

Chicago Youth Shakespeare presents

THE ROMEO AND JULIET PROJECT

CAST & CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS



Ashley Benson (*Lady Montague / Benvolio, Act 3*) is so happy to be back with CYS for their virtual installment of *Romeo and Juliet*! Her most recent credit is from her

summer with the Powerhouse Theater Training Program, playing Mamilus/Dorcas/The Mariner in *The Winter's Tale*. Previous CYS productions she has been a part of are *Romeo and Juliet*, (*Benvolio*), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (*Egeus / Peaseblossom*). A graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, you can find her on Instagram @ashley.e.benson.



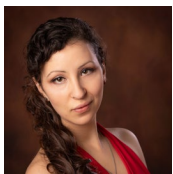
Siah Berlatsky (*Romeo, Act 1-2*) is 16 and an aspiring actor and writer, entering his junior year as a theatre major at The Chicago High School For The Arts. He's performed with

CYS in the past as Brabantio/Montano (*Othello*), Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*), Clarence/Ratcliffe (*Richard III*), First Servant to Cornwall and Herald in CYS's alumni reading of *King Lear*, and he participated in the CYS Pandemic Project.



Hannah Blau (*Tybalt, Act 1*) is a rising third-year at the University of Manchester in the UK, where she will receive her BA in Drama. This is her first performance with CYS as an

actor, having previously served as an intern on their productions of *Uneasy Lies the Head* and *Twelfth Night*. She has also worked with The Viola Project as a Teaching Apprentice. Previous production credits include *Spring Awakening* (Choreographer), *Enron* (Designer), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Director), and *Mr. Burns* (Jenny). After graduation, she plans to pursue theatre education. Big love to Manon and the whole CYS family!



Haia R'nana Bhiri (*Gregory / Balcony Scene Juliet*) recently graduated Brandeis University summa cum laude with highest honors in Theatre Arts and is headed

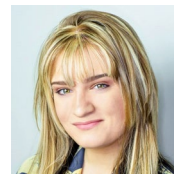
to UC San Diego to join their Theatre PhD program

and continue pursuing theatre education (she has taught theatre at Brandeis, Black Box Studios, and Cherubs). Recent credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Peer Gynt* (Solweig/Aase), *Fefu and Her Friends* (Emma/Fight Captain), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Theresa), *Eurydice* (Director), *Love and Information*, *John Proctor is the Villain* (Shelby), and *The Emassey*: an original play that she wrote to accompany her thesis on the portrayal of mother/daughter relationships in Western media (the process was cut short by Covid but there is a rehearsal video available online). She initially found her way to CYS through *Romeo and Juliet* and is thrilled to have this opportunity to revisit it with this stellar team and incredible process!



Ryan Borgdorff (*Sampson / Tybalt, Act III*) just graduated from Northwestern University where he studied Theatre, Political Science, Secondary Education, and U.S.

History—and is also CYS's longest-running intern, having worked on 7 CYS programs since 2015. He plans to teach high school Social Studies in the coming year wherever will have him, and hopes to continue participating in the wonderful work CYS puts on!



Sophia Carlin (*Balthazar, Act 1 / Peter / Mercutio, Act 3 / Apothecary / Zoom Guru*) is honored to be back with her CYS family in *Romeo and Juliet*! Since leaving Chicago for

NYC, she has worked with some amazing companies such as, *Hamlet Isn't Dead*, *The Shadow Box*, *The Untitled Shakespeare Project*, *Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre*, *One Year Lease*, *The Ride LLC*, and many more! She recently graduated from Pace University this past May with a degree in Acting as part of their International Performance Ensemble. She thanks her friends and family for coming to all of her shows, even the bad ones. You can find out more about what she has done and is up to at sophiacarlin.com.



Julianne Cozette (*Juliet Acts 4-5*) is a rising Junior pursuing a BFA in Acting at Illinois Wesleyan University, where her most recent roles were Saint Peter in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and Miss Julie in *Miss Julie*. She participated in CYS's productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest*. Julianne is grateful to have gotten the opportunity to be part of this artistic project after her internship with the Disney College Program was cancelled due to COVID, but which she hopes to complete in the future. During quarantine she is learning ukulele and American Sign Language, reading plays, and baking copious amounts of banana bread.



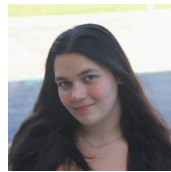
Andrew Feingold-Fisher (*Abraham*) is an incoming Sophomore at Niles North High School. He started with CYS earlier this year when he played the roles of Lord Rivers/Lord Mayor/Bishop of Ely in the CYS production of *Richard III*, and most recently in the *CYS Pandemic Project*. Outside of CYS he was involved in a few productions at Niles North including *Controlling Interest* (Jack), *School of the Americas* (Tad), and *Matilda* (Eric).



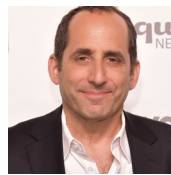
Kirsten Fitzgerald (*Nurse*) is a proud member of the Artistic Ensemble at A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago where she has also served as the Artistic Director since 2008. She has been fortunate to originate roles in the world premieres of *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Traitor* by Brett Neveu (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Lettie* by Boo Kilebrew and *Appropriate* by Brandon Jacob Jenkins (Victory Gardens Theatre), as well as Tracy Letts' *Mary Page Marlow* and Bruce Norris' *The Qualms* (Steppenwolf Theatre), in addition to work with Goodman, Defiant, Chicago Shakespeare and Utah Shakespeare Festival among others. Television credits include *Proven Innocent*, *The Exorcist*, *Sirens*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Justice*, *Chicago Fire*, *Underemployed* and *ER*. Film credits include *Widows* and *Working Man*.



Lawrence Grimm (*Prince Escalus*) is a founding ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre, where his credits include: *Do You Feel Anger?*, *Small Mouth Sounds* (Jeff Nomination – Ensemble), *3C*, *Trevor* (Jeff Nomination - Actor), *In a Garden*, *Pumpgirl*, 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 Theatre), *2666* (Goodman Theatre), *The Upstairs Concierge* (Goodman – New Stages), *My Name is Asher Lev* (Timeline Theatre), *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* (Victory Gardens), *Welcome Home*, *Jenny Sutter* (Next Theatre), *Orlando* (Court Theatre), *Two* by Pinter (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. Board Member of Chicago Youth Shakespeare and A Red Orchid Theater.



Sophie Harris (*Benvolio/Breakout Balcony Juliet*) is a rising high school senior at Lane Tech College Prep in Chicago. At Lane Tech, she is in the Drama and Omega Istorica concentrations, her most recent performance being *Into the Woods* (Little Red Ridinghood). She has previously worked with Chicago Youth Shakespeare in *Uneasy Lies the Head* and served as a Production Assistant for their staged reading of *King Lear*. She plans on studying Theatre and Communications in college, and aspires to be a director for the stage and screen.



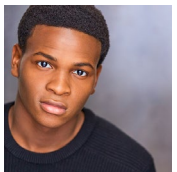
Peter Jacobson, (*Friar Laurence*) is a film, television, and stage actor, living in New York. Stage credits include: Atlantic Theater Company: *The Water Engine* and *Once in a Lifetime*. Off-Broadway: original New York productions of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Four Dogs and a Bone* (John Patrick Shanley dir.), *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr* (Abridged), *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Comedy of Errors* (Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park), *Obie*

Award-winning *June Moon*, and *Waiting for Lefty*. Television: Dr. Taub on *House*, Proxy Snyder on *Colony*, and recurring roles on *Fear the Walking Dead*, *NCIS: L.A.*, *The Americans*, *Ray Donovan*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *Law & Order*, as well as *Billions*, *Paterno*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Genius*, *Madam Secretary*, and *Chicago PD*. Film: *White House Down*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, and upcoming *The Goldfinch*, *Joyful*, *Before You Know It*, and *Violet*. Peter is originally from Chicago.



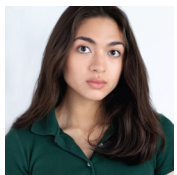
Midge Makowski (*Benvolio, Act I / Balcony Scene Romeo*) is a rising senior at Jones College Prep, where she is heavily involved with their technical theatre program, specifically

through stage management and scenic design. Most recently at Jones College Prep Midge was Stage Manager for their performance of *Peter and the Starcatchers*. Her past performances with Chicago Youth Shakespeare include *Twelfth Night* (Maria) and *Uneasy Lies the Head* (Regan/Nurse/Lavina/Duke Fredrick) and she also served as a Production Assistant for their alumni staged reading of *King Lear*. In the future, Midge hopes to study theatre and major in Stage and Production Management.



Freedom Martin (*Romeo Act 2-3*) is a National Youngarts Foundation Winner in Theatre and a rising sophomore at The Juilliard School. His recent credits include *Ethiopian*

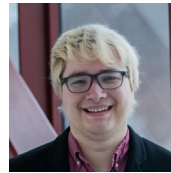
America (Definition Theatre); *Cardboard Piano* (TimeLine Theatre); *Rock N' Roll* (The Artistic Home); and *The Toilet* (Haven Theatre). Past CYS productions include: *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Lauren Marut (*Juliet, Acts 3-4*) is an incoming undergrad at Yale University where she will be majoring in Theatre and Economics. This past year she has been featured

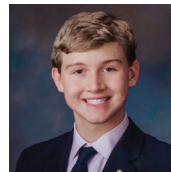
in Steppenwolf's LookOut series, Northwestern's Cherub program, alongside CYS alum in their staged reading of *King Lear* and as Bianca in CYS's 2018/'19 production of *Othello*. Her most recent credits include *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania), and *Chicago*

(*Velma*). Lauren is thrilled to be back with CYS for this reading.



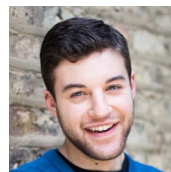
Neku Morne (*Lord Montague*) is a 2020 graduate of the University of Iowa where they received a BA in Theatre Arts. They concentrated in playwriting and had their work

produced as part of the 2019-2020 season and 2019 Ten Minute Play Festival. They are a three time CYS alum: *As You Like It* (2014), *Julius Caesar* (2015), *Comedy Of Errors* (2016). They also participated in the CYS *King Lear* benefit reading last winter.



Daniel Newgarden (*Paris / Balcony scene Romeo*) is excited to be playing Paris in his first virtual production! He is 17 years old and has worked with CYS before in the

2019 summer production of *Twelfth Night*. He has also worked with Mudlark Theater Company in the past, and hopes to continue with theater in the future.



Jeremy Ohringer (*Artistic Collaborator / Video Editor*) is a Chicago-based 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/Ringwald 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 been with CYS from the very beginning, and served as the first "director" and co-developer of the CYSE program. Jeremy also works as a teaching artist with Steppenwolf, Writers Theatre, and Open Books, among others.



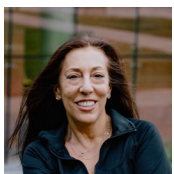
Evey Reidy (*Lady Capulet*) is a Chicago-based actress and teaching artist. Evey currently serves as the Director of Community Engagement and Lead Artistic Staff at Chicago

Youth Shakespeare. Other teaching artist credits include work with Writers Theatre (where she was 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. A special thank you to everyone who came together to make this project happen!



Esther Segal-Weinberger (*Citizen 2 / Balcony Scene Juliet / Balthazar, Act 5*) is a rising senior in high school, and this is her second collaborative alumni-and-professional production with CYS, following *King Lear* in

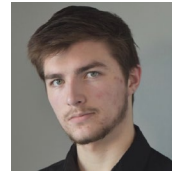
December of 2019. She was last seen performing in CYS's *Pandemic Project: A (virtual) Birthday Tribute to the Bard* as Emilia and Beatrice, as well as in their Raven Theatre run of *Richard III* as Duchess of York. Some of Esther's favorite non-CYS theatre-credits have been *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne), *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes), and *Jurassic Park: A Parody Musical* (backstage supervisor / run crew). Esther also occasionally works as an elementary and middle-school supplemental math tutor, and often works as an intern and junior teacher for her long-time theatre company, EDGE Youth Theatre. In the future, she hopes to study education, particularly as it intersects with mathematics, American Sign Language, and/or theatre.



Manon Spadaro, (*Founding Artistic Director*) is thrilled to bring such an exceptional company of young artists and distinguished professional actors together for this virtual reading of

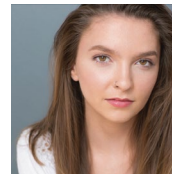
Romeo and Juliet. Prior to launching CYS in 2013, Manon was a theatre arts teacher and director for over twenty years, working predominantly with high school and middle school students. She trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts at Circle in the Square, and holds a B.S. and M.A. in theatre from Northwestern 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 Anshe Emet Day School, and has directed somewhere upwards of 50 youth productions, including dozens of Shakespeare plays with young artists ages 13-19 years old.



Luke Steadman, (*Romeo, Act IV*) is an upcoming second year student at PACE University in New York City working towards a BA in Film and Screen Studies. Luke has worked,

studied, and performed with CYS in four productions: *The Tempest* (Ferdinand), *Othello* (Iago), *Twelfth Night* (Sir Toby Belch) and *King Lear* (Edgar). He has participated twice in the Shakespeare Slam competition, and studied Shakespeare for three weeks in Oxford, at the British American Dramatic Academy's (BADA) Midsummer in Oxford program. He is so happy to be working in theatre and with CYS over this quarantine and longs for the day we can once again join together as a live audience and ensemble.



Erin Sullivan (*Juliet, Act 2*) is a rising junior BFA Actor at Illinois Wesleyan University. She has participated in two CYS productions: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice)

and *The Tempest* (Gonzalo). Both were wonderful experiences, so of course she keeps coming back for more. She's grateful for the opportunity to come together with such a wonderful group of people and bring R&J to life in an unconventional way.



Demetrios Troy (*Lord Capulet*). Chicago Credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars, 2666, A Christmas Carol, The Seagull* 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 Looking-glass Theatre Company Theatre; *Inana, 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 *Junk* at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; *12 Angry Men, The Boys Next Door* at Syracuse Stage; *Julius Caesar* at Utah Shakespeare Festival; *Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's*

Dream, Twelfth Night, at Door Shakespeare; Television and film credits include *Chicago PD*, *Empire*, *Chicago Fire*, *Mob Doctor*. He holds a BA from DePaul University/Barat College and an MFA from the University of South Carolina.



Anika Waco (*Juliet, Acts 1-2*) is a junior at Elon University in North Carolina, where she is pursuing a BFA in Acting and double majoring in Arts Administration with a

Spanish minor. Her Elon credits include Chrysalde U/S in *School for Wives*, Chloe Coverly U/S in *Arcadia*, and #25 in *The Wolves*. With CYS, she performed as Ghost/Guildenstern/Clown in *Hamlet* and as Alonso in *The Tempest*. This summer, she was planning to serve as the Arts Administration/-Front of House intern at Door Shakespeare Theatre in Door County, Wisconsin, but instead is working as an online theatre camp educator and campus tour guide at Elon. She's thankful to CYS for the opportunity to stay creative and learn from her peers and professional actors!



Josh Zambrano (*Romeo, Act V*) graduated from The Chicago High School for the Arts (Acting, '14) and received his bachelor's degree in Organismal Biology and Ecology

from Colorado College ('18). He is a CYS alumnus and currently serves on its board of directors; he is also a company member of Visión Latino Theater Company. Josh thanks God, his family, and his friends for the constant love and support. Chicago credits: *Sonny in In the Heights* (Visión Latino), Sims in *Grace, or the Arts of Climbing* (BPBCo.), Justin Laboy in *21 Chump Street* (Counter Collective), and Eddie in *Monger* (Her Story Theater).



Sonia Zartman, (*Mercutio, Act 1 / Balcony Scene Romeo / Citizen 2*) is a graduated senior and is honored to join CYS for this wonderful opportunity. Previous CYS produc-

tions include *Richard III* (Richard Duke of Gloucester), *Othello* (Desdemona), *King Lear* (staged reading) (Cordelia), and more. 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 a part of this process and plans to major in acting at the California Institute of the Arts this fall.