COUNT PARIS	Claire Coffey
MAYOR ESCALA	Angelia Prather
BALTHASAR	Jack Rimar
MONTAGUE	Joseph Kercher
LADY MONTAGUE	Lexie Johnson
ROSALINE	Katherine Garrett
SAMPSON	Kasey Kopp
GREGORY	Brett Hanna
PETER	Katherine Garrett
SISTER JANE	Lexie Johnson
APOTHECARY	Joseph Kercher

Production Team

Director	Eric Satterfield
Assistant Director/Dramaturg	John Wolbers
Stage Manager	Tara Laurel
Accessibility Consultant	Jen Kerner
Assistant Stage Manager	Miranda Jagels Félix
Costume Designer	Tara Laurel
Fight Choreographer	Mo Moellering
Intimacy Director	Tress Kurzym
Lighting Designer	Erik Kuhn
Mask Designer	Vickie Delmas
Music Director	Lexie Johnson
Prop Designer	Vickie Delmas
Set Designers	Tara Laurel
Sound Designer	Eric Satterfield

Meet The Artists



Claire Coffey



Vickie Delmas



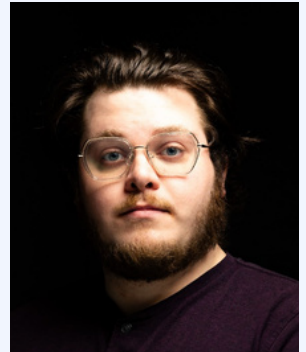
Miranda Jagels Félix



Celeste Genevieve Gardner



Katherine Garrett



Brett Hanna



Moira Healy



LaWanda Jackson



Lexie Johnson

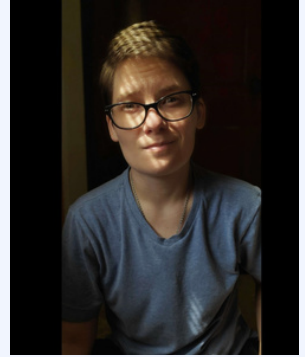
Meet The Artists



Joseph Kercher



Jen Kerner



Kasey Kopp



Erik Kuhn



Tress Kurzym



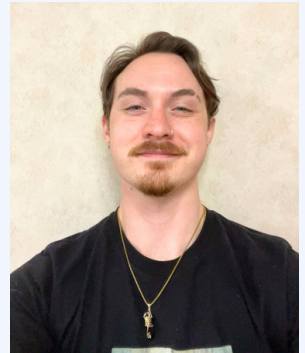
Tara Laurel



Mo Moellering



Elizabeth Breed Penny



Zach Pierson

Meet The Artists



Nikki Piilato



Angelia Prather



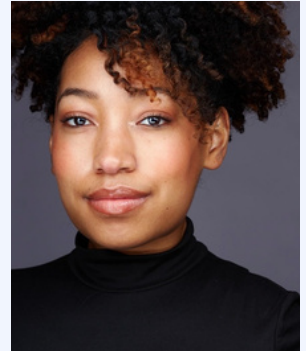
Jack Rimar



Eric Satterfield



Rowan Van Horn



Tia René Williams



John Wolbers

Meet The Artists

Claire Coffey (Paris; Ensemble) is an art director who has been active as a local actor for three years, appearing primarily with Stray Dog Theatre in shows including *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Bell, Book & Candle* (Theatre Circle Award Nominee: Best Leading Actress in a Comedy). Other recent shows include *Twelfth Night* at Clayton Community Theatre (Arts for Life Award Winner: Outstanding Leading Actress in a Comedy), *A Doll's House: Part 2* at St. Louis Actor's Studio, and the world premiere of *Professor House* at Contraband Theatre. Upcoming: *Extremities* at Stray Dog in August. As always, much love to Josh and the kitties.

Vickie Delmas (Prop & Mask Designer) is excited to be invited back as prop and mask designer for *Romeo & Juliet*. Vickie previously designed for *Elsinore*, *The Bigfoot Diaries*, *The Pavement Kingdom*, *Candlelight Dinner*, and *The Reason Why*, all with Chorus of Fools. She loves crafting, gardening, and baking. In addition to her design work, she volunteers in the community and serves on the board of directors of Chorus of Fools.

Miranda Jagels Félix (Assistant Stage Manager) is a St. Louis-based theatre artist originally from Madrid, Spain. She holds an M.A. in Theatre and Performance Studies from Washington University and a B.A. from Saint Louis University. Miranda is a member of Equally Represented Arts (ERA), a professional theatre company committed to creating original experimental works of theatre. She also frequently collaborates with Prison Performing Arts, where she was seen in their original production of *Hag-Seed*. Other theatre companies Miranda has worked with on-stage and off-stage are SATE, The Midnight Company, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Upstream Theater, Critique Theatre Company, and YoungLiars. Miranda is thrilled to finally work with Chorus of Fools!

Celeste Genevieve Gardner (Tybalt) (she/they) is a St. Louis-based actor, director, and theatre artist with a B.A. in Theatre and History from Saint Louis University. Recent acting credits include the award-winning play, *Romanov Family Yard Sale* with Equally Represented Arts (ERA), as well as *The Pavement Kingdom* (Chorus of Fools), *The Inferno is for B*tches* (SATE), and *Spirits to Enforce* (The Midnight Company). Celeste has also worked extensively backstage as a stage manager, wardrobe/costume technician, and light board operator with companies including Metro Theater Company, Fly North Theatrical, Moonstone Theatre Company, and Prison Performing Arts.

Katherine Garrett (Peter, Rosaline, Ensemble) graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2024 with a double major in Theatre Performance and Theatre Education (PK-12). Katherine's credits include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Marmee in *Little Women*, Junie B. Jones in *Junie B. Jones is NOT a Crook!*, most

Meet The Artists

recently Jenny June in *Failure: A Love Story*, and more. Katherine is so excited to be a part of this show. She wants to thank her best friends and her family for supporting her along the way. Find her on instagram: @kxtiegxrrett !

Brett Hanna (Gregory) This is Brett's first show with Chorus Of Fools, and while this is their first time playing in *Romeo and Juliet*, this is their 6th time performing in a Shakespearean play or Shakespearean-adjacent production. Most recently, Brett was in Alpha Players' *Groundhog Day* as Ralph, for which they were nominated as part of a duo for a BPA duo/group award. Brett is a St. Louis-based stage actor and received their B.A. in theatre arts from McKendree University in 2018. Brett is engaged to be married this Fall and wants to thank their fiancée, Korenna, for her unwavering love and support in life and art.

Moira Healy (Benvolia) is glad to be back on stage with Chorus of Fools in her first-ever Shakespeare play! Moira is a St. Louis native who holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Lindenwood University. Being a member of Chorus of Fools' Artistic Ensemble, she has previously been seen in *Heavy*, *The Bigfoot Diaries*, and acted as Stage Manager for *Elsinore*. Other notable credits include: *Alice By Heart* (Looking Glass Playhouse), *Saving Grace* (St. Louis Fringe Festival), *Cinderella* (Lindenwood University), and *Bright Star* (Hawthorne Players). Moira is also a graduate of the St. Louis Improv Shop's Training Program, where she currently performs with teams CAMPY and Loosifer Goosifer. Moira would like to thank her parents, grandma, and fiancé Andrew for their endless love and support.

LaWanda Jackson (Sister Lawrence) LaWanda is thankful to be acting in another show with Chorus of Fools. She is amazed at the talent and happy to be with them.

Lexie Johnson (Lady Montague; Sister Jane; Musician; Ensemble) moved to St. Louis from Nebraska in May 2024 after earning her B.A. in Vocal Performance from Wayne State College. She is the owner and instructor of Lexie's Lessons (www.lexieslessons.com), where she teaches voice and instrumental music, and also works at Intellivo. Lexie is delighted to appear in her second production with Chorus of Fools. Lexie would like to thank her husband and the Chorus of Fools community for their continued support of her artistic journey.

Meet The Artists

Joseph Kercher (Lord Montague; Apothecary; Ensemble) is honored to work with so many great artists in his second Chorus of Fools show *Romeo and Juliet*. His previous work includes *Lord Olaf/Hooded Messenger/Laertes* in *Elsinore*, *British Soldier* in *One Last Job* which premiered at John McGurks, and *Hannah Höch* in the *Phaedra* Festival by ERA. Joseph is a local Saint Louis actor whose theater background comes from his training at Saint Louis University where he received his BA. He thanks his family, friends and his beloved wife for their constant support and encouragement as he engages with this noble craft he loves.

Jen Kerner (Accessibility Consultant) [she/her], autistic artist and advocate, is happy to serve as Chorus of Fools' Accessibility Coordinator for the third time. Jen has supported numerous local theatre companies in producing sensory-friendly, ASL interpreted, and audio described shows since 2018, and has been part of the annual ASL play-reading event *A Show of Hands* since 2022. She is also a veteran community theatre and festival performer all over the St. Louis area. Jen will next appear as part of the voice cast in *Almost, Maine* with Florissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf, opening April 23; and as Granny and the Giant in *Into the Woods* with KTK Productions, opening May 8.

Kasey Kopp (Sampson; Ensemble) is a St. Louis-based actor and playwright whose work, onstage and on the page, tends to live at the intersection of identity, intimacy, and the strange humor of being human. She's delighted to make her Chorus of Fools debut, star-crossed, as advertised.

Erik Kuhn (Lighting Designer) has served as a technical director, scenic & lighting designer, fight director, stage combat instructor, and/or actor on projects with professional companies and educational institutions all across St. Louis. Recent credits include Set Design for *Classic Adventure Movie* (SATE) and *Professor House* (Contraband Theatre) & Fight Director for *Addams Family* (Nerinx Hall) and *Macbeth* (Saint Louis University). He also regularly teaches stage combat around the area and at various workshops for Dueling Arts International, through which he is recognized as an Advanced Theatrical Combatant & Full Instructor.

Meet The Artists

Tress Kurzym (Intimacy Director), she/her, is a multi-hyphenate theatre creator and educator whose work has been seen at regional and international theatres including the Alley Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre, The Institute of Contemporary Arts, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Tress also works as an Intimacy Director in the St. Louis area; most recently with Tesseract Theatre (*POTUS*), the MUNY (*Waitress*), and St. Louis Shakespeare Festival (*Twelfth Night*). Tress heads the Theatre Education and Teacher Training for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she has the opportunity to mentor future theatre educators. This marks her second production serving as the Intimacy Director for Chorus of Fools (*Elsinore*).

Tara Laurel (Stage Manager; Scenic Designer; Costume Designer) is excited to stage manage and design for Chorus of Fools! Tara graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) in May 2025 with a BA in Comm/Theatre. She has participated on and offstage in productions since 2016, most recently working with Bread & Wine Theatre Company and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. In May 2025 she won a “Distinguished Stage Management” Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at the National level for her work on Theatre AUM's production of *Red* by John Logan. Outside of theatre, Tara has a small business, Sophia Marie Candle Co, which can be found on all social media at @SophiaMarieCandleCo and at (sophia-marie-candle-co.square.site).

Mo Moellering (Senator Capulet/Fight Choreographer), she/her, is grateful to be in their first production with Chorus of Fools! Previous roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Riverside Theatre Project), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (ECC Theatre), and Agnes Evans in *She Kills Monsters* (ECC Theatre). Other credits are Octavius Caesar in *Julius Caesar* (St. Louis Shakespeare) and multiple roles in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Imaginary Theatre Company). Mo choreographs stage combat around the region and is an Intermediate Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. Learn more at mo-moellering.com. Thank you to friends, family, and all in between!

Meet The Artists

Elizabeth Breed Penny (Lady Capulet) is thrilled to be making her debut with Chorus of Fools in one of her favorite plays of all time, after performing as Sampson/Paris's Mother when she was 17. A native of IA, Elizabeth holds an MA, a BFA, and is a proud member of the DGA (Dramatists). She has won 2 BPAs, with 5 total nominations, been nominated for two TMAs, and some of her favorite roles include Fred, Katherine, Paulette, Magenta, Julia, Tracy, and Mama Noah. But her proudest achievements have been her MAMA award from her little munchkin, and wife to her best friend, Steven. Elizabeth's performance is dedicated to Adam, and she knows he's calling her "butt love" from up there!

Zach Pierson (Romeo) is a St. Louis native actor who is thrilled to be returning to the stage with Chorus of Fools. He started performing theatre in high school and has kept his passion alive for eight years, performing as Cain in *Children of Eden* (Overdue Theatre Company), Monty in *Violet* (Overdue Theatre Company). He'd like to show love to his wife, Hannah, son Emmett, along with all of his other friends and family.

Nikki Pilato (Nurse) is overjoyed to be collaborating with Chorus of Fools once again. After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in theatre performance, she has worked all over the nation, including at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and the A.D. Players in Houston, Texas. A Shakespeare and Greek theatre nerd, locally, she has worked at theatres like Mustard Seed, Stray Dog Theatre, R. S. Theatrics, and many more. Nikki is a member of the Chorus of Fools Artistic Ensemble. Her recent credits include playing Ruby Lee in *The Bigfoot Diaries*, directing *Heavy*, and assistant directing *Elsinore*, all with Chorus of Fools. She wants to thank Mom, her sisters, and Mike for all the support. Thank you is so small. Alabanza!

Angelia Prather (Mayor Escala; Ensemble), she/they, is a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville with a BA in theatre performance. Some of her most recent roles have been Jean in *Dead Man's Cellphone*, Fraulein Fritz Kost in *Cabaret*, Babs in *Life Sucks*, and Bernadette in *POTUS*. They are so excited to be working with Chorus of Fools for the first time, and they want to thank their friends and family for all their support and love. Follow her on instagram @angelia_prather!

Meet The Artists

Jack Rimar (Balthasar; Ensemble) just lost his contact lens so nobody move! Graduating from Saint Louis University in 2024, he was featured in shows such as *Dreaming of Lear*, *Alabama Story*, *Everybody*, as well as directing the Alpha Psi Omega production of *The Flu Season*. Since leaving SLU, he has stage managed *Dollhouse by Three Manufacturers* (ERA) and *Slasher* (Critique Theatre Company), as well as serving as ASM and assistant director for *Romanov Family Yard Sale* (ERA). Jack would like to thank his family, his friends, his cats, the hat man, Charli XCX, Peter Griffin, 123movies.com, and the green M&M for all their love and support over the years.

Eric Satterfield (Director) is a St. Louis-based actor, director, and Theatre Circle Award-nominated playwright. His plays include *Elsinore*, *The Privilege of Being Second* (both co-written with David Nonemaker), *Heavy* (co-written with Hazel McIntire), and *The Bigfoot Diaries*. Recent directing credits include *Elsinore*, *Candlelight Dinner*, *The Reason Why* (Chorus of Fools), *Go Before I Do*, and *The Privilege of Being Second* (Prison Performing Arts). Recent acting credits include *First Impressions* (PPA & SATE), *Heavy* (Chorus of Fools). Eric is the Producer and a Founder of Chorus of Fools Theatre Company, as well as the Production Coordinator for Prison Performing Arts. Eric is deeply grateful to Katie, his family, and friends for their unwavering support; to the Chorus of Fools board and artistic ensemble for their vision and trust; and to the cast of *Romeo & Juliet* for bringing such heart and courage to the stage.

Rowan Van Horn (Mercutio) is happy to be making his Chorus of Fools debut! Rowan is a BFA Acting graduate from the Jeanine Dobbins conservatory at Southeast Missouri State University. He would like to thank Eric Satterfield and John Wolbers for a wonderful production, and Celeste Genevieve Gardner for the dance. Offstage, Rowan is a writer and teacher.

Tia René Williams (Juliet) is new to the St. Louis theatre scene and thrilled to be making her debut with Chorus of Fools. Tia earned her BA in Franklin, Indiana, and her MA in Theatre from Louisiana Tech University. She spent a year at Milwaukee Repertory Theater as an Emerging Professional Resident and is currently an Acting Fellow at The Black Rep, where she appeared in the ensemble of *Raisin*. Favorite credits include Jo in *The Last Nickel* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and Flora in *The Felt Menagerie* (Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans).

Meet The Artists

John Wolbers (Assistant Director/Dramaturg), he/him, loves playing with Chorus of Fools after appearing onstage in *Elsinore*. For two decades, he's been a professional actor, director, playwright, producer, and teaching artist in St. Louis. Wolbers has adapted nearly twenty Shakespearean productions, in addition to the works of Dickens, Marlowe, Tolkien, and his own original work. His new play *Progress* will premiere with Prism Theatre Company this summer. John is passionately dedicated to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and support in the arts community, and is the Executive Director for the American Institute of Architects - St. Louis. Unending love to this team and his Queens: Elizabeth and Beatrice.

William Shakespeare (Playwright) remains the ultimate collaborator for those interested in the friction of the human experience. He didn't write for academics; he wrote for the people looking for a story that felt as loud and messy as their own lives. Centuries later, his obsession with passion, bad timing, and the weight of loyalty still hits with a modern pulse. We strip back the ceremony to find the raw, visceral heart of his words—proving that while the world changes, the human impulse remains the same. His plays are not meant to be kept behind glass; they are living, breathing maps of how we love and how we fight. By prioritizing the grit of the character over the polish of the period, we aim to treat his work as a conversation rather than a museum piece. Still relevant, still causing trouble, and still the heartbeat of contemporary theater.

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DIRECTED BY REBEKAH SCALLET

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