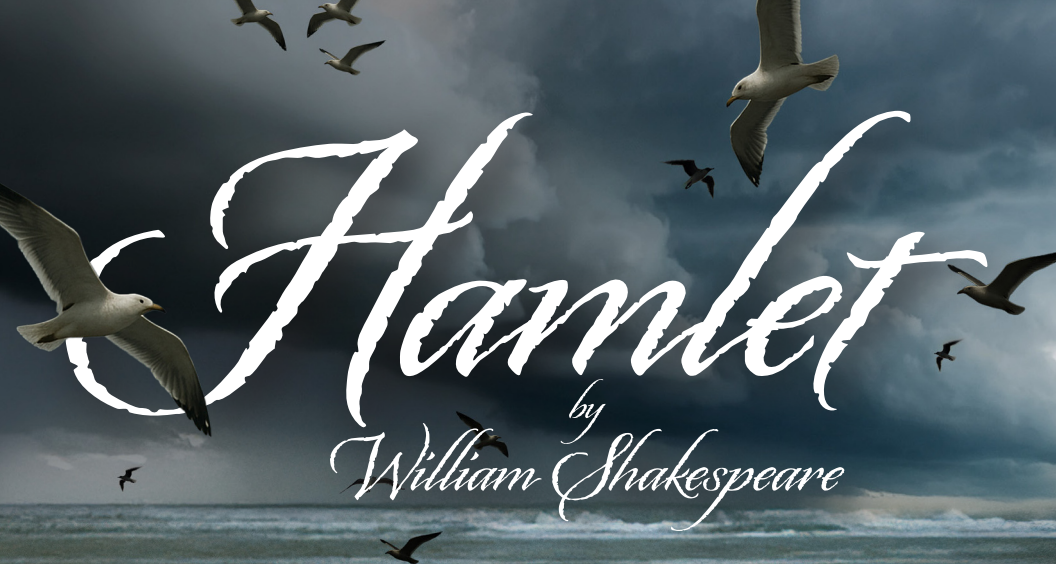




THEATRE MEMPHIS presents "HAMLET" • By William Shakespeare
Directed by JEFF POSSON • Sponsored by DR. THOMAS RATLIFF
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THEATRE MEMPHIS in the **NEXT STAGE**



TICKETS 901.682.8323 ONLINE theatrememphis.org

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IN THE NEXT STAGE AT THEATRE MEMPHIS

Hamlet
by William Shakespeare

Directed by **JEFF POSSON**

Assistant Directed by **NATALIE JONES**

Executive Producer **DEBBIE LITCH**

Production Manager/TD
MICHAEL COMPTON

Resident Costume Designer
AMIE EOFF

Resident Lighting Designer
NICOLE NORTHINGTON

Resident Scenic and Props Designer
JACK NETZEL-YATES

Resident Sound Designer
EMILY LUCE

Assistant Technical Director
MAGGIE JACKSON

Director of Stage Management,
Outreach & Volunteer Engagement
BECKY CASPERSEN

Costume Shop Manager
ASHLEY SELBERG

Fight Choreographer
LAUREN HESTER GUNN

Props Intern
LILY MAY CLIPPINGER

Stage Manager
JULIA TRUELOVE

Stage Manager and Intimacy Choreographer
SHERRONDA WHITMORE JOHNSON

CAST

Player Knave	MARGOT ANDERSON
Player King	BILL BAKER
Rosencrantz	MITCHELL BENTLEY
Ophelia	DAWN BRADLEY
Marcellus	MICHAEL CLAYBOURNE
Guildenstern	CARLY CRAWFORD
Bernardo	ANDRE HILL
Horatio	FRANKLIN KOCH
Laertes	ROMAN KYLE
Francisco/Hamlet u/s	KEVIN LECHNER
Gertrude	MEGHAN LEWIS
Hamlet	KEVAR MAFFITT
Claudius	JOHN MANESS
The Ghost	JOHN REYNOLDS
Polonius	JS TATE
Player Queen	ASHLEY TREVATHAN

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

MARGOT ANDERSON (Player Knave) is 12 years old and in 7th grade. Her past Theatre Memphis credits include *The Crucible* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She played Annie in *Annie, Jr.* at Germantown Community Theatre. She dances with Esprit de Corps Dance Company. She would like to thank Rose Blakeman for her support and Jeff Posson and the cast and crew for this wonderful experience.

BILL BAKER (Player King) has been an actor since the 17th century, so this is an obvious role for him. He has also been a playwright and director with the Our Own Voice Theatre Troupe. He has previously been seen at Theatre Memphis in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Inherit the Wind*.

MITCHELL BENTLEY (Rosencrantz) is excited for his second appearance at Theatre Memphis, and his first Shakespeare play. Spending much of his spare time on his model trains, he is very cautious around other people. If you try to speak to him after the show, please only use Middle or Old English.

DAWN BRADLEY (Ophelia) is thrilled to make her Shakespeare debut in *Hamlet*. Some of her favorite roles include Carmen in *Carmen Jones* at Hattiloo Theatre, Sara in *Ragtime* at Theatre Memphis, and Felicia in *Memphis the Musical* at Playhouse on the Square. A proud mom of two, Dawn thanks her husband for his constant support of her creative pursuits. By day, she serves as the Director of the Primary School at Libertas School of Memphis and is honored to join such an incredible cast and director for this production.

MICHAEL CLAYBOURNE (Marcellus) previously appeared in *Don't Hydroplane*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dracula*, *Fences*, and *Ruined*. Michael received his BFA in Acting from Howard University and has trained at The British American Drama Academy and The School at Steppenwolf. Michael dedicates this performance to the memory of his mother, who last saw him perform in *Much Ado About Nothing* on this stage.

CARLY CRAWFORD (Guildenstern) (she/her) is absolutely thrilled to perform in her third Shakespeare show, which, according to friends, means she's officially been bitten by the Shakespeare bug. You may have seen her in last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia) or Quark Theatre's *Constellations* (Marianne), or across Mid-

South stages for over 30 years. TURN OFF YOUR PHONES, Y'ALL!! Love always to Nikki, Rocky, and Mama.

LAUREN HESTER GUNN (Fight Choreographer) is a senior resident actor and teaching artist with Tennessee Shakespeare Company. Additionally, she is an advanced combatant and associate instructor with Dueling Arts International and has worked as a fight director and stage combat instructor throughout Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, and Illinois. Fight direction credits include: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Henry IV Part One*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Evil Dead the Musical*, *Carmen*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Illusion*.

ANDRE HILL (Bernardo) is extremely excited to make his onstage debut at Theatre Memphis! Recent credits include Victor in *Cabaret* (GCT), and Detective Gold in the short film *Business As Usual*. Andre would like to give thanks to God, his friends and family and hopes you all enjoy this amazing show!

SHERRONDA WHITMORE JOHNSON (Stage Manager and Intimacy Choreographer) is passionate about building collaborative communities and the physical and emotional well-being of actors. Her credits include *Something Rotten!*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Grease*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and *A Raisin In The Sun* (Theatre Memphis); *Lion King Jr.*, *Carmen Jones*, *The Color Purple*, *Sistahs: The Musical*, *Porgy & Bess* (Hattiloo Theatre). She sends heartfelt thanks to the entire team, cast, and crew for bringing such honest and rich storytelling to the stage.

NATALIE JONES (Assistant Director) is happy to be on this side of the table! Other Theatre Memphis credits include in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Lady Macbeth*, *Georgie* opposite Jerry Chipman in *Heisenberg*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *The Royal Family*; *A Streetcar Named Desire* at GCT; *Disgraced* at Circuit Playhouse. She worked with Ellen Greer as a company member at Theatricum Botanicum, playing Juliet, Phoebe, Imogen, Hippolyta, and Anna in *The Cherry Orchard*. All my love to my daughter, Vivian: "My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite."

FRANKLIN KOCH (Horatio) is just happy to be here! Franklin is a speech language pathologist working in the Memphis Shelby County Schools, and proud liege to two charming and attractive cats. He was last seen in *Cabaret* at

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (cont.)

Germantown Community Theatre, and will next be seen in *The Thanksgiving Play* at Theatre Memphis. God fornøjelse!

ROMAN KYLE (Laertes) graduated from UofM with a B.F.A in Theatre & Dance. He trained in contemporary and jazz dance and began auditioning locally in Memphis, performing in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other productions include *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Flick*, *The Little Prince*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and *All The Way*. In Houston, TX, he performed in *The Mousetrap* as Giles Ralston and *Teen Dad* as John at the Sin Muros Latinx Theatre Festival. Other professional activities include being a previous mentor for young artists at Hattiloo Theatre.

KEVIN LECHNER (Francisco/Hamlet u/s) is thrilled to be making his return to Theatre Memphis! Kevin is a Senior music major at Rhodes College and a dancer with the Tennessee Ballet Theater Company. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, hanging out with friends, and cooking. Most importantly, he would like to thank his parents for their endless support. He hopes you enjoy the show!

MEGHAN LEWIS (Gertrude) counts this a dream come true for this Shakespearean! Favorite acting credits include: *The Wasp* (Quark), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Theatre Memphis), *Twelfth Night* (New Moon), *Steel Magnolias* (Harrell), *Macbeth* (Threepenny). Directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Theatre Memphis) and *Ivanka vs. Reality* (POTS). Next up: *Julius Caesar* at GCT! Love to her favorite Shakespeare collaborator, Jeff; the Mob; and her morroost favorite, endlessly supportive husband, Ronnie. This show, and everything she does, is for her mom, who never missed a performance and never will.

KEVAR MAFFITT (Hamlet) is elated to be back on stage at Theatre Memphis! He wants to say thank you to this incredibly talented cast and crew, and a very special thank you to Jeff for trusting him with this incredible opportunity.

JOHN MANESS (Claudius) is excited to return to Elsinore after playing Hamlet the last time TM did it in 2003. He was most recently seen as Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can*, Henry Lehman in *The Lehman*

Trilogy at POTS; and John Watson in *Sherlock's Last Case* at TM. John holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Memphis and an MFA in Directing from Indiana University. He was the Company Manager for the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia.

JEFF POSSON (Director) My work in this production is dedicated to the memory of Peter Smith, professor emeritus of theatre arts at the University of the South and the man who first taught me how to be a director. Thank you, Pete. I hope I did you proud.

JOHN REYNOLDS (The Ghost of King Hamlet) Under the expert guidance of one of his favorite directors, John is grateful to be treading the boards on *The Next Stage* once again with some dear old friends and some new ones. Recent appearances include Mr. Carp in *The Minutes*, The Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*, and Egeus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Thanks to all the TM staff for their love and labor, and much love to Jenn and Lily for their patience and support.

JS TATE (Polonius) has a host of credits. He was last seen in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth* and *The Crucible* at Theatre Memphis; *Clyde's*, *Mississippi Goddamn* and *Sweat* at Circuit Playhouse; *Succession*, *Detroit 67*, *Between Riverside & Crazy*, and *Jitney* at Hattiloo Theatre. JS would like to thank the director, cast and crew for this wonderful experience. JS would also like to thank his parents for all their love and support, his sons Elijah, Malachi, and Nolan for their overall presence and Jasmine for simply everything!

ASHLEY TREVATHAN (Player Queen) is delighted to be back at Theatre Memphis in *Hamlet*. She was most recently seen exactly one year ago on the same stage in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. You may be sensing a pattern. She'd like to thank her family, her friends and you! Enjoy the show!

JULIA TRUELOVE (Stage Manager) Previous TM credits include *Something Rotten*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Grease*, and *Cinderella*. She would like to thank this incredible cast and crew for being an amazing team, and Sherronda and Wes for keeping her sane.