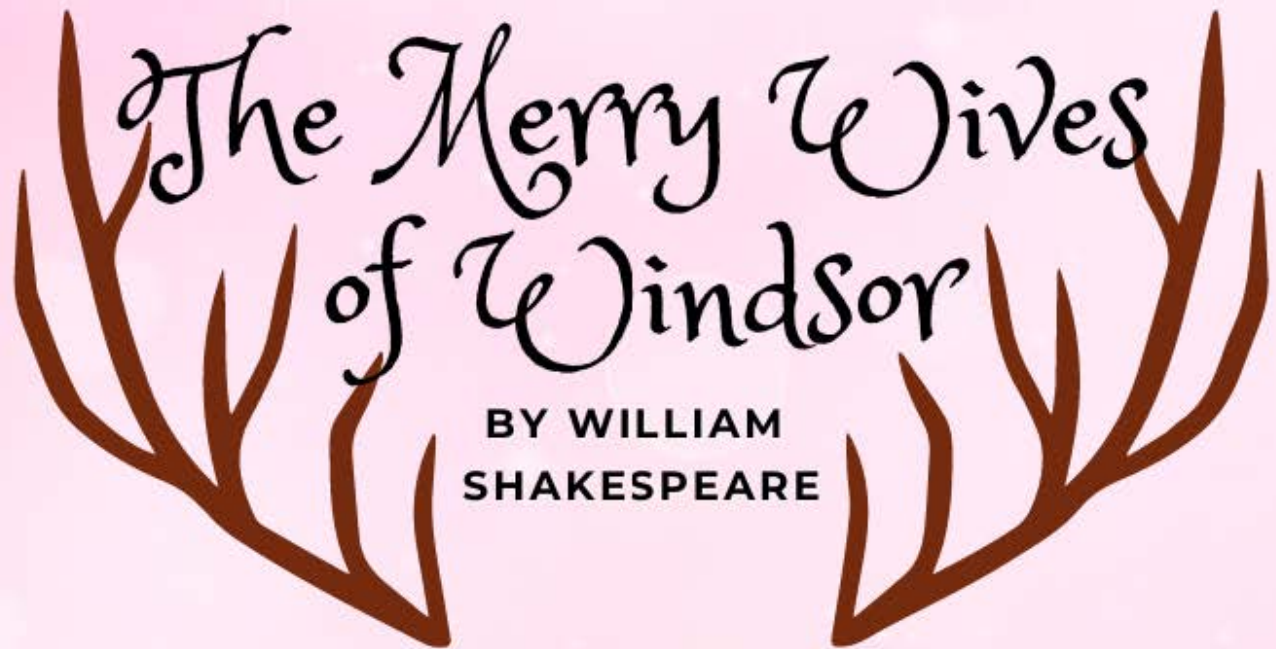


STEEL CITY SHAKESPEARE CENTER
AND THE WEST VIEW HUB PRESENT

The Merry Wives of Windsor



BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE



ADAPTED BY
BOB COLBERT, ELLA MIZERA,
AND CHRISTINE MCGRATH

DIRECTED BY
BOB COLBERT

JULY 23, 24, 30, 31
ALL PERFORMANCES AT 2:00 PM
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Cast

Bob Colbert:

*Will Kempe, Sir John Falstaff,
Dr. Caius*



Christine McGrath:

*Alexander Cooke, Mistress Page,
Sir Hugh Evans, Anne Page, Simple*

Ella Mizera:

*Will Shakespeare, Mistress Ford,
Slender*



Anne Rematt:

*Richard Burbage, Master Ford,
Justice Shallow, Fenton*

Lauren Scheller-Wolf:

*Cuthbert Burbage, Master Page,
Mistress Quickly, Host of the Garter*





Bob Colbert

Director, Co-Adapter

Will Kempe, Sir John Falstaff, Dr. Caius

Bob Colbert (He/Him) is thrilled to be returning to Steel City Shakespeare Center and Bronx Field after last performing in "Pericles" in summer 2021. Bob has also performed with such Pittsburgh theater companies as Poor Yorick's Players, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, and Gemini Children's Theatre. At Gemini, Bob performs in both their mainstage shows and their field trip/school outreach program. Enjoy the show!

Christine McGrath

Co-Adapter

*Alexander Cooke, Mistress Page,
Sir Hugh Evans, Anne Page, Simple*

Christine McGrath (She/Her) is ecstatic to be back with SCSC! She is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Allegheny College where she studied visual production, theater, and history and played on the women's lacrosse team. Previously with SCSC, she has composed the music and appeared as Amiens and William in "As You Like It," Christmas Past, Belle, and Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol: A Radio Drama," and Marina, Thaisa, and others in "Pericles." Other local credits include Sylvia in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" with Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, Arviragus and Second Lord as well as choreographer and music composer in "Cymbeline" (PSIP), Viola in "Twelfth Night" with Pittsburgh Classic Players, Phoebe in "Yeoman of the Guard" with Pittsburgh Savoyards, Tessa in "The Gondoliers" (Pgh Savoyards), and Veronica Sawyer in "Heathers the Musical" with The Summer Company. When not onstage, Christine is a singer/songwriter, a personal trainer, a wedding soloist, a girls lacrosse coach at Hampton High School, and is studying to complete her second bachelor's degree in Forensic Biology.





Ella Mizera

Co-Adapter

*Will Shakespeare, Mistress Ford,
Slender*

Ella Mizera (She/Her) is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studies theater and nonprofit management. "Merry Wives" marks her second production with Steel City (following "Macbeth"). Most recently, she was a teaching artist at SCSC's summer camp. Credits include Food for Groundlings' upcoming audio production of "Hamlet"

(Ophelia), Youth Shakespeare Society of Pittsburgh's "Twelfth Night" (Sebastian), Pitt Stages' "Emilia" (Lord Howard), and Play On Words' "No Exit" (Inez). When she's not performing, you can find her directing, stage fighting, dramaturging, or cuddling her dog. Usually not all at the same time.

Anne Rematt

*Richard Burbage, Master Ford,
Justice Shallow, Fenton*

Anne Rematt is happy to be returning to Steel City Shakespeare and trying to do Burbage justice. Around Pittsburgh, she has been seen on the stages of PICT, Pittsburgh Classic Players, PSIP, The New Renaissance Theater Company, The Jesters Guild and many more.

Most recently, Anne could be seen in "Silent Sky" at South Park Theater. She also spends her autumns portraying Queen Anne Boleyn at the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival. Internationally, she has had the opportunity to perform in several venues throughout Italy and Scotland. In her spare time, Anne is normally found at home with her dog, imbibing copious amounts of tea while attempting to read every book she has recklessly purchased.





Lauren Scheller-Wolf

*Cuthbert Burbage, Master Page,
Mistress Quickly, Host of the Garter*

Lauren Scheller-Wolf (She/Her) is thrilled to be performing with Steel City Shakespeare Center for the very first time as part of "Merry Wives"! Lauren is a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate, where she earned a BPhil in Theatre Arts and English Writing with a minor in History. Pitt Stages credits include "Emilia" (Susan Bertie/Flora), "Spark" (Jude), and "She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms" (Lily/Lilith). Lauren has also acted with several Pittsburgh theatre companies, including Prime Stage Theatre, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, and Gemini Children's Theater. Much love and gratitude to her friends and family. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Production Staff

Director: Bob Colbert

*Adaptation: Bob Colbert, Ella Mizera,
Christine McGrath*

*Lord Chamberlain's Men Characters:
Bobby Calloway*

Puppet Design: Catherine Aceto

Producer: Jeffrey Chips

Acknowledgements

Scott Pavlot

Jean Mientus

Ben Robbins

Northmont Presbyterian Church

Chuck and Flo Colbert

Rob Keiscer

Bobby Calloway

William Shakespeare

Playwright



William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England in 1564, the son of John Shakespeare, a glovemaker, and Mary Arden, the daughter of a prominent Catholic family in Stratford. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, and together they had three children, Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet.

In the late 1580s/early 1590s, Shakespeare arrived in London around the same time the English Navy defeated the Spanish Armada, establishing England as the strongest military power in Europe and London as the major hub of European culture and art. He joined the Lord Chamberlain's Men as an actor, shareholder, and writer and also gained fame and influence as a writer of poems, including 154 sonnets.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603 and the arrival of King James, the Lord Chamberlain's Men became the King's Men and served as the main playing company for the Royal Court.

In his career, he wrote several of the most beloved works in the history of the English language, including "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," "Twelfth Night," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Hamlet," "Othello," "Macbeth," "The Tempest," and many more. In 1614, he sold his share in the King's Men and retired to Stratford for a brief time before his death in 1616.

Seven years later, in 1623, members of the King's Men undertook the effort of collecting all of Shakespeare's plays and publishing his First Folio. With the exception of the King James Bible, Shakespeare's First Folio is perhaps the most celebrated and most studied printed work in the history of the English language. Today we credit Shakespeare as the author of 38 plays that, over the course of 400 years, have been translated into hundreds of languages and performed throughout the world.





Characters in the Play

You know who Will Shakespeare is. And you probably know who Queen Elizabeth I is. But who are the rest of these guys? They are members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, the troupe that will forever be known as the first company to stage Shakespeare's plays.

The Lord Chamberlain's Men

Cuthbert Burbage: General manager of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, inherited from his father James Burbage. There are no records of him actually stepping onstage in any official capacity, so we've imagined him as the beleaguered company stage manager.

Richard Burbage: Cuthbert's younger brother, and the leading actor for the company, probable originator of roles like Hamlet, Richard III, Macbeth, Henry V, and many others.

Alexander Cooke: The actor in charge of playing all of the leading ladies for the company, such as Juliet, Ophelia, Olivia, and others.

Will Kempe: The originator of the role of Sir John Falstaff, and regularly given all of Shakespeare's broad comic buffoons like Bottom and Dogberry.

Citizens of Windsor

Justice Shallow: An elderly justice, uncle to Slender, sues Falstaff for killing his deer

Slender: Shallow's nephew, suitor to Anne Page

Simple: Slender's servant

Master Page: A wealthy citizen of Windsor, father to Anne, wishes for Anne to marry Slender

Mistress Page: Master Page's wife, mother to Anne, object of Falstaff's seductions, wishes for Anne to marry Dr. Caius

Anne Page: The Pages' daughter of marrying age, in love with Fenton

Master Ford: A wealthy citizen of Windsor, disguises himself as Brooke to spy on his wife

Mistress Ford: Master Ford's wife, object of Falstaff's seductions

Sir John Falstaff: A knight of the realm, attempts to seduce Mistresses Page and Ford in an effort to blackmail their husbands and pay his debts

Pistol: A friend of Falstaff's

Nym: A friend of Falstaff's

Mistress Quickly: Dr. Caius' housekeeper

Host of the Garter: Proprietor of the Garter Inn, Falstaff's favorite watering hole

Sir Hugh Evans: A Welsh parson

Dr. Caius: A French doctor and suitor to Anne Page

Fenton: Suitor to Anne Page



Director's Note

The notion that Shakespeare completed *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in only fourteen days for a special commission from Queen Elizabeth I dates back to 1702, when English critic and dramatist John Dennis recorded it in his introduction for his adaptation of the play. Given that the play was written around 1598 and this story about the circumstances of its writing first crops up nearly a century later, it's probably not true. It's a largely unsubstantiated anecdote that has passed into legend, like other pieces of Shakespearean theatrical tradition, such as: witty fool Robert Armin originating the role of *Othello's* despicable villain Iago to get the audience on the character's side right from the off; Shakespeare helping King James I to translate passages of his eponymous translation of the Bible; or the Lord Chamberlain's Men carrying all the timber for the Globe across the Thames River in the dead of night to a new plot of land after getting evicted from their previous site. (Oh, wait, that last one actually did happen.)

So what? The story is probably fake. But it is captivating. It makes for a great little story to tell; a ragtag band of actors and their not-quite fearless writer, given a seemingly impossible task, and overcoming it. It's a story that brings one of the most revered writers in human history down off his pedestal and onto the everyday person's level: he's a guy on a deadline who's trying to keep the company he has helped to build afloat. If you've been around the theatre world in any capacity, you know that working in a time crunch with a laundry list of things to get done is all too common. In sharing this story, we can see ourselves as Shakespeare; the circumstance is so relatable.

And that's what theatre is, isn't it? Stories that we share because we relate to them and want to relate to others through them. Even when considering a fluffy comedy like *Merry Wives*, we find stories about people overcoming insurmountable odds. The way the characters do so is farcical in the extreme, but we still find bits of ourselves even in the most ridiculous moments. Especially in the most ridiculous moments.

(Side note: For my own part, I think the best evidence for the "written in two weeks" theory is the script itself. The uncut text of the play reads like it was written in two weeks; it is beyond sloppy. This thing has more pointless scenes that don't go anywhere than the last season of *Game of Thrones*.)

-Bob Colbert, Director

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Jeffrey Chips - Founder and Artistic Director

Catherine Aceto

Catherine Baird

Kacie Belletti

Bob Colbert

Emily Gallagher

Christine McGrath

Ella Mizera

Darrin Mosley Jr.

Caitlin Scaff

Tracey D. Turner

Cole Vecchio



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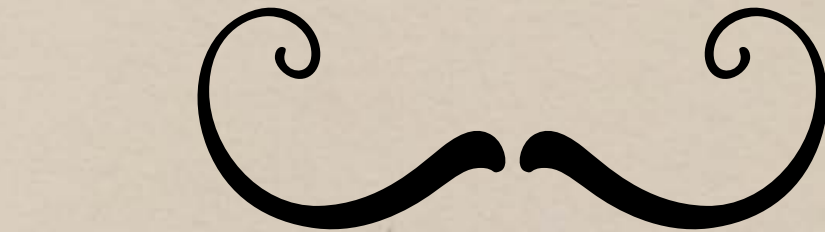
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