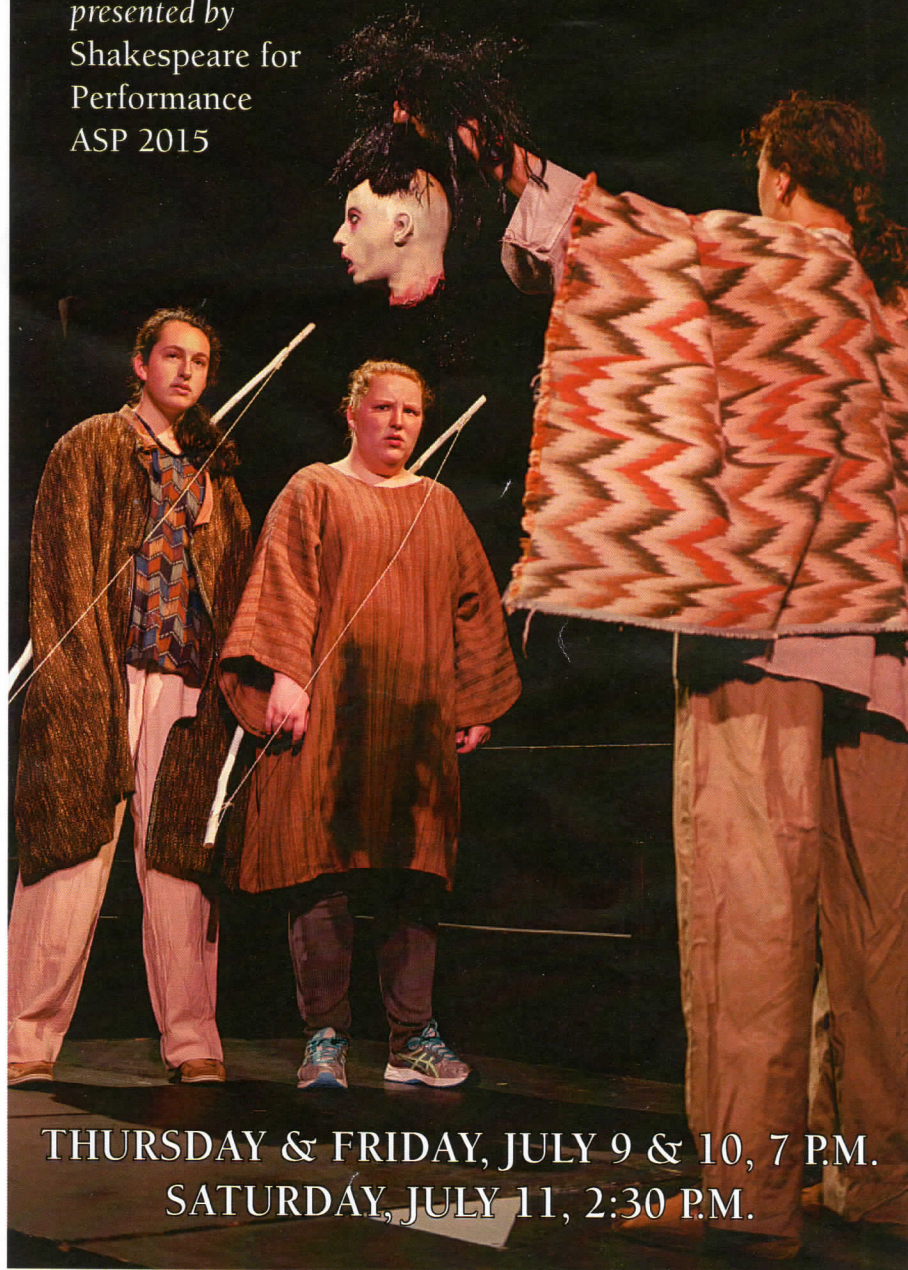


Cymbeline

presented by
Shakespeare for
Performance
ASP 2015



THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JULY 9 & 10, 7 P.M.
SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2:30 P.M.

CHARACTERS

Cymbeline, King of Britain.....	Nancy Gregory
Cymbeline's Queen.....	Aly Lizotte
Imogen, daughter to Cymbeline by his former queen	Hadley Pope
Posthumus Leonatus, husband to Imogen	Sam Kingston
Cloten, son to the queen by a former husband.....	Sarah Smith
Pisanio, Posthumus's servant	Leah Dunbar
Cornelius, a physician in Cymbeline's court.....	Lindsay Wyman
Philario, Posthumus's host in Rome.....	Theo Augstein
Iachimo, friend to Philario	Madeline Ciocci
A Frenchman, friend to Philario	Chris Simpson
Caius Lucius, a Roman general.....	Helena Whitcomb
Belarius, an exiled nobleman	Krissy Mehegan
Guiderius, son to Cymbeline by his former queen	Kinley Guerino
Arviragus, son to Cymbeline by his former queen.....	Hazel Johnstone
Two Lords attending Cloten.....	Karina Ithier, Katie Ort
Two Gentleman of Cymbeline's court	Sydney Moquin, Lydia Hoffman
A Lady (Helen), Imogen's attendant.....	Emma Ainsworth
Jailer	Chris Simpson
Soothsayer	Emma Ainsworth
Jupiter.....	Nolan Nightingale
Lords, Ladies, Soldiers, Messengers, Ghosts	Emma Ainsworth, Theo Augstein, Leah Dunbar, Lydia Hoffman, Karina Ithier, Aly Lizotte, Sydney Moquin, Nolan Nightingale, Katie Ort, Chris Simpson, Sarah Smith, Helena Whitcomb, Lindsay Wyman

synopsis

Cymbeline is King of the Britons. It is the time of Augustus Caesar, whose predecessor, Julius Caesar, conquered Briton and forced it to pay tribute as a satellite of the Roman Empire.

Cymbeline's court is in an uproar as the story begins. His only daughter and heir, Imogen, has secretly married Posthumus Leonatus against her father's wishes. Cymbeline has banished Posthumus, and wants Imogen to marry Cloten, the doltish son of his second wife. Posthumus bids farewell to Imogen and leaves for Rome. His servant Pisanio stays behind to help Imogen, who has been placed in the custody of the queen.

Posthumus arrives in Rome. At the home of his family friend, Philario, he is goaded by Philario's friend Iachimo into betting that Iachimo cannot seduce Imogen. Iachimo leaves for Briton.

The queen, intending to kill Pisanio so he cannot help Imogen, obtains what she thinks is a deadly poison from her physician, and gives it to Pisanio, telling him it is helpful medicine. But the physician, not trusting the devious queen, has only given her a heavy sedative that mimics death without killing.

Iachimo arrives in Briton and attempts to seduce Imogen by telling her that Posthumus is sleeping with prostitutes. When she rebuffs him, he claims only to have been testing her fidelity, then asks her to accept a trunk full of expensive gifts for temporary safekeeping. She agrees.

Cloten discovers Iachimo is visiting Briton, and decides to try and win money from him in games of chance. His servants quietly hope that he will be frustrated in his efforts to marry Imogen. Imogen retires to her chambers, with Iachimo's trunk close by. When she falls asleep, Iachimo himself climbs out of the trunk and searches the room for details he can report back to Posthumus. He also examines Imogen's body and steals a bracelet given to her by Posthumus before climbing back into the trunk.

Cloten brings musicians to serenade Imogen, then demands that she marry him. She refuses, saying Posthumus's "meanest garment" is more precious than Cloten's entire body. She also realizes her bracelet is lost. Cloten is infuriated and swears revenge. Iachimo returns to Rome and convinces Posthumus he has slept with Imogen. Posthumus is devastated, and also swears revenge on Imogen.

Caius Lucius, the Roman ambassador, arrives at Cymbeline's court to demand the tribute owed to Augustus Caesar. When Cymbeline, backed by his queen and by Cloten, refuses to pay, Caius Lucius declares war on Briton. The faithful servant Pisanio receives two letters from Posthumus. One is for Imogen, telling her to escape with Pisanio's help and travel to Wales, to a place called Milford Haven, where he will meet her. But the other letter, for Pisanio, instructs him to kill Imogen on the way.

Living in a cave in the Welsh countryside near Milford Haven, we meet an old man, Belarius, a former soldier to Cymbeline falsely accused of treason, and Cymbeline's two long-lost sons, Guiderius and Arviragus, whom Belarius stole in infancy and has raised as his own.

On the road to Wales, Pisanio reveals Posthumus's deadly instructions to Imogen. She is distraught and wants him to kill her immediately, but he convinces her instead to disguise herself as a boy and become a page to Caius Lucius, who is bringing the Roman army into Briton at Milford Haven. She agrees. Pisanio also gives her the queen's potion, believing it is a restorative. He returns to Cymbeline's court. Imogen's disappearance is discovered. Cloten forces Pisanio to tell him where she is, then makes the servant give him some of Posthumus's clothing. Cloten plans to kill Posthumus, intercept and rape Imogen while dressed in Posthumus's clothes, and drag her back to court. Imogen, now disguised as the boy "Fidele," finds the cave and meets Belarius and his two young "sons," not knowing they are her brothers. The men welcome her and offer food and shelter, equally unaware of her identity. Cloten appears near the cave, looking for Posthumus and Imogen while dressed in Posthumus's clothes. Belarius and the boys go off to their daily hunting, leaving Imogen alone at the cave. She takes the queen's potion and falls into a deathlike sleep.

Cloten appears again and accosts the men. Guiderius fights him and cuts off his head. The men then discover Imogen's apparently lifeless body in the cave. They plan a funeral for Imogen and Cloten, and leave them lying side by side. When they have gone, Imogen wakes up and, seeing a headless corpse in Posthumus's clothing beside her, believes he is dead. She faints. Caius Lucius appears with his troops. He awakens Imogen, and accepts her as his Page, believing she is a boy.

At Cymbeline's court, the king faces imminent Roman attack. Imogen and Cloten are still missing, and the queen is now desperately ill. With the battle about to begin, Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus decide to fight on the Britons' side. Posthumus appears in another part of the field, dressed in Roman garments. He has been brought to Wales to fight against his own country, but he changes to Britons' clothing and switches sides. Believing he has caused Imogen's death, he is remorseful and wants to die in the battle. The armies meet. Things go badly for the Britons, many of whom flee. Cymbeline himself is captured. But a counterattack by Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus, with timely assistance from Posthumus, saves the day and rescues the king. Posthumus appears alone in the battle's aftermath. Having changed back to his Roman garb, he now wishes to be captured by the Britons and executed. He is taken prisoner and transported to jail.

Unrecognized and condemned to death, Posthumus falls asleep in his cell. The ghosts of his father, mother, and brothers appear to lament his ill treatment and appeal to Jupiter for assistance. The king of the gods appears in person and promises all will be well. Posthumus awakens and prepares to be hanged, but a last-minute reprieve sets him free and calls him to the presence of the king. He is to be rewarded for his part in the battle, though he himself is still unidentified.

All gather at Cymbeline's court. What ensues is the most complex recognition scene in Shakespeare, revelation following revelation as the story of the play is told all over again for Cymbeline's benefit. Posthumus and Imogen are reunited, Cymbeline regains his family, Pisanio's faithfulness is rewarded, and Iachimo's treachery chastised and forgiven. Caius Lucius and the other captured Romans are spared. Cymbeline, whose evil queen has now died, decides to resume the tribute to Rome after all and substitute friendship for conflict.

BIOGRAPHIES

Emma Ainsworth is thrilled to be doing Shakespeare at ASP! Emma comes from White Mountains Regional High School where she hugs trees and rides moose through the wilderness of the heavily forested Northcountry.

Theo Augstein is thrilled to be participating in this production of *Cymbeline* as the politic-loving Philario at ASP 2015. Besides in the theater, Theo is thrilled when eating, sleeping, reading, movie watching, and eating ice cream. She hopes you are thrilled with the show and is thrilled that you have come.

Madeline Ciocci is thrilled to be playing Iachimo and goes to ConVal High in Peterborough. She can be found singing at the top of her lungs in her spare time and will eat vegetables if you shove them down her throat. Thanks to E and G for being awesome parents and to AW, TE, DD, HG, EG, and SK for being the best of friends.

Leah Dunbar, from Hillsboro, is “thrilled” to be playing Pisanio! She’d like to thank everyone, especially Kevin/interns, Hadley, Sarah, Jupiter, and her family for the help and fun scenes. Enjoy!

Nancy Gregory is thrilled to be the resident loudmouth in *Cymbeline*. She would like to thank her parents for sending her to ASP and congratulate them for surviving without her.

Kinley Guerino is a student at Oyster River High School in Durham, N.H. This is her first experience with acting, but she is thrilled to have the chance to try something new.

Lydia Hoffman is thrilled to be a part of the Advanced Studies Program at SPS this summer, and even more excited to participate in the Shakespeare for Performance class. She has been most recently cast as Liesl VonTrapp in the *Sound of Music* and Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins*. She would like to thank her parents and the wonderful cast. Break-a-leg everyone!

Karina Ithier is happy to be tackling Shakespeare’s *Cymbeline*. Besides acting, she regularly dances to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” on the weekends, she loves to read, write poetry, and eat pasta. She would like to thank her parents for allowing her to come to ASP.

Hazel Johnstone is thrilled for *Cymbeline*, her first theatrical experience. She would like to thank her English teacher for proving to her that it is okay to try things that she is afraid of (like this), as well as Sarah, Aidan, the wonderful cast, and, of course, Kevin.

Sam Kingston is thrilled to be playing Postumus Leonatus in this production of *Cymbeline*. Sam has been acting for 9 years, and hopes to continue with theatre in the future.

Krissy Mehegan is thrilled to have this opportunity to pursue her love of theater at ASP. She is from Pembroke Academy has been involved in theater there since she was six years old. In her spare time she likes reading and playing the piano. Enjoy the show!

Sydney Moquin is from Franklin High School and has been acting for four years now. Her favorite role she has played is Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. When she is not acting, Sydney enjoys dancing at Creative Steps and singing in her school's chorus. Sydney is absolutely thrilled to be performing in this program.

Nolan Nightingale is glad to have been accepted into the thrilling ASP Shakespeare program. In *Cymbeline*, Nolan is a god. He also plays one.

Katie Ort is from Hillsboro and has previously done musical theatre; most recently *Wizard of Oz*. She is excited to be the Second Lord and thanks her family and Jupiter!

Hadley Pope hails from Portsmouth, N.H., and is thrilled to be part of the 2015 ASP Shakespeare for Performance class. This has been her first and most thrilling experience with theater.

Chris Simpson Hello, my name is Chris Simpson. I am from Goffstown. I have only acted in small skits before and have never done a play as large as this before. Enjoy!

Sarah Smith is thrilled to be Cloten in this year's production of *Cymbeline* here at ASP. She is from Rochester and wants to thank her family for their support. Enjoy the show!

Helena Whitcomb is from Hanover. She has never acted before and is thrilled to be a part of this ASP program. She enjoys soccer, reading and chocolate, and hopes you enjoy the show.

Lindsay Wyman has had most of her acting experience in musical theater and has no prior experience with Shakespeare. Despite this, however, she is thrilled to take on the new challenge of portraying the physician, Cornelius, in *Cymbeline*.



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