

PITTSBURGH SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS
P R E S E N T S

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Directed by Charles Beikert

Artistic Director Jennifer Tober | Production Designer Lisa Leiberger



September 3, 2 pm @ Frick Park, Squirrel Hill

September 4, 2 pm @ Pymatuning State Park (Shelter 3), Jamestown, PA

September 10-11, 2 pm @ Reservoir Drive, Highland Park

September 17-18, 2 pm @ Arsenal Park, Lawrenceville

September 24-25, 2 pm @ Frick Park, Squirrel Hill

for more information and directions for each show visit

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Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks
presents

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare

Directed by Charles Beikert

The Cast

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE	Marc Alain Epstein*
DROMIO OF SYRACUSE	Nick Benninger
MERCHANT/ANGELO-BALTHAZAR/ABBESS	Jim Walker
AEGEON	Derrick Shane
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS	Andrew Miller
DROMIO OF EPHESUS	Tonya Lynn
ADRIANA/JAILER/ATTENDANT	Jennifer Tober*
LUCIANA/OFFICER/ATTENDANT	Jessica Schiermeister
SOLINUS/MERCHANT/LUCE/COURTESAN	Elizabeth Farina
CHICKEN SOUND EFFECT	S. Marshall

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers, appearing under a special agreement with Actors' Equity Association.

Artistic

Artistic Director	Jennifer Tober
Stage Director	Charles Beikert
Production Designer	Lisa Leiberling
Assistant Director/Fight Director	Tonya Lynn
Clowning Workshop Leader	Jeffrey Chips

Production

Production Manager	Helen Meade
Stage Manager	Reilly Galvin
Assistant Stage Manager	Sophia Marshall
Intern	Lincoln Alkind

Additional Personnel

Production Photographer	Catherine Aceto
Front of House	Maria Kegg
Graphic Designer	Sara-Anne Lee

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Kate Borger & Sandra Fennell

Run time approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes with no intermission.

Pre-Show Schedule

Alan Irvine Storytelling, September 3, 11, 25

PSIP pre-shows should start around 10 minutes to curtain and last no more than 8 minutes.

Other Appearances

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust student matinees, September 21 & 22
Gallery Crawl, September 23

PSIP receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

A Note From the Artistic Director

We are so pleased to welcome you to our 12th season of Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks. Director Chuck Beikert and Production Designer Lisa Leiberling have created a delightfully funny show...so relax, enjoy, and be prepared to share a cracker with your neighbor or perhaps even an actor. What has struck a chord with all of us involved in this production of *Comedy of Errors* is the strong sense of community we have fostered. Theatre, at its best, is inherently about creating community, but in this production, that is particularly true. Led by our fearless and always-encouraging Mr. Beikert, the many, many people involved in putting this show together have been immensely supportive and have stepped up in various ways—to directing, acting, stage managing, producing, posterizing, and getting the word out in the community. As usual, there are too many people to thank for the success of PSIP. Welcome to our Community of Comedy of Errors, and enjoy the show!

—Jennifer Tober, Artistic Director

A Note From the Director

Who doesn't love a comedy? We laugh and the world is a better place.

This might be Shakespeare's first play. It's almost certainly his first comedy. Here he's adapting *The Menaechmi* by Plautus, a similar plot with only one set of twins. Whether or not *The Comedy of Errors* represents Shakespeare's first theatrical work or just an early effort, we can agree that it is elemental. It is short, very funny, and eschews heroes and villains in favor of everymen and everywomen. Nothing terribly extreme about anyone here. No kings, no witches (though they are feared to be in Ephesus by the Syracusians), and, to my pacifist's heart's delight, no one dies.

I've been watching the Marx Brothers since Groucho was still alive. I remember splicing worn out cassette tapes of comics like Fred Allen and W.C. Fields so I could listen to them some more. I'm not only citing these people as influences. I hereby acknowledge lifting every gag in the production you are about to see from not only those incredible acts but others including, and not limited to, *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, Benny Hill, *Your Show Of Shows*, The Three Stooges, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Lucille Ball. If I am to stand before you guilty of anything, let it be that I stand on the shoulders of giants.

The truth is that I've sort of sat at the feet of all of these performers for something like 40 years. Visiting and revisiting. In this production I've decided to see if some of those influences can become alive again through the work we're doing here. I'm hoping to serve as a good conduit for both this lovely written bare-faced comedy and those brave Vaudeville Masters, those Tinsletown Clowns, and those TV Pioneers that performed live for millions and made them all laugh.

This cast has been as close as any I've ever seen. Their first meeting forged a real live traveling troupe dedicated to honoring the laughs in the script and finding opportunities to make them their own. It has been my great honor to guide them into the creation of what is, in my opinion, a very entertaining play. In the end there was never a need for us to declare a time period or concept for this production.

The concept is here.

The time is now.

Please enjoy *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare presented by my favorite theater company, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks. Thank you for coming.

—Chuck Beikert, Director

Synopsis

Syracusan merchant Aegeon defies an Ephesian decree punishable by death to search for his lost son Antipholus who has traveled to these seven years in search of his twin brother. A sympathetic Duke Solinus grants Aegeon one day to gather the sum of one thousand ducats to ransom his life.

Accompanied by another estranged twin, his loyal servant Dromio, Antipholus lands in Ephesus the very same day.

When an earnest merchant (Angelo), a suspicious wife (Adriana), and a devious mountebank (Dr. Pinch) encounter the strangers (who look very familiar) the fate of Aegeon hangs in the balance.

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The Company



Charles Beikert (Director) Mr. Beikert's acting credits include roles in PSIP's productions of *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio) and *As You Like It* (Duke Senior/Frederick). Other local acting credits include performing in four featured plays of the 2015 City Theater Young Playwright's Festival, *Macbeth* (King of Scotland) with Pittsburgh Classic Theater, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Narrator), *Unseam'd Shakespeare's Out of This Furnace* (Djuro Kracha), *Cult Classic* (Derek) at the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival 2015, and *The Tempest or The Enchanted Isle* (Stephano) with Pittsburgh's Unseam'd Shakespeare Company. Behind the scenes, Mr. Beikert served as Assistant Director for PSIP's 2014 production of *As You Like It*, and he devised and directed PSIP's *King Lear* pre-show in 2015. Mr. Beikert is scheduled to serve as producer for local stage legends Dicey and Paprika and their Valentine's Day Spectacular in 2017. Mr. Beikert directed *Aristophanes' Eccleziastusae* (*Women In Congress*) for the opening of Butler Little Theater's 60th season. He also directed the new play, *Pockets*, by Dennis Bagneris and presented the production at the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.



Nick Benninger (DROMIO OF SYRACUSE) For PSIP, Nick has appeared in *As You Like It* (Sylvius/Le Beau) and *King Lear* (Ophelia/Fool). Other recent acting credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio/Various), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck/Demetrius/Various), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo/Various) for the Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project, and *The Tempest or The Enchanted Isle* (Hippolito) with The Unseam'd Shakespeare Company. He performed in the 2016 Future Tenant play festival and the 2015 Pittsburgh Fringe Festival. Nick graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2013 with a degree in Theatre.



Marc Alain Epstein (ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE) is very excited to appear in his first PSIP production. Previously in Pittsburgh he has appeared in: *Our Town* at the Pittsburgh Public Theater; *Othello: Noir*, *The Constant Prince*, *Out of this Furnace*, and *The Tempest or The Enchanted Isle* for Unseam'd Shakespeare; and *Lie of the Mind*, *Arms and the Man*, *Scapin*, and *The Insect Play* at Pitt Rep. He has also appeared at theaters around the country including the Arena Stage, the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, New York Shakespeare Festivals Public Theater, Coconut Grove Theater, Westport Country Playhouse and many others. He has also taught theater at universities around the city. After being in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, he and his family now call Pittsburgh their home.



Elizabeth Farina (SOLINUS/MERCHANT/LUCE/COURTESAN) For PSIP, Elizabeth played Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Elizabeth has appeared as the Second Messenger in Throughline Theatre Company's production of *Oedipus Rex*, and is currently rehearsing *Julius Caesar* with Throughline. She has appeared as Karen Weston in the Pittsburgh premiere of *August: Osage County*, also with Throughline Theatre Company. Past credits include Celia in *As You Like It* and Lady MacDuff in *Macbeth* with Poor Yorick's Players, Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*, and Kathy in *Vanities*. She graduated from Indiana University of PA in 2009 with a BA in Theater.



Lisa Leiberger (Production Designer) is a professional theatrical designer, puppeteer, and teaching artist, living in Pittsburgh, PA. She holds a BFA in Puppetry/Children's Theatre from West Virginia University, a MA in Theatre for Youth from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a MA in Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh. Her recent, local artistic work includes building the Enroll-o-bot mascot, collaborations with Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Outside of



Pittsburgh, some of her notable credits include designing and constructing a 25' dragon puppet for Trollwood Performing Arts Center production of *Shrek*, creating the original mascot for the NFL's Carolina Panthers, managing the Character Shop for Paramount Parks/Production Services, and serving as the Resident Designer/Costume Shop Manager for the Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

Tonya Lynn (DROMIO OF EPHEBUS/Assistant Director) is delighted to return for her eleventh season with PSIP. Her previous credits with PSIP include Kent in *King Lear*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, and Mistress Page in *Merry Wives of Windsor* as well as serving as PSIP's resident fight choreographer. Recent projects include fight direction and performing as Falstaff in *Henry IV, Part 1* (Poor Yorick's Players), performing as a company member with the Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project, and directing and choreographing the original work *Sword Play* for the Hallam Players in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. wTonya is also active throughout the Pittsburgh area as a teaching artist, working with Hope Academy for Music and the Arts, City Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and the Community College of Allegheny County. She received her M.A. in Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh, and has trained with both the International Stuntmen's Association and the Society of American Fight Directors, where she is recognized as an Advanced Actor-Combatant.



Andrew Miller (ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS) For PSIP, Andrew has played Edgar in last year's *King Lear*, starred as Romeo in 2013's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Orlando in 2014's *As You Like It*. Local credits include Pittsburgh Public Theater's production of *Othello*, Shmuel/Guard 2 in Prime Stage's *The Devil's Arithmetic*, and Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Other roles include Cassio in *Othello* and Valentine in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and the Classical Acting Program at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.



Jessica Schiermeister (LUCIANA/OFFICER/ATTENDANT) is originally from Iowa by way of Virginia. She is an actor, director, scholar, and dramaturg with two master's degrees in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA. Notable roles include Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night* (Hoosier Shakes), Dionyza and Antiochus' Daughter in *Pericles* (Hoosier Shakes), Richard in *Richard II* (Rogue Shakespeare), Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Waldorf College), and Cassius in *Julius Caesar* (Waldorf College).



Derrick Shane (AEGEON) has a B.A. in Theater from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has worked with various theaters in the area including: Theater-by-the-Grove, Throughline Theater, Apple Hill Playhouse, South Hills Players, South Park Theater, Heritage Players and many others. Derrick previously worked as a tour actor for Saltworks Theater Company on their social issues tour. He has also worked as a teaching artist for Footlight Players Theater-for-youth Camp for the past three summers. Favorite roles include: Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Ellard in *The Foreigner*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, and Justin in *Fox on the Fairway*.



Jennifer Tober (ADRIANA/JAILER/ATTENDANT/Artistic Director) is the Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks which she founded in 2005. For PSIP, she has directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It* as well as the 2006 Bard Walk, and has produced the company's productions since its beginning. Ms. Tober is a professional actress, director, and teacher who has made Pittsburgh her home since 2005. In Pittsburgh, Ms. Tober has performed in *As You Like It* and *King Lear* (PSIP); *Out of This Furnace*, *The Tempest*, or *The Enchanted Isle* and *Macbeth 3* (Unseam'd Shakespeare); *Day Room Window* (New Hazlett Theatre); *Rope*, *The Queens* (Playhouse REP); *The Pillowman*, *Salome* (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre); *The Red Shoes* (Quantum Theatre); *In the Voodoo Par-*

lour of Marie Laveau (Pittsburgh Playwrights); poetry and staged readings with Poets' Corner, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, and the Steinway Piano Series. Regional/New York theatre includes *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It* and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *As You Like It* (NY Classical Theatre), *Winter's Tale*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Shakespeare Project); *The Christmas Cup* (Mill Mountain Playhouse); *Richard II*, *Midsummer*, and *Julius Caesar* (A Crew of Patches, NY - a company of which Ms. Tober was one of the founders); *The Fugitives* (NY Street Theatre Caravan/Marketa Kimbrell); and *"DADDY CRUSH"* (her award-winning one-woman show at the Belt Theater in NY). While in New York, Ms. Tober also started the organization "Shakespeare Inside," which taught Shakespeare, acting, and writing to convicted Bronx juveniles. Film and TV includes *Sex & the City*, *Rescue Me*, *Ed*, *SNL*, commercials/voiceovers and the local Pittsburgh film *Progression*. Ms. Tober holds a BA from Temple University and an MFA from West Virginia University and is a member of the Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors' Guild, and American Federation of TV and Radio Artists. Ms. Tober would like to thank the many people who make these free Shakespeare plays happen, and is delighted to share them with you. For WLT.



Jim Walker (MERCHANT/ANGELO-BALTHAZZA/ABBESS) is thrilled to be a part of this year's PSIP production. He has worked on stages, as an actor and a speaker, in Pittsburgh and across Western Pennsylvania for close to 30 years. He holds a BFA in Theatre Arts from Point Park College ('91) and a M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary ('03). Jim has spent most of his life using theatre and storytelling to connect people to faith and community. Most notably, Jim is the co-founding pastor of the Hot Metal Bridge Church on the South Side, where the creative and performing arts are a focus. He currently serves as lead pastor at First Methodist Church in Shadyside.

Special Thanks To:

Brandi Bankston; Charles W. and Marsha J. Beikert; Jonathan Eaton, Scott Timm, and Opera Theater of Pittsburgh; Franktuary; Pittsburgh Citiparks; Te Cafe; University of Pittsburgh Honors College; and Henry, Grace, Copper, and Roxmanne.

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-William Shakespeare, Henry V



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