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presents

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

JULIUS CAESAR

July 30 – August 2
The Hoover-Leppen Theater
Center on Halsted



Directed by Jeremy Ohringer

Production Manager & Programs Coordinator
Katie Langley

Founding Artistic Director
Manon Spadaro

CAST
(In alphabetical order)

Jessica Aquino	Cinna
Ryan Borgdorff	Brutus
Kelly Cerniglia	Metellus
Karla Corona	Cassius
Zaria Evans	Brutus
Gian-Carlo Ferme	Titinius + Popilius Lena + Servant
Krystiana Habiger	Portia
Dallas Koelling	Mark Antony
MJ Moore	Julius Caesar
Cameron Speta	Soothsayer & Cinna the Poet
Riley State	Casca
Freya Trefonides	Lucius
Antonio Turner	Pindarus + Lepidus
Booker Vance	Octavius + Cicero
McKenzie Vergauwen	Calpurnia
Olivia Zapater-Charette	Cassius

TECHNICAL & DESIGN TEAM

Manon Spadaro	Artistic Director
Jeremy Ohringer	Youth Ensemble Director/Sound Design
Katie Langley	Production Manager/Program Design
Laura Schorsch	Set Design Intern/Light Board Operator
Diana Kaiser	Lighting Designer
Patrick Budde	Additional Music
Maya Blackstone	Production Intern/House Manager
Sophia Carlin	Sound Board Operator

Contributing Artists

Kelley Abell	Patrick Budde
Caitlin Costello	Amelia Hefferon
Danielle Littman	Scott Merchant
Eileen Vorbach	

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We began our creative process with *Julius Caesar* by examining two themes from the play that seemed particularly evocative for our student actors and representative of the world we live in now: the public vs. private self and celebrity. Using these themes as a starting point, in addition to discussions about character, honor, politics, and war, we found ourselves making some bold casting choices. We chose to split the roles of Cassius and Brutus into two sides, or selves: the private self and the public self, with a different actor portraying each. Discussions about celebrity also led us to cast a number of women in traditionally male roles, (in true Shakespeare fashion - only reversed). Other collaborative choices inspired us to depict the world of the play through the aesthetic lens of a 21st Century comic book: where the characters and situations are heightened, yet they speak to universal truths; and where visual elements are as essential to the storytelling as the words. All of the choices we made with this production generated from the collaborative work of this extraordinarily perceptive and courageous group of young actors. This production is a testament to their hard work, passion, creativity and talent.

HISTORICAL NOTE

William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is set during the dying days of the Roman Republic and dramatically chronicles the famous politician's fall from grace and astounding aftermath. Set against the backdrop of a Rome very much in transition, the themes of power, glory, and conspiracy intersect heavily throughout the play. However, one thing that remains constant is the influence of the Roman people. An absolutely vital component of the historic Roman state and society, the importance of the people was even reflected in the very name of the Roman government: *Senatus Populusque Romanus* (abbreviated *SPQR*), meaning "the Senate and People of Rome."

ABOUT CYS

Chicago Youth Shakespeare (CYS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Shakespeare performance, education and outreach opportunities to Chicago area high school students. CYS programs focus on teaching and learning Shakespeare through performance, providing hands-on experiences that give high school students a deeper understanding of Shakespeare, themselves, and their connections to others. The Chicago Youth Shakespeare Ensemble (CYSE) is our flagship performance company. Youth Ensemble students explore various acting techniques and methods for "unpacking" and personalizing the text as they rehearse a Shakespeare play for performances at theaters and cultural arts venues throughout the Chicago area. CYSE students also participate in outreach shows for students and seniors, including presentations at CPS high schools during the school year and free Shakespeare-in-the-park shows in the summer. Youth Ensemble auditions are open to high school students grades 9-12 throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.