

RUBBER CITY THEATRE

BARON OF BROWN STREET

BY ERIC MANSFIELD

THE
LATEST
NEWS
&
PICTURES

Gazette

VOLUME XXXII - NO. 155

The King of

Akron

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SANDEFUR THEATRE

SEPTEMBER 8-16, 2023



The King Kin

School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
in partnership with Rubber City Theatre
Presents

The Little Theatre's Production of
'Hamlet'



~~By William Shakespeare~~

By Jean Battlo

Sandefur Theatre -- Guzzetta Hall
Directed by Dane CT Leasure

October 27-November 4, 2024

The
University
of Akron

Rubber City
Theatre

"The Little Theatre's Production of 'Hamlet'" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Image by Freepik

Rubber City Theatre

Dane CT Leasure
Executive Artistic Director

BARON OF BROWN STREET BY ERIC MANSFIELD

Costume Design
Irene Mack-Shafer

Lighting and Scenic Design
Dane CT Leasure

Intimacy Director
Julia Fisher

Music Director
Anthony Trifiletti

Sound Design
Eugene Rogers

Stage Manager
Barbara Kozlov*

Director
Joseph Soriano

September 8-16, 2023

**THANK YOU TO OUR
GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!**
Foundation Support



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

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Anonymous

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Anonymous

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Frank & Jane Soriano

Connie Thackaberry & Keith Stevens

DeeAnna Leasure

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Jaemin Park

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The Sir Louis Family

Joe Soriano

Jared and David Sparks-Lee

Lana Sugarman

Trish

Arnie Tunstall

The Vinograds

Natalie Zenczak

Sharon Alberson

CAST

Lenny KingBRIAN O. JACKSON*
Erica (paramedic), Deanna (sociologist), Ally (Lenny's former high school student) CAIT MCNEAL
Jamie (college student), Nickie (paramedic), Mary (pushy church leader), Rita (pompous PR mouthpiece)..... ISABELLE BAILEY†
Bob (newspaper editor), Mark (Lenny's friend), Punk #2 DAVID BAYS
Collin (uppity attorney), Jonathan (pastor), Punk #1ZACH PALUMBO
Tyler (Lenny's son), Elon (investment banker) ANDREW KELLER

*The Actor and Stage Manager employed in this production appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Production Crew

WARDROBEKENDRA STRICKLAND
LIGHT BOARD OPERATORPEYTON ROBINSON^
AUDIO ENGINEER EUGENE ROGERS

† Student at the University of Akron



BACKSTAGE EMPLOYEES AND SHOP EMPLOYEES ARE REPRESENTED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES.
(I.A.T.S.E.) LOCAL 48.
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT APPRENTICE ^

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, during the show is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices before the performance begins.

CAST



Brian O. Jackson*



Cait McNeal



Isabelle Bailey†



David Bays



Zach Palumbo



Andrew Keller

WHO'S WHO

BRIAN O. JACKSON* (*Lenny*) Brian O. Jackson is excited to be working with Rubber City again after having previously played Dr. Watson in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other credits include *The Mousetrap* (Major Metcalf), *Five Times in One Night* (Stephen/Tim), *The Weir* (Brendan), *Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* (Wayne), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Man #1), *Pirates of Penzance* (Major General), *25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee* (Doug Panch), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Jonathan), *The Full Monty* (Dave), and many more. Thank you to everyone here for continuing to support local theater and to Eric for writing such a beautiful show so we can bring this story to life.

CAIT MCNEAL (*Erica, Deanna, Ally*) Cait has frequently been found in a theater since the age of three, when she first started performing. Previous acting credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) with Twilight Theatre, *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife) at Theatre 8:15; *Puffs* (Sally) at Broadview Heights Spotlights; *Equivocation* (Judith), *Hamlet* (Ophelia), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *The Comedy of Errors* (Luciana) *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), *Richard III* (Lady Anne), *Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Anabella), and many others with Rubber City Theatre; *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta) with The Millennial Theatre Project. She recently also added the role of Director to her repertoire with her directorial debut of Roving Rogue Production's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2022, followed by The Millennial Theatre Project's *Pride and Prejudice* in 2023. When not performing on the stage she is an avid reader and writer and enjoys storytelling of all kinds. She is forever grateful for the love and support of her family, her friends, and her cats. caitmccneal.com @xcrazy_caitx

ISABELLE BAILEY (*Jamie, Nickie, Mary, Rita*) Isabelle is a third-year Computer Engineering student at the University of Akron, and is thrilled to be back on stage. She was last seen this summer at Rubber City Theatre in the adult ensemble in *Matilda* and as Virtue in *Anything Goes*. She has been in many University of Akron productions, including multiple roles in *Macbeth*, Bobbie James in *Concord Floral* and Jamie in *Athena*. Some other favorite roles include Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, and the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, both at Rubber City Theatre.

DAVID BAYS (*Bob, Mark, Punk #2*) David is an actor and musician based in Cleveland. He received his BFA in acting from Wright State University in 2021 and is certified in the Michael Chekhov acting technique from the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. Some of his favorite recent roles that he has played are Conrad in *Ordinary People* (Access Theatre Project), Claudius in *Hamlet* (Wright State Outdoor), the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods* (Wright State Black Box), and Cliff in *The Woolgatherer* (Jubilee Directing Lab). David has over 130,000 streams on Spotify under his self-titled folk-rock music project and his sophomore LP, *Limbo Cage*, will be released in the coming months. He would like to thank his parents for always going above and beyond in support, and Noelle Crites for being his artistic partner in crime.

ZACH PALUMBO (*Collin, Jonathan, Punk #1*) is glad to be back at Rubber City Theatre! He previously performed here in *Love's Labour's Lost* (Holofernes) and the world premiere of *On the Line* (Francis). Favorite credits elsewhere include *Twelfth Night* (Feste) with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, *Broadway Bound* (Eugene) at Beck Center for the Arts, and the Cleveland premiere of *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob SquarePants) at Blank Canvas Theatre. He has also performed with Cleveland Public Theatre, Karamu House, Lakeland Civic Theatre, Playwrights Local, French Creek Theatre, none too fragile, and convergence-continuum, among others. Love always to his family, friends, and Nicole. zachpalumbo.com

ANDREW KELLER (*Tyler, Elon*) is very pleased to be making his debut with Rubber City. Andrew is a proud graduate of Baldwin Wallace University, where he received a BA in Acting and Directing. Recent credits include *Ada and the Engine* (Lord Lovelace), *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Alan), *Silent Sky* (Peter), *Into the Woods* (Baker), *Puffs* (Ernie Mac), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (George). He has worked in the area as an actor performing at The Huron Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre, Blank Canvas Theatre, Shaharazad Theatre Company, French Creek Theatre, Bay Village Community Theatre, Strongsville Community Theatre, Broadview Heights Spotlights, and Clague Playhouse. Thanks to the audience for supporting local theater, and the biggest thanks of all goes to his family for their constant love and support.

WHO'S WHO

JOSEPH SORIANO (*Director*) Joe Soriano has had the honor of working as a director, actor, combat choreographer and stage manager throughout northeast Ohio. He's been involved with countless productions across the Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, and Canton areas. He graduated from Kent State University where he studied theatre and hospitality management. Joe's previous directorial credits include a LGBTQ+ version of *Romeo & Juliet* at Twilight Theatre, *Christmas Carol* at Rubber City Theatre, *And Then There Were None* and *The Crucible* at Avenue Arts in Canton. Joe is honored and grateful to have been selected to direct the debut production of *Baron of Brown Street*, and bring the moving and impactful tale to life. Joe would like to thank Eric Mansfield for trusting him with such a beautiful story.

BARBARA KOZLOV* (Stage Manager) is excited to return to Rubber City Theatre, where she began her theatrical career. Barbara enjoys bringing smiles to other's faces and strives to be a Renaissance woman, so she is in pursuit of an additional degree in Dental Hygiene. Most recent Stage Management credits include, *Anything Goes* (Rubber City Theatre) *WHAT WE LOOK LIKE* (Dobama), *CONCORD FLORAL* (UA), and *BKLYN: THE MUSICAL* (Porthouse).

IRENE MACK-SHAFER (Costume Designer) has designed and created costumes for Dance, Theatre, Musical Theatre, and Opera for 30 years. Currently, she is resident costume designer with Rubber City Theatre and also Business Agent for IATSE Local 48. Favorite recent costume designs include RCT's *White Christmas* and Cleveland State University's *Skin of Our Teeth*.

JULIA FISHER (*Intimacy Director*) (she/her) is an intimacy director, playwright, actor, and director, and her work has been seen in professional theatres throughout Northeast Ohio. She is a Teaching Artist and Curriculum Developer with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, where she is in the final stages of certification, and she has intimacy directed 13 productions at Rubber City Theatre (where she is the Resident ID), as well as productions at Cain Park, Ensemble Theatre, convergence-continuum, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Public Theatre's Test Flight, Broadview Heights Spotlights, Ohio Northern University, and the University of Akron. www.juliachristinefisher.com

DANE CT LEASURE (*Lighting and Scenic Designer*) (he/him/his) is the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Rubber City Theatre. Primarily a director, Dane has directed productions ranging from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to *Pippin*. In recent years, Dane has turned to new works, particularly musicals in development. His most recent directing credits include, *White Christmas* (RCT), *Macbeth* (UA), and *Sweeney Todd* (RCT). He is an associate lecturer and area coordinator in Theatre Arts at the University of Akron. He holds a M.Litt and MFA from Mary Baldwin University in Shakespeare and Performance and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Theatre from Bowling Green State University. Dane is a proud member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. #UniteEmpowerProtect

EUGENE ROGERS (Sound Designer) Eugene has been a Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Light Board Operator, and Sound Board Operator for both amusement parks and University theatres. He earned a BA in Art (Studio Emphasis) from the University of Akron, followed by a Certificate in Entertainment Arts and Technology - Sound, and a second BA in Theatre Studies from Kent State University. Eugene has been a proud member of the IATSE Local #48 since 2012.

ABOUT RUBBER CITY THEATRE

Rubber City Theatre's mission is to bring affordable and professional theatre to the Akron area. Together, our family of wildly talented artists and storytellers create innovated, intimate productions that open the eyes and hearts of our audiences in an intentionally accessible, inclusive and safe space.

Artistic

Executive Artistic Director
Resident Intimacy Director
Associate Artist

Dane CT Leasure
Julia Fisher
Joseph Soriano

Production

Director of Production

Eugene Rogers

Costumes

Wardrobe Department Head
Costume Shop Department Head
Costume Shop Assistant

Kendra Strickland
Irene Mack-Shafer
Kimberly Strickland-Haslam

Lighting and Sound

Lighting & Sound Department Head
Lighting Student Apprentice

Eugene Rogers
Peyton Robinson

Scenic

Scenic Department Head
Carpenter
Properties Artisan
Scenic Charge

Rob Leeper
Eric Steele
Logan Thompson
Erykha Lofton

Education

Youth Theatre Director and Teaching Artist **Sarah Bailey**

Board of Directors

Sarah Heid
Pam Horning (Treasurer)
Michele Fort
Sharon Jackson (President)
Ken Klika
Dane CT Leasure (Founder, Ex-Officio)
Eric Mansfield
Gelnda Smith
Casey Robinson
Erika Rylow (Vice-President)
Donald Snyder
Natalie Zenczak (Secretary)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a step toward honoring the truth and achieving healing and reconciliation with those Indigenous peoples who were affected most by the Doctrine of Discovery* and broken treaties, we acknowledge the traditional Ottawa and Wyandot lands on which we now stand, and on which the city of Akron was built. **The Doctrine of Discovery is a principle of international law dating back to the late 15th century that specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization and exploitation of non-Christian territories and peoples. Hundreds of years of decisions and laws continuing right up to our own time can ultimately be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery — laws that invalidate or ignore the rights, sovereignty or humanity of Indigenous peoples in the United States and around the world.*

Special Thanks

President and Mrs. Miller, Katie Logsdon, Dr. Marc Reed, Dean Mitchell McKinney
The University of Akron's School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration

**The
University
of Akron**

Rubber City Theatre is a professional company in residence at The University of Akron.

Rubber City Theatre
In Partnership with
the School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
and the Dance Institute

Irving Berlin's

White Christmas

**BOOK BY DAVID IVES
& PAUL BLAKE**

**MUSIC & LYRICS BY
IRVING BERLIN**

EJ Thomas Hall

December 21-22

**BASED UPON THE PARAMOUNT PICTURES FILM
WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN BY NORMAN KRASNA,
NORMAN PANAMA, AND MELVIN FRANK**

