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June 2020- June 2021

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Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.
Email info@nyclassical.org with any revisions you may have.



Central Park | Previews June 24 - June 30, 2021
Performances July 1 - July 11, 2021

Brooklyn Commons at MetroTech | July 13 - 18, 2021

Carl Schurz Park | July 20 - 25, 2021

The Battery | July 27 - August 8, 2021


Audiences are welcome on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the performance with necessary Contact Information and Social Distancing.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
for FREE reservations & performance
details: nyclassical.org



KING LEAR

by William Shakespeare with Nahum Tate's 1681 "happy ending"

The original source material for King Lear wasn't a tragedy! Tate's adaptation—which lets our well-meaning royal live and let live—was performed almost exclusively until the 1840s.



This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Council on the Arts

NY Classical's performances are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Artists make New York a vibrant place to live.
Your gift to NY Classical secures their future here.

Your “e-basket” donation today pays our actors, directors, designers, and technicians.

Please contribute in support of NY Classical’s artists—professionals who earn a living wage, health insurance, and pension funds—in crafting classical theatre for everybody. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, they need your philanthropy now more than ever.

Our talented multi-ethnic ensembles range in age from 20-Somethings to Senior Citizens. These artists have lost months of income from their jobs being canceled, and they remain deeply concerned about their high risk for COVID-19 infection. They rely on you, generous NY Classical patrons, to continue their life’s work.

Our artists are still serving our community, as they have year after year, at no direct cost to our audiences. We hope you enjoy this performance—and give the gift of classical theatre to your neighbors, friends, and family during our 2021 season.

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Cast

Michael Stewart Allen* Cornwall
Amar Atkins* Edmund
Connie Castanzo* Cordelia & Fool
Grant Chapman* Oswald
Ollie Corchado Ensemble
Jasminn Johnson* Goneril
Cedric Lamar* Kent
John Michalski* King Lear
Evan Moore-Coll Ensemble
Nick Salamone* Gloucester
Aryana Sederati* Regan
Saleemah Sharpe Ensemble
Clay Storseth* Albany
Linden Tailor* Edgar

Creative Team & Technicians

Stephen Burdman† Founding Artistic Director & Director
Sabrinna Fabi Costumes & Props Designer
Sean Michael Chin Fight Director
Stephanie Klapper Casting Director
marcus d. harvey Casting Liaison
Nora Leonhardt Voice & Speech Coach
Joan Melton Voice & Speech Consultant
Stefanie Drinkwater Assistant Designer
Lacey Davies Casting Associate
Kate McMorran Casting Assistant
Leslie Palmer Costume Stitcher
Yetti Steinman* Production Stage Manager
and Supervising Producer
Madison Lane* Assistant Stage Manager
Ashley Trutanich Wardrobe Supervisor
Rosemarie Manzo, Nina Schatell Production Assistants
Ali Bianco Covid Safety Officer & Run Crew
Oliver D'Avolio, Olivia G. Michel Run Crew
Lizzy Emanuel, Alexander Pronevich Covid Safety Officers

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

†Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Land Acknowledgement

We congregate on the unceded ancestral land of Lenni-Lenape people. We honor their elders and descendants, the memory of Seneca Village displaced by eminent domain in the design of Central Park, the sanctity of our nation's earliest and largest African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan, and the history of the African Grove Theatre in Greenwich Village.

For more information about the land we occupy, the Lenape Center is continuing Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland, through community, culture and the arts.

thelenapecenter.com



Michael Stewart Allen (*Cornwall*). NY Classical Theatre debut. Broadway/Off Broadway: *War Horse* national/international tour (National Theatre), *Little Rock* (Sheen Center), *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Tempest*, *Moby Dick Rehearsed*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (The Acting, Company). Other Credits: *Twelve Angry Men* (Indiana Rep/Syracuse Stage); *Macbeth*, *The Crucible*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Wait Until Dark* (Arkansas Rep); *Three Musketeers*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest*, *Macbeth* (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ); *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Madness of King George*, *Amadeus* (The Old Globe) etc. TV/Film “Billions,” “The Blacklist,” “Admiral Rickover.” Proud member of Actors Equity Association.



Amar Atkins (*Edmund*). NY Classical Theatre debut! Broadway Tour: *The Color Purple* revival (First National). Favorite Regional: *The Color Purple* revival (Paper Mill Playhouse); *Rent* (Gateway Playhouse); *Sophisticated Ladies* (New Venture Theatre); *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night* (Swine Palace). TV/Film: “Blue Bloods,” “Bull,” “Wu-Tang: An American Saga,” “At That Age,” “Carry Me Home.” MFA in Acting from LSU and BA in Theatre from Albany State University. Huge thanks to God, my family, and my tribe for their endless love and support! Proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA.



Connie Castanzo (*Cordelia & Fool*). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): *The Importance of Being Earnest, Romeo & Juliet, The Rivals, As You Like It*. New York: *Gigi* (Storm Theatre); *Diaspora* (The Gym at Judson); *Time Stands Still* (Theatre for the New City); *City Girls & Desperadoes, Much Ado About Nothing* (The Secret Theatre); *My Report To The World* (The Karski Project); *Some Are More Human* (NYC Fringe). Regional: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Capital REP); *Boeing Boeing* (Millbrook Playhouse); *Lost Boy Found in Whole Food's, Confluence of Dreaming* (Pittsburgh REP); *Ramona Quimby* (Two Beans). TV/Film: "Hack My Life," "Creep," "Cauliflower," "The Raft." BFA in Acting from Point Park Conservatory of Performing Arts.



Grant Chapman (*Oswald*). NY Classical Theatre debut. Regional: *Murder on the Orient Express, Into the Breeches!* (Asolo Rep); *Our Town* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Alliance Theatre); *Angels in America* (Suzi Bass Award, Actor's Express); *Small Craft Warnings, A Bright Room Called Day, Blues for Mister Charlie, The Glass Menagerie, Orpheus Descending* (The Williams Project); *Antony and Cleopatra* (Opera House Arts); *Pride and Prejudice* (Bristol Riverside Theatre). MFA, Brown/Trinity; BFA, University of Minnesota/Guthrie.



Ollie Corchado (*Ensemble*). NY Classical Theatre debut. New York: *Counting Pedestals* (Metropolitan Playhouse); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare Forum); *My Father's Heart* (Wet Paint New Play Festival); *Not About Nightingales* (Empirical Stage). Regional: *Romeo and Juliet* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *Indian Head* (Luna Stage); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Milwaukee Rep. & Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *A Christmas Carol* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park). TV/Film: "Stalked Someone's Watching" (Investigation Discovery). Co-creator of "En Route: A Webseries."



Jasminn Johnson (*Goneril*). NY Classical Theatre debut. New York: *Blues for An Alabama Sky* (Keen Company) Regional: *Private Lives* (Lean Ensemble Theater); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare on The Sound). TV/Film: "The Politician" (Netflix). She is a proud graduate of The Juilliard School's Drama Division. Endless gratitude to Mom, Dad, and Trey, her family, friends, Studio XII, G45, and all of her students, teachers, and mentors.



Cedric Lamar (Kent): NY Classical Theatre debut. Off-Broadway/National Tour: *Three Musketeers, Macbeth, Richard III* (The Acting Company). Regional: *Hamlet, Love's Labour's Lost, Pericles, Antony and Cleopatra, The Comedy of Errors, Oklahoma!, The Wiz, Off the Rails, Mother Road, La Comedia of Errors* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Henry V, Taming of the Shrew* (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare Festival Los Angeles). Be safe and support artists.



John Michalski (*King Lear*). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): *The Importance of Being Earnest, The Rivals, The Winter's Tale, Measure for Measure, A {15-Min!} Christmas Carol, The Tempest, The Seagull, Twelfth Night, Playing Moliere, Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III, Hamlet, King Lear*. Broadway: *Herzl* (opp. Paul Hecht); *Gorey Stories* (dir. Tony Tanner). Off-Broadway: *Under My Skin, Homer's Odyssey* (Handcart Ensemble); *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials Of Oscar Wilde* (Minetta Lane); *Martin Luther on Trial*. Regional: *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *Freud's Last Session, The Crucible* (Pioneer Theatre, Salt Lake City); *Dracula* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park & Repertory Theatre of St. Louis). John is a Group II graduate of the Juilliard School Drama Division.



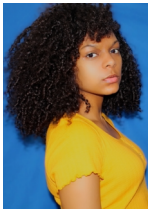
Evan Moore-Coll (*Ensemble*). NY Classical Theatre: *It Can't Happen Here, Macbeth*. New York: *How To Guild an Eagle* (Columbia University), *Our Town* (Columbia University). Regional: *Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). BFA in Acting from Otterbein University. Many thanks to Stephen, Stephanie Klapper and her amazing team, and to our fantastic patrons!



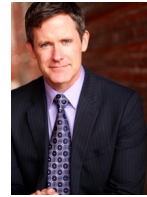
Nick Salamone (*Gloucester*). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): *Romeo and Juliet, The Rivals, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It, The Tempest, The Seagull, Twelfth Night, Playing Moliere, Henry V, The School for Husbands, Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III, Hamlet, King Lear*. New York: *Macbeth 3* (Here); *Hillary Agonistes* (Bleecker Street); *Nightshift* (Westbeth); *Preggin and Liss* (Raft); *We Bombed in New Haven, Lorca* (Art/Work Ensemble). LA: *Billy Boy, Red Hat & Tales, Riffs & Credos* (Playwrights' Arena); *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Egyptian); *Dogeaters* (Kirk Douglas); *The Tempest* (Taper Amphitheatre); *Coriolanus* (Strasberg); *Arturo Ui, The Libertine* (Classical Theatre Lab). Regional: *Medea* (Boston Court); *Find Your Way Home* (Alley Theatre); 2 (ICT). UK: *Sherlock Holmes, Macbeth* (Edinburgh). Award Nominations: British Stage, LA Weekly, 4 Backstage West Garlands. Nick is a published playwright and a member of the Board of NY Classical.



Aryana Sederati (*Regan*). NY Classical Theatre debut. NYC: *Bee* (HB Studios). Regional: *The Tempest* (Pittsburgh Public Playhouse); *Oil* (Swine Palace); *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival). Educational Tour: *Macbeth* (HVSF). BFA from Montclair State University. Big love to Mom, Dad, friends, & mentors for their continued support. Aryana is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. aryanasedarati.com, IG: @aryanapants



Saleemah Sharpe (*Ensemble*). NY Classical Theatre debut. New York: *As You Like It* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting); *Sopita, Soon, Again, Not Yet, King Lear* (Royal Social Distancing Company); *Sins of the Father* (Eden Theatre Company); *The Block* (Lakai Dance Theatre); New Jersey: *Significant Other* (The Theatre Project); Educational: *Ubu Roi*, *Straight Outta Kansas*, *Antigone* (Montclair State University) TV/Film: "The Girl with the Eyes," "Remission Accomplished," "i-Carly." Currently a third-year student in the Stella Adler Studio of Acting (NY) and has a BA from Montclair State University. Excited to be a part of this production!



Clay Storseth (*Albany*). is an Artistic Associate with NY Classical Theatre and has performed in 14 productions with the company. Most recently he alternated in the roles of Miss Prism and Dr. Chasuble in their production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He is glad to make New York Classical his artistic home. Regionally he has performed at A Noise Within, Laguna Playhouse, Musical Theater West, ICT, & Will & Company. He has been in nine productions at the Edinburgh Fringe and his favorite was the Fringe First Award winning *Moscow* at the Assembly Rooms (back in the day) and *Dierdre* at the Queen's Hall. His TV credits include "Star Trek: Voyager" and his MFA is from Cal Arts.



Linden Tailor (*Edgar*). NY Classical Theatre debut. Regional: *The Great Leap* (Denver Center/Seattle Repertory Theatre); *The Foreigner* (Hangar Theatre); *The White Snake* (Baltimore Center Stage); *Tokyo Fish Story* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley); *Eurydice* (Round House Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "Madam Secretary," "Shades of Blue," "The Detour," "Odd Mom Out," "Happyish." M.F.A. from University of Florida. Member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association.



Stephen Burdman (Founding Artistic Director & Director). Stephen has directed and produced over half of Shakespeare's canon for NY Classical Theatre. Favorite productions include: *The Importance of Being Earnest (Two Ways)*, *Romeo & Juliet* (with 6 actors), *The Rivals*, *Measure for Measure*, *A {15-Min!} Christmas Carol*, *The Seagull*, *Playing Moliere*, *Henry V* (New York Times Critic's Pick), *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Misalliance*, and *Mary Stuart*. MFA University of California, Irvine; National Theater Institute. Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society since 1994. Stephen is the former Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Shakespeare Theatre Association. He has also been a panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, ART/New York, and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation.



Sabrina Fabi (Costume & Props Designer). She currently designs costumes at Manhattanville College for their Theater & Dance department. Her recent design credits include *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992* (Theatre), *See Rock City* (Musical Theatre), *Station Shift* (Dance) and *with/in* (Dance). Sabrina also designed *10 out of 12*, an MMC mainstage production as well as *Electra*. Sabrina has designed numerous directing projects including: *The Chairs*, *The Bear*, *Mountain Language*, *God*, and *Now We're Really Getting Somewhere*. Sabrina worked as a First-Hand at Parsons-Meares LTD where she worked on the construction of costumes for Broadway productions including: *Moulin Rouge*, *Frozen*, *Lion King*, *Aladdin*, and *Wicked*; She is also a former *Sleep No More* wardrobe intern. Sabrina also works as an Adjunct Professor where she teaches Costume Studies at Manhattanville College. Sabrina is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College where she received a Bachelors degree with a double major in Costume Design and English Literature.



Sean Michael Chin (Fight Director). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): *King Lear*; *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Henry V*. NYC: *Dracula* (Classic Stage Company); *Coriolanus* (The Public); *home/sick* (The Assembly). Regional: *Romeo & Juliet* (Hartford Stage). BA from Wesleyan University and Certified Teacher, SAFD. Sean teaches stage combat at Pace University and Long Island University CW Post, and is an Associate Choreographer with SDC.



Stephanie Klapper (Casting Director). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): 74 productions from 2003-2021. She is euphoric to collaborate with NY Classical and Stephen Burdman again. Her work is often seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway, regionally, internationally, and on television, film, and the internet. She continues her long collaborations with numerous companies such as NY Classical, Mint Theatre Company, Primary Stages, Masterworks, Resonance Ensemble, Capital Rep, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, American Players Theatre, amongst many others. Recent projects include: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Maverick*, *Actually We're F...ed*, *Daniel's Husband*, *Final Follies*, *Days to Come*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, *The Saintliness of Margery Kempe*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Letter to Harvey Milk*, *Red Roses*, *Green Gold*, *Pride and Prejudice*.



marcus d. harvey (Casting Liaison). Award-winning actor/writer/singer/director, marcus d. harvey holds his MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College and dual undergraduate degrees in Dramatic Arts and Performance Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. As an actor, he has performed for such companies as Triad Stage (Greensboro, NC), The Old Vic (London), Playmaker's Rep (Chapel Hill, NC), Illinois Shakespeare Festival, WAM Theatre (Lenox, MA), and TADA! Theatre (New York). He has been on the small and big screen. As a writer, he has written two solo shows, *Are We Not Men?* and *baba*. He is currently at work on his first full length play centered around black men and suicide/depression. As a director, he has directed for Marymount Manhattan College, LaGuardia Community College, Harlem 9 working with Nikkole Salter and recently directed a suicide awareness project in Albany, NY. marcus is a faculty member at Montclair State University, where he teaches Acting and Drama & Text. He has also taught at Baruch College, Marymount Manhattan College, and LaGuardia Community College. He also teaches August Wilson and his works as a part of Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company August Wilson Monologue Competition. He currently splits his time between Bayonne, NJ and Sarasota, FL with his wife Krystle.



Nora Leonhardt (Voice & Speech Coach). Nora is an experienced actor, singer, and vocal coach. Her focus in coaching *King Lear* for NY Classical Theatre is assisting the cast in a kinesthetic understanding of the performer's voice while exploring Shakespeare's text. Nora holds an MFA in Voice Studies from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and has worked for both Pace University and American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Prior to her work in New York, she taught in various colleges and conservatoires in the United Kingdom. Diversity and Inclusivity are crucial to her work as a first generation North American—her life is richer for her Colombian roots, and she strives to bring this richness to her work.



Yetti Steinman (Production Stage Manager and Supervising Producer). NY Classical Theatre (Artistic Associate): *King Lear* (Zoom), *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Rivals*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, *A {15-Min!} Christmas Carol*, *The Tempest*; Broadway: *The Father* (MTC). Off-Broadway: *Popcorn Falls* (dir. Christian Borle); Drama League *Director's Festival*; *The Ruins of Civilization*, *Taking Care of Baby* (MTC); *The Gravedigger's Lullaby*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Hard Love* (TACT); *A Man's A Man* (CSC); *The Jammer* (Atlantic). Other: *The Enlightenment of Mr. Mole* (B.H. Barry Production); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Three Hotels* (Williamstown). TV Script Dept.: Oscars, Grammy Red Carpet, SpaceX Launch, BET Awards, Macy's Parade, NASCAR Awards.

Madison Lane (Assistant Stage Manager). NY Classical Theatre: *King Lear* (Zoom). New York: *Tartuffe*, *The Misanthrope* (Molière in the Park); *pen/man/ship*, *School for Wives*, *Tartuffe*, *The Misanthrope* (Molière in the Park - virtual); *A Doll's House pt. 2* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting); *The Imbible* (New World Stages). Regional: Cape Cod Theatre Project 2020. Tour: *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*, *#MomTruths Live* (Right Angle Entertainment). BA from Bucknell University. Thank you for joining us in the park this summer!

Ashley Trutanich (Wardrobe Supervisor). Los Angeles: *The Human[oid] Experience* (Hollywood Fringe Festival); *La Cage Aux Folles*; *The Hatmaker's Wife*; *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* (Long Beach Playhouse). Educational: *Romeo and Juliet: Hard Way Home* (designer), *The Revolutionists* (designer), *The Ghosts of Lote Bravo*; *The Funfair*; *Blood at the Root*; *Cabaret; Move* (California Repertory Company at CSULB). MFA in Costume Design and Tech from California State University, Long Beach.

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NY Classical's mission is to create and reinvigorate audiences for the theatre by presenting all-free productions of popular classics and forgotten masterpieces in public spaces throughout New York City.

We believe that everyone—regardless of social, economic, or educational background—should have the opportunity to enjoy live professional theatre together as a community. Since 2000, NY Classical has presented over 750 free performances for more than 275,000 New Yorkers. We have produced extensively in non-traditional settings: outdoors in Central Park at West 103rd Street, The Battery at Castle Clinton National Monument, Carl Schurz Park, and Brooklyn Bridge Park at Pier 1 and indoors in Brookfield Place, Roosevelt Island's Tata Innovation Center, and the Church of the Epiphany.

By producing at no direct cost to our audiences, we reach every demographic in our urban community. To date, we have staged 42 all-free productions by classical playwrights including Shakespeare, Molière, Chekhov, Shaw, and Wilde.

Roe Manzo (Production Assistant). NY Classical Theatre: (*Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*); Regional: *Murder at Mt. Hope Mansion* (Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire); *Brick City, Yasmina's Necklace* (Premiere Stages). Educational: *Anna in the Tropics* (Kean Theatre Series); *Regrettably, The Ghost Previously Haunting Our Mansion Has Died*, *Bhutan*, *The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995* (Stella Adler/NYU). BFA from Kean Theatre Conservatory. roemanzo.com

Nina Schatell (Production Assistant). Educational: *About Town: Roaring Through The Twenties* (Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center); *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Purchase Music Conservatory); *The Colored Museum*, *Cheat Day*, *The People From Very Far Away*, *Excerpts from Some People & Jails*, *Hospitals*, and *Hip Hop, Fen* (Purchase Repertory); *Metamorphoses (Mary Zimmerman)*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma!*, (The Marjorie S. Deane Little Theatre). Stage management major at Purchase College, Conservatory of Theatre Arts.

This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.