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Special Thanks

Neal McCollam, Christine Dunford, and everyone at
The School of Theatre & Music at UIC

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Chicago Youth Shakespeare [CYS] is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to putting Shakespeare's timeless works into the hands of 21st-century teenagers. Through innovative performance, education, and outreach programs, CYS is connecting students across Chicagoland with Shakespeare and with each other. CYS is committed to providing a safe space for students of all backgrounds, and to fostering a diverse community of creative young artists and compassionate global citizens.

To learn more about CYS and our programs, please visit:
www.chicagoyouthshakespeare.org

Chicago Youth Shakespeare presents



The Players

Aidra Crawley.....King Lear, Henry Bolingbroke,
Isabella

Caelan Reeves.....Brutus, Chiron, Margaret

Casey Kosmach.....Goneril, Joan of Arc,
Northumberland

Esther Segal.....Juliet, Hermione, Duke of York, Beatrice

Giselle Soto.....Cordelia, Officer, Lady Macbeth, Lucius

Henry Scriven-Young.....York, Lord Capulet, Demetrius, Henry VI

Kevin Johnson.....Charles, Lord Capulet, Richard II, Angelo

Levi Donnell.....King Lear, Edmund* (*7/26), Romeo, Macbeth, Titus

Maiya SwedbergEdmund*, Mistress Page* (*7/30 &
31)

Maggie Perisho.....Edmund* (*7/27), Lady Capulet, Leontes, Rosalind

Midge Makowski.....Regan, Nurse, Lavinia, Duke Frederick

Olivia PastorJuliet, Tamora, Benedick, Lady
Anne

Sarah Kopecky.....Goneril, Cassius, Prince Edward,
Gentleman

The Artistic Team

Evey Reidy, Director of Communications & Lead Teaching Artist
Jeremy Ohringer, Principal Guest Artist
Manon Spadaro, Founding Artistic Director

Visiting Artists: Héctor Pascual Álvarez, Christine Dunford*, Jose
(Tony) Garcia, Evelyn Gaynor, Jason Martin*, Conner Wilson
*UIC Guest Artists

Undergraduate Interns: Hannah Blau, Ryan Borgdorff, Erin
McCammond-Watts, Freya Trefonides

High School Interns: Oluwatobi Ogunyankin & Michael Miller

Dance Choreography by Hannah Blau

Fight Choreography by Kevin Johnson

Original Music by Erin McCammond-Watts & Ben Schenerman

UIC Student Technical Crew

Julie Jachym & Max Burger

About the Ensemble (& our process)

The Chicago Youth Shakespeare Ensemble (CYSE) Summer Intensive is a need-blind program open to high school students across the Chicagoland area. Representing a diverse range of communities and life experiences, CYSE students create a unique, artistic ensemble fueled by collaboration, innovation, and creative discovery.

Five weeks ago, we presented our summer ensemble students with two questions: “What are the issues affecting your world (and ours) that you want to speak up about?” And, “How can we use Shakespeare to do just that?” The ensemble then launched their creative process by crafting a question of their own:

“How does identity influence what power is and who gets it?”

Devised by CYS summer students, and featuring excerpts from more than 15 different Shakespeare plays, ***Uneasy Lies The Head*** gives a new voice to the timeless issues of **power, identity, and privilege**.

Sonia Zartman.....Regan, Desdemona, Exeter, Richard III

Sophie Harris.....Cordelia, Emilia, Mistress Page* (*7/26 & 27), Celia

Scenes

*CW: Allusions to sexual violence

King Lear I.i Lear, the aging King of Britain puts his 3 daughters to a public test of their love in order to determine their inheritance.

Henry VI Part 1 I.ii Joan of Arc, a humble shepherd's daughter, receives a vision from God telling her she's the destined defender of France. In this scene, Joan challenges Charles, the Dauphin (eldest son of the King) of France, to let her do her God-ordained job.

Henry VI Part 1 V.iv Joan of Arc, now sentenced to death and about to be burned at the stake gives France a piece of her mind.

Romeo and Juliet III.v The morning after Romeo and Juliet's secret marriage, Romeo sneaks away to Mantua, while Juliet's parents deliver news of her upcoming marriage to Paris. Now Juliet must choose between her family and her heart.

Othello IV.iii Othello and Desdemona's marriage has soured quickly, as Othello incorrectly suspects Desdemona of infidelity. Desdemona's attendant, Emilia believes she deserves better.

A Winter's Tale III.ii Hermione has been falsely accused of adultery by her husband Leontes, the King. Here at her trial, Hermione defends herself courageously.

Richard II IV.i Richard II, defeated in battle by Henry Bolingbroke, unwillingly gives up the crown in front of the court.

Macbeth I.vii Macbeth and Lady Macbeth plan to kill King Duncan. Macbeth has cold feet about it. His wife does not.

Julius Caesar I.ii Julius Caesar is the closest thing to a King that Rome has had in a long time, and the people love him.

Titus Andronicus I.i Tamora, Queen of the Goths, has been captured by Titus Andronicus, leader of the Roman army. Tamora pleads with Titus to spare the life of her eldest son.

Titus Andronicus II.iii Tamora, now the Empress of Rome, encourages her sons to take out their brutal revenge on Titus's daughter, Lavinia, who pleads for mercy.

Much Ado About Nothing I.i Beatrice and Benedick have some romantic history, but they really do not like each other right now. As such, they frequently enter spontaneous petty arguments, and this is one of those times.

The Merry Wives of Windsor II.i Mistress Page has received a curious love letter from a not-so-secret admirer: John Falstaff, otherwise known as the biggest fool on the planet..

Henry VI Part 3 I.i The subject of legitimate heirs to the throne has been a topic of hot debate between the Houses of York and Lancaster. In an attempt to bring peace to the realm, King Henry VI has agreed to make The House of York the legitimate heir to the crown, passing over his own son, Prince Edward. In this scene, Queen Margaret expresses her extreme displeasure.

Richard III I.ii Richard III (Gloucester for now, he isn't King yet), a master manipulator, has arrived at the funeral procession of Henry VI and his son Edward, both of whom he killed. Lady Anne, Edward's widow, despises Gloucester, but he's here trying to woo her.

As You Like It I.iii Duke Frederick banishes his niece, Rosalind from the court, but his daughter, Celia is refuses to be separated from her cousin (and best friend), and hatches an escape plan to the Forest of Arden.

King Lear I.ii Edmund, the illegitimate child of the Earl of Gloucester, rails against the society that's kept him down.

Measure for Measure II.iv Isabella, who aspires to be a nun, has come to Angelo in defense of her brother, sentenced to death for fornication. Angelo has the power to commute the sentence in exchange for Isabella's virginity..

Cassius, an ambitious Roman, tries to convince his good friend Brutus to rise up and kill Caesar before he becomes a tyrant.

Julius Caesar II.i Brutus debates whether or not to kill Caesar, whom he loves almost as much as he loves Rome.

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Julius Caesar II.i

Brutus debates Cassius's suggestion to kill Caesar. He loves Caesar almost as much as he loves Rome.

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