

KING LEAR

Cast and Contributing Artists



SARAH LIZ BELL, (*Regan*) is a Chicago-based actor and teaching artist, having collaborated on in-school residencies and CYS Ensemble productions for the last three years. With a Master's in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), Sarah's passion for sharing Shakespeare with students knows no bounds, and she is ecstatic to be a part of this event with such fine company! Most recently she was honored to play Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* (Edge of the Wood Resident Theatre) and Desdemona in *Othello* (Babes with Blades Theatre Co.). As always, love and gratitude to her One and Only.



LEVI DONNELL, (*Gentleman to Lear*) is a young wordsmith constantly searching for something to cure his boredom. A graduate of ChiArts, this need is now in the BFA acting program at The School of Theatre and Music at UIC. He is an old soul with a childish nature and a love of too many things like Shakespeare, music, and being silly. Levi seeks to embrace the weird and use acting as an escape from reality. CYS shows include *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.



KEVIN JOHNSON, (*Gentleman to Cordelia*) is a contributing artist with CYS, as well as an alum of the program, having been seen in *Comedy of Errors*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Uneasy Lies the Head*, and *Othello*. He is a teaching artist and director with EDGE of Orion's homeschool theatre company, as well as an ensemble member with Unrehearsed Shakespeare, with whom he's played such roles as Edgar, Cordianus, and Brutus. His original verse play, *The Tragedy of Johnny & Lisa*, a Shakespearean adaptation of *The Room*, has seen several staged readings and one production in recent years.



ESTHER SEGAL, (*Knight/First Servant to Cornwall*) is a high school junior, and an alumna of six Chicago Youth Shakespeare productions. Esther occasionally works as an elementary and middle school math tutor, and is a theatrical/teaching intern and junior staff for EDGE Youth Theatre (the company through which she did her very first play). Some of her favorite performing credits include *Duress/Lodovico (Othello)*, *Anne Frank (Diary of Anne Frank)*, *Agnes (She Kills Monsters)*, and *Staphano (The Tempest)*. Esther is marvelously excited to be working with this brilliant cast and crew on *King Lear*, in support of CYS.



DEMETRIOS TROY, (*Gloucester*) Chicago Credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars*, *2668*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Seagull*, *The Happiest Song Plays Last*, and *The Good Negro* at Goodman Theatre, *The Wheel at Steppenwolf Theatre Company*, *Charles III*, *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Timon of Athens*, *Richard III* and *Romeo and Juliet* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Treasure Island* at Lookingglass Theatre Company; *Insane*, *Blood and Gifts* and *Danny Casolaro Died for You* at Timeline Theatre Company, where he is an artistic associate; *Awake and Sing* at Northlight Theatre. His regional credits include *12 Angry Men* at Indiana Repertory Theatre and Syracuse Stage; *Junk* at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; *Julius Caesar* at Utah Shakespeare Festival; *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, at Door Shakespeare; *Television* and film credits include *Rogers Park*, *Chicago Fire*, *Mob Doctor*, *Utopia* and *Empire*. He holds a BA from DePaul University /Barat College and an MFA from the University of South Carolina.



SIYAH BERLATSKY, (*First Servant to Cornwall/ Herald*) is an aspiring actor in Chicago. He is a sophomore in the acting program at the Chicago High School for the Arts and has trained with the Lookingglass Young Ensemble, performing in five shows with them. He recently appears in student films for universities around Chicago, and has performed with CYS *Trinia* before, as *Brabantio/Montano* in *Othello*, *Malvolio* in *Twelfth Night* and as *Frar Lawrence* in their 15 minute adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, performed at the 2019 Youth Arts Showcase in Millennium Park. Siyah is equal parts thrilled, honored, and excited to perform in this incredible consolidation of talent and prowess.



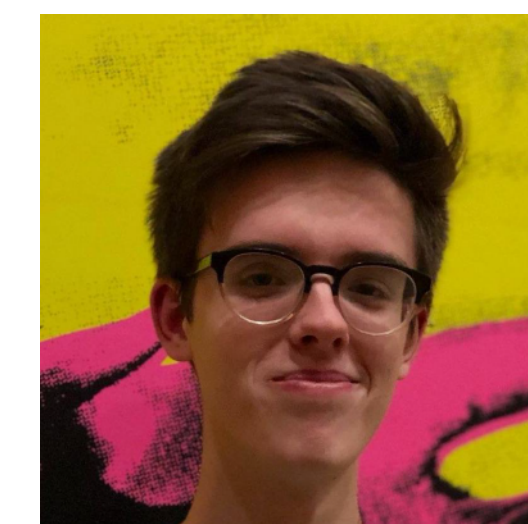
JACINDA DORIAN, (*Second Servant to Cornwall*) has been in four productions with CYS. She is thrilled to be working with CYS again and to be involved with theatre in any capacity in her hometown, Chicago. She will graduate with a B.A. in acting from Columbia College Chicago in May of 2020 and is excited to see what lies ahead in the world of theatre.



DAVID LIVELY, (*Lear, King of Britain*). On stage, David appeared as Juror 11 in Roundabout Theatre Company's U.S. and Canadian tour of *Twelve Angry Men*. He has performed in twenty-five productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater including *The King's Speech*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King John*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, *Amadeus*, *Henry V*, *Henry VIII*, *Macbeth*, *The Madness of King George*, *King Charles II*, and *Timon of Athens*. He also portrayed Henry IV in *Henry IV parts 1 and 2* in Chicago, and at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon, UK.



MANON SPADARO, (*Founding Artistic Director*) Manon is thrilled to bring such an exceptional company of artists together for tonight's reading of *King Lear*. Prior to launching CYS in 2013, Manon was a high school and middle school theatre arts teacher for over fifteen years. She trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts at Crole in the Square, and earned her B.S. and M.A. degrees in theatre from Northwestern University. Manon has served on the faculty at Lake Forest Country Day School, Francis W. Parker School, Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development, and Bernard Zell School at DePaul University, and has directed somewhere upwards of 50 youth productions. (She's lost count), including dozens of Shakespeare plays with young artists ages 13-19 years old.



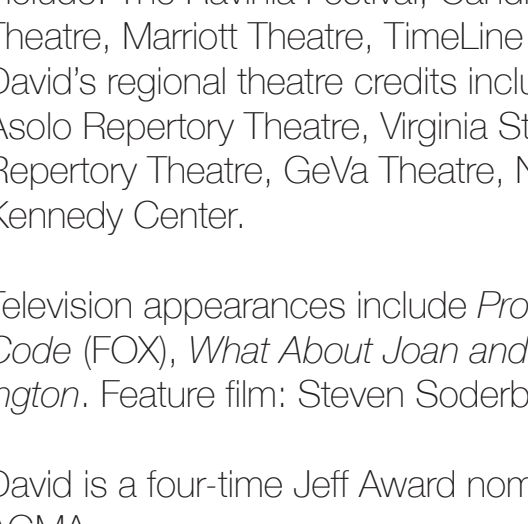
OSKAR WESTBRIDGE, (*Duke of Burgundy*) is thrilled to once again work with Chicago Youth Shakespeare. Previously, he performed in CYS's production of *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse) and the 1NightOnly production of *Macbeth* (Malcolm) produced by CYS alumni. He is currently a second year student at The Theatre School at DePaul University, and is studying Theatre Arts with a concentration in Direction. Recently, he had the opportunity to direct the world premier of *Tidewrack* as part of "Prototypes," DePaul's festival of student work. He is currently working as Assistant Director on *Neighborhood III: Requisition of Doom* which will open in January within The Theatre School's Healy Theatre.



RYAN BORGDOORFF, (*Duke of Cornwall*) is an aspiring high school teacher and a CYS alumna, having first worked with CYS in 2016 on *Julius Caesar* (as Brutus). Since then, he has worked as an intern on the last five CYS programs, starting with *Much Ado About Nothing*. Ryan is in his last year of studies at Northwestern University, where he is studying Theatre, Political Science and Education, and will begin teaching high school civics and theatre just next year. So long as CYS has a place for him, however, he plans to keep coming back to this program to help with the wonderful, fast-expanding work it has brought to this city in its short life so far.



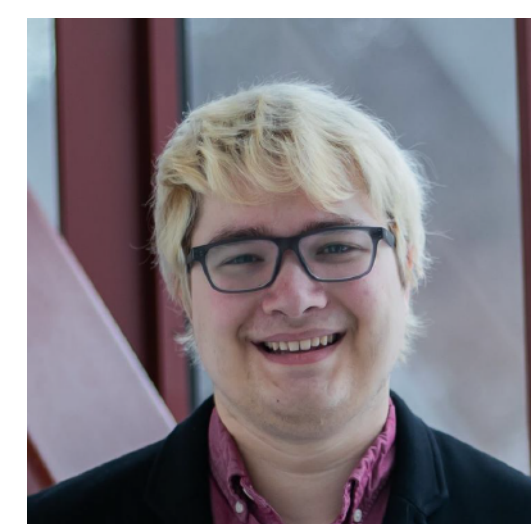
LOUIS FANTASIA, (*Director*) has directed nearly 200 plays and operas world-wide, and was the first American to direct on the reconstructed London Globe stage, with a workshop production of *Much Ado about Nothing* in 1999. Currently Artistic Associate of the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, he has served as Dean of the Faculty of the New York Film Academy, and President of Deep Springs College, and the initial President of the CYS Board of Directors. Louis is the general editor of *Playing Shakespeare's Characters*, a new scholarly series from Peter Lang Publishers, and his books include *Instant Shakespeare* (published by Ivan R. Dee), *Tragedy in the Age of Oprah* (Scarecrow Press); and *Talking Shakespeare: Notes from a Journey* (Peter Lang Publishers). In 2003, the Council of Europe named the theatre collection at its library in the European Parliament in honor of Louis Fantasia, who holds both U.S. and European Union passports. In 2016 he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his contributions to German culture and theatre.



For Lyric Opera of Chicago, he appeared in Rob Ashford's *Carousel*, and in Robert Carsen's *My Fair Lady*, both conducted by Maestro David Chase. Other Chicago venues include: The Ravinia Festival, Candlelight's Forum Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, and Organic/Touchstone Theatre. David's regional theatre credits include performances at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, GeVa Theatre, New American Theatre, New Stage Theatre, and The Kennedy Center.

Television appearances include *Proven Innocent*, *Empire*, *Prison Break*, *The Chicago Code* (FOX), *What About Joan and Cupid* (ABC), and the CBS miniseries *George Washington*. Feature film: Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion*, and *The Opera Lover*.

David is a four-time Jeff Award nominee, and a proud member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and AGMA.



CAMERON SPETA, (*Captain*) is a fourth year theatre arts major, studying playwriting at the University of Iowa. Recently they have had one of their works, *Blood Moon*, produced at the University Iowa. Previous acting credits include *Emmet* (*Together, At Least*), *Ensemble Actor* (*Love and Information*), and *Augustus* (*This King's Country*). After graduation, Cameron plans on attending law school and studying labor rights. CYS shows include *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Comedy of Errors*.



JOSHUA ZAMBRANO, (*Edmund*) is ecstatic to be in his first production of *King Lear* and to be surrounded by such talent. Josh graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University (14) and received his bachelor's degree in Organismal Biology and Ecology from Colorado College (18). He is a CYS alumna and currently serves on its board of directors; he is also a company member of Vision Latino Theater Company. Josh thanks God, his family, and his friends for the constant love and support. Chicago credits: *Sonny in the Heights* (Vision Latino), *Sims in Grace*, or *the Arts of Climbing* (BPBECo.), *Justin Laboy* in *21 Clump Street* (Counter Collective), and *Eddie in Manger* (Her Story Theater).



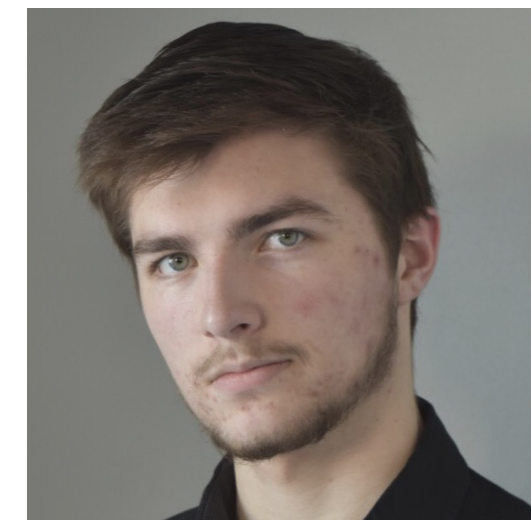
SOPHIA CARLIN, (*Oswell*) is honored to be back with her CYS family in *King Lear*! Since leaving Chicago for NYC, she has worked with some amazing companies such as, *Hamlet Isn't Dead*, *The Shadow Box*, *The Urban Shakespeare Project*, *Hedgehog Ensemble Theatre*, *One Year Lease*, *The Ride LLC*, and many more! Other recent credits include The Performer's School's production of *Cinderella* at Ravinia Festival (Assistant Stage Manager) and DePaul's production of *Our Lady of Kibeho* (House and Public Relations Crew). She is thrilled to be back with her CYS family and honored to be a part of this staged reading.



ANNIE FISHBEIN, (*Production Manager*) is a first-year BFA Theatre Management major in The Theatre School at DePaul University. Her past CYS credits include *Othello* (Production Manager) and *Twelfth Night* (Production Manager). Other recent credits include The Performer's School's production of *Cinderella* at Ravinia Festival (Assistant Stage Manager) and DePaul's production of *Our Lady of Kibeho* (House and Public Relations Crew). She is thrilled to be back with her CYS family and honored to be a part of this staged reading.



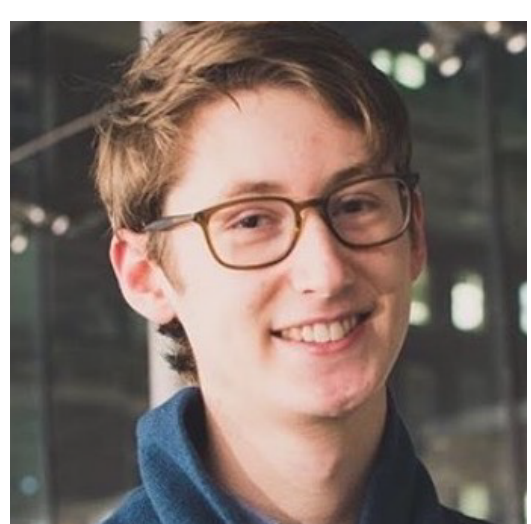
LAUREN MARUT, (*Messenger*) is a senior at Lane Tech College Prep and a proud alumna of Chicago Youth Shakespeare. This past year she has been featured in Steppenwolf's *LookOut* series and Northwestern's *Cherub* program, and recognized by the city for her theatre work as an honoree on the 2019 Rising Star Honor Roll. She intends to major in musical theatre and is thrilled to be a part of this reading.



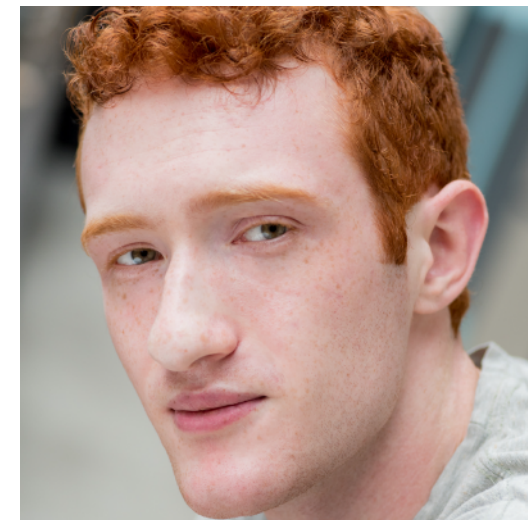
LUKE STEADMAN, (*Edgar*) is a first year student at PACE University in New York City with an undeclared major. He recently graduated from The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) acting conservatory program. He has performed improv at The Second City, contributed to the creation of an original play, *The Bad*, *The Evil*, and *The Junky* at ChiArts, and as of last summer received his first directing credit for *You Don't Know Me* in the 2019 Cut to the Chase play Festival at The Artistic Home. Luke has worked, studied, and performed with CYS in three productions; has participated twice in the Cherubs Theater Arts Division and placing in the top ten finalists at the English Speaking Union National Shakespeare Monologue Competition. She is delighted to be able to tell this story alongside so many wonderful actors and plans to major in acting next fall.



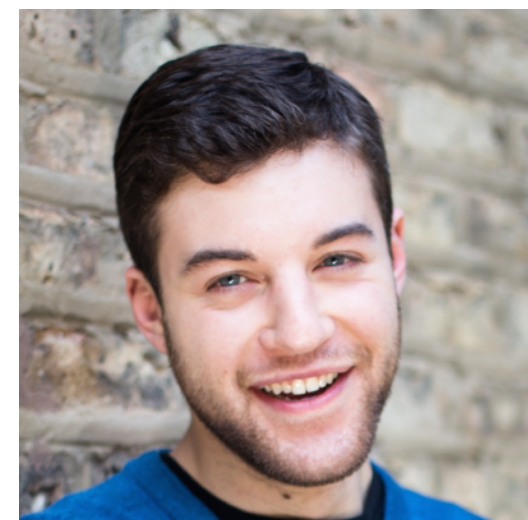
SONIA ZARTMAN, (*Cordelia*) is a senior at Oak Park and River Forest High School and is honored to join CYS for this wonderful opportunity. Previous CYS productions include *Othello* (Desdemona), *Uneasy Lies the Head* (Richard III/Desdemona), and a 15 minute *Romeo and Juliet* (Lord Capulet). Other recent credits include participating in the Cherubs Theater Arts Division and placing in the top ten finalists at the English Speaking Union National Shakespeare Monologue Competition. She is delighted to be able to tell this story alongside so many wonderful actors and plans to major in acting next fall.



SIMON COHEN, (*Composer/Arranger*) is a composer and conductor in his third year at Columbia University, where he has studied composition with Georg Friedrich Haas and George Lewis. At Columbia, Simon is on the board of Columbia New Music, a group that promotes the discussion and performance of contemporary music. He is one of the conductors of the New Opera Workshop, Columbia's only club dedicated to opera performance. From 2018-19, Simon served as head of the Classical department at WKCR-FM, the campus radio station. He participated in CYS's productions of *Hamlet*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, and also organized and directed an unrehearsed production of *Macbeth* inspired by his work there.



GABE GIRSON, (*Duke of Albany*) is elated to be able to reconnect with and support the CYS family! He grew up in Oak Park and is a senior acting major at Syracuse University, where he performed in *The Crucible*, *Title of Show*, *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*, and *Eurydice*, and directed *Actually* by Anna Ziegler. In the Syracuse community, he directed the Baldwinsville Center for the Arts' annual Halloween Ghostwalk, performed in *Shakes-Bear: Bard and Brew*, and works in the local disabled community as a teaching artist with All-Star Cast.



JEREMY OHRINGER, (*Assistant Director*) is a director and teaching artist. He holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from Boston University, where his projects included *Horizon Line* (Inspired by Homer's *Odyssey*), *Angels in America: Perestroika*, and Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Chicago directing credits include *Milkwhite* (The Kinematics), *Sad Songs For Bad People* (Co-Director, Rough House Theater), *Salve Regina: A Coming of Gay Story* (Center on Halsted/ Ringward Theater), *Who Rowed Across Oceans* (Lost Compass/Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and a new adaptation of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* with Fearless Theater. As a Teaching Artist, he has worked with Steppenwolf, Writers, and Open Books, among others.



ISRAEL TERRELL, (*King of France*) is a first year Actor in The Theatre School at DePaul and an alum of the Chicago High School for the Arts. Israel has done 5 shows with Chicago Youth Shakespeare and has been an assistant teaching artist for CYS residencies. He intends on continuing his education and working as a teaching artist. He is very proud to be working with CYS once again.



DEXTER ZOLLIGOFFER, (*Fool*) last appeared at Court Theatre in *King Healey II*. Other Court appearances include *Guess who's Coming to Dinner*, *Electra*, *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Mystery Cycle: Creation and Passion*. He has been a Chicago actor for the past thirty years. Other credits include *Charm* at Northlight Theatre (Jeff Award for Actor in a Principle Role), as well as work at Goodman, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Berkeley Rep, McCarter Theatre and Alabama Shakespeare to name a few. TV/Film appearances include *Joe Pera Talks to You*, *Easy*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, *Detroit 1-8-7*, *Southside* and *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*. He is an administrator at The Theatre School at DePaul University. He can next be seen in *Lady From the Sea* at Court Theatre.



KARLA CORONA, (*Doctor*) is currently an under graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She will be graduating next year with a BFA in Theatre. She was part of UIC's Improv Club, Redlight School District. Recent works include *Electricidad*, *Back the Night*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at UIC theatre. She was part of Cut to the Chase festival, and performed in the production of *Vanya in the Plains* at the Artistic Home. CYS shows include *Julius Caesar* (Cassius), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania). Karla is thrilled to work with such an amazing group of people!



LAWRENCE GRIMM, (*Earl of Kent*) is a proud board member of Chicago Youth Shakespeare. He is a veteran Arts Educator, Teaching Mentor, former classroom teacher and Professional Development facilitator. As a founding ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre, some of his credits include *Small Mouth Sounds* (Jeff Nomination - Ensemble), *3C*, *Trevor* (Jeff Nomination - Actor), *In a Garden*, *Pumpkin*, and *Abigail's Party* among many others. Other Chicago area credits: *Hannah and Martin* at Shattered Globe (Jeff Nomination - Actor), *King Charles III*, *The Tempest* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *The Jostling* (Goodman Theatre), *My Name is Asher Lev* (Timeline Theatre), *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* (Victory Gardens), *Welcome Home*, *Jenny Sutter* (Next Theatre), *Otello* (Court Theatre), *Tivo by Printer* (Piven Theater Workshop), *The Glass Menagerie* at Raven Theatre, (Jeff Award - Actor), *The Brothers Karamazov*, 1984, (Lookingglass), *I Never Sang for My Father*, *Wolf Lullaby* (Steppenwolf), Film: *Captive State*, *Welcome to Me*, *Perfect Manhattan*, *Cicero in Winter*, Television: *The Red Line*, *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Med*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Education: B.A. Kenyon College, M.Ed. De Paul University.



EVEV REIDY, (*Goneril*) is a Chicago-based actress and teaching artist. Evev has worked as a teaching artist and artistic associate with Chicago Youth Shakespeare on six productions and multiple CYS In-Schools residencies across Chicago and the suburbs. Other teaching artist credits include work with Writers Theatre (where she is the Education Coordinator), *The Viola Project* and the Boston Shakespeare Project. As an actor, she has worked in Chicago with Dandelion Theatre, Commission Theatre, The New Colony, The Boston Shakespeare Project, and more. As a director, she recently assistant directed the Chicago premiere of *I'm Gonna Play For You* So Hard with First Floor Theatre. A proud graduate of Tufts University, Evev's scholarly work has explored how Shakespeare writes about gender identity and mental illness. She is so grateful she gets to show students all the ways Shakespeare can be vibrant, current, and accessible to them and to all!



FREYA TREFONIDES, (*Curan*) is a CYS alumna who has worked with CYS since her first production, *As You Like It* (Fosca), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), and *Julius Caesar* (Lucius). As an artistic apprentice, their CYS credits include *Uneasy Lies the Head*, *Othello*, and *Twelfth Night*. Outside of CYS, credits include *An Uncertain Hour* with the Prometheus Ensemble (Chi), *The Trip to Bourneville* with Open Door Theater (Thelma), and *Luck of the Irish* at UIC. In addition to theater, Freya's work includes collage and zinc art. Artistic influences include Lee Bontecou, Sarah Ruhl, Karen Hodge, and Hanna Hoch. Freya is 21 years old and a second year BFA Acting student at UIC.

Musicians:

NICOLE KWASNY, (*Violinist*) is a junior in the music program at Nicholas Senn High School, and is the concertmaster of her school's orchestra. She goes to Paderewski Academy of Music and is in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Philharmonic Orchestra. Nicole has been playing the violin for 11 years and plans to major in music performance after high school.

LIA PALOMBO SCHALL, (*Cellist*) is a high school senior at Francis W. Parker School. She currently plays with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Merit School of Music Conservatory, and played with the Hyde Park Youth Symphony in both the chamber and orchestra programs (2016-2018). Lia has been playing the cello for 13 years.

HANNAH BRIONES, (*Mist*) is in the 12th grade at Riverside Brookfield High School. She plays in the school's Chamber Orchestra as principal violist, and also plays in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Philharmonic Orchestra. She has been playing the viola for 7 years and hopes to continue playing in an orchestra through college. Hannah also plays guitar and sings at New Hope Church.