



PLAYBILL

**Lynch Park & Forten Park
Olde Essex Stage Company**

OLDE ESSEX
20 21

STAGE COMPANY


Olde Essex Stage Company presents




William Shakespeare's

JULIUS CAESAR

Lynch Park
55 Ober St. Beverly, MA
Saturday, July 23rd @ 6:30pm
Sunday, July 24th @ 4:00pm
&
Charlotte Forten Park
289 Derby St. Salem, MA
Saturday, July 30th @ 6:30
Sunday, July 31st @ 6:30



Free
Admission!
Donations
accepted.





About OESC

The Olde Essex Stage Company is a 501 (c) (3) registered non-profit. Formed in the spring of 2021, the OESC brings together working professionals with decades of experience in theatrical arts and is dedicated to bringing quality professional theater to the region.

Thank You's

The Olde Essex Stage Company would like to thank the following individuals for their time and support over the past few months.

The City of Salem MA
Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll
Salem Arts Director Julie Barry
Salem Principal Planner Kate Newhall-Smith
The City of Beverly MA
Beverly Parks Director Bruce Doig
Beverly Main Streets Director Rachel Borgatti
Skylar Mannion
Carolyn Welch
Kathryn Mannion
Jim Smolinsky
Tom Marshall
American Legion Post 115
Jim Blatchford
Carol Smolinski
Kathy Mannion



CAST

Cast Members

Brutus	Stephen Cheuka
Cassius.....	Jess Emerson
Mark Antony/Metellus Cimber.....	Myq Semonelli
Julius Caesar/Octavius.....	Michael Barry
Marullus/Casca/Titinius.....	Brit Christopher
Calpurnia / Cinna / Lepidus / Messala.....	Julie Roundtree
Soothsayer / Portia / Messenger / Strato.....	Jillian Cheuka
Flavius / Cicero / Decius / Servant	
Pindarus / Volumnius.....	Declan Geoffrion-Scannell



CREW

Production / Creative

Director Kevin Welch

Technical Director Josh Canner

Stage Manager Kristen Harris

Assistant Stage Manager John McLaughlin

Seamstress Nancy MacDonald

Marketing Director Moriah Canner

Producer Gary Mannion

Meet the Cast



Stephen Cheuka

Stephen is excited to return for his second production with Olde Essex Stage Company after appearing last year as Claudio (*Much Ado About Nothing*). Stephen helped build, worked at, and acted for a non-profit, community theatre in Connecticut for over 7 years before moving to Boston and graduating with a BA in History.

Stephen then bridged his love for education, history, and theatre through his work in museum programming for another 6+ years. He now works as an HR professional and is enjoying the chance to return to his passions. When not on stage, you can find Stephen adventuring with his wife, playing D&D, or spending time with his dog, Pika. Past credits include: *Oedipus* (*These Seven Sicknesses*), *Keanu* (*FAB! or Whatever*), *Rev. Paris* (*Crucible*), *James Keller* (*The Miracle Worker*), and *Emmett* (*Legally Blonde the Musical*).



Jess Emerson

Jess Emerson is thrilled to join the *Julius Caesar* cast this summer and dive back into Shakespeare after a very long, though unintentional, hiatus from acting. She has been teaching and directing theatre at the middle and high school levels for the past 4 years and couldn't be happier to enjoy some time on the stage for herself.

Previous credits include *Becca* (*It Shoulda Been You*), *Titania* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), *Baker's Wife* (*Into the Woods*) and *Dogberry* (*Much Ado About Nothing*). Jess is honored to be trusted with *Cassius* and she thanks the cast and creative teams for such a fun opportunity to play in the North Shore.



Meet the Cast



Myq Semonelli

Myq Semonelli is honored to be taking part in Julius Caesar. They were previously seen with the Olde Essex Stage Company in Poe's Paramours reading The Raven and other selections, as well as in their inaugural production, Much Ado About Nothing, in the role of Don Pedro. Other credits include Francis Henshall in One Man, Two Guvnors (Burlington Players) and Old Man Strong/Hot Blades Harry in Urinetown (Burlington Players).

Myq graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts from Merrimack College in 2017. When not acting, they can also be found singing bass with the Boston-based vocal group, Elevate. Myq would like to thank their friends, family, and their wonderful partner for all of their love and support. They would also like to send enormous thanks to their incredible director, fellow cast members and the entire production team for all their hard work on this amazing production.



Michael Barry

Michael is an actor from Wilmington, MA. This is his first production with Olde Essex Stage Company, and he is very excited to be getting back on stage with all of his amazing friends. He is the co-founder of The Misfit Artist Company with his wife Stephanie Morey-Barry.

He has performed with a lot of theatre companies in the Greater Boston & North Shore, including The Firehouse Center for the Arts, Arts After Hours, Longwood Players, Salem Trolley Christmas Carol, Mystery Cafe, Colonial Chorus Players, Turtle Lane Playhouse (RIP), Moonlight Productions, and many others. He is also a former Lead Actor of The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum (which is where he met most of these fine people), and a former director of Cambridge Historical Tours. He would like to thank his friends and family, his amazing daughter Julia, and his beautiful wife Stephanie for all of their support and love! Enjoy the show!

Meet the Cast



Brit Christopher

Brit Christopher is an actor, playwright and educator living in Salem, MA. This is Brit's show with Olde Essex Stage Company, but she's done other plays before too, promise. Brit struggles to write bios, but... likes...dogs a lot? Thank you for your attention.



Julie Roundtree

Julie Roundtree is delighted to be back onstage with Olde Essex Stage Company, after appearing in their spring production of "Poe's Paramours". Some of Julie's favorite prior roles include Tamora in Titus Andronicus (Savannah Shakes); Myrtle in The Great Gatsby, Hermia in A Midwinter Night's Dream, and Judy in A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Collective Face Theatre Ensemble);and Ophelia in Hamlet (Maryland Shakespeare Festival).

She has an MFA (Acting Emphasis) and an M.litt in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in Performance from Mary Baldwin University and the American Shakespeare Center and is currently pursuing an MA through the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at Brandeis University, with a research focus of representations of witches throughout history. Julie teaches English at Endicott College and in her free time can be found frolicking around Sale with

her rescue pup, Piper Petunia.



Meet the Cast



Jillian Chueka

This is Jillian's second year with Olde Essex Stage Company, after having played Hero in last summer's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She started her performance career as a dancer and traveled around New England as a youth to compete in numerous competitions. Moving to Boston, she danced with a company called Rainbow Tribe before graduating with a BA in theatre performance from Suffolk University (where she also met her very talented husband).

You may have thrown some tea overboard with Jillian at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, where she spent 8 years creating and performing live interactive theatre as a variety of historical "characters". She has also starred as Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, Betty in *the Crucible*, the Carrier in *These Seven Sicknesses*, Purity/ u/s Erma in *Anything Goes*, The Shoemakers Elf in *Shrek: the Musical*, Corporal Walsh in *At Ease*, and *The Phantom* in *CarTalk: the Musical*. When not performing, you'll find Jillian at her UX design day job or throwing a frisbee around with her dog, Pika.



Declan Geoffrion-Scannell

Declan has been performing with Kevin for years and is thrilled to stab Caesar under his direction. He also performed in the OESC's *Much Ado about Nothing* last year and in *Poe's Paramours* this spring. He lives in Somerville and works in 3D printing.



Meet the Crew



Kevin Welch

Kevin is excited to be making his directorial debut with this wonderful cast. Kevin is an avid lover of breakfast foods and Once ate 51 eggs in one sitting. Kevin is also an aspiring woodworker.

Kevin has seen three movies in his life Bridge on the River Kwai, Patton, and Herbie: Fully Loaded. For several years Kevin has been moonlighting as a musician playing jazz on the tenor saxophone. Kevin's Favorite drink is Lagavulin Single Malt Scotch Whiskey. Kevin would like to dedicate this show to Lil' Sebastian RIP 1986-2011



Kristin Harris

Kristin Harris is a Historian and Podcast Host from Salem, Massachusetts with an B.A. in Early American History from Penn State University and an M.A. in American Studies from UMass Boston, specializing in studying the role of the paranormal, death culture, and folklore and its effects on popular media. Kristin has been a public historian for many years, first starting her career working at the Witch House, and the 1630 Pioneer Village in Salem as a tour guide for both, as well as giving public history and ghost tours in Salem.

Kristin also specializes in the history of the Salem Witch Trials, and has consulted on exhibit material and community events for the Peabody Essex Museum and other local historical sites. Currently, Kristin works as both the Research Coordinator at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, and the Dramaturg and Historian for Intramersive Media LLC, focusing on the use of folklore and history to create immersive theatrical productions. Kristin discovered her passion for the intersection of theater and history while working for the BTPSM, and this is her first time working with Olde Essex Stage company!



Meet the Crew



John McLaughlin

is thrilled to be spending his 2nd Shakespearesummer with the Olde Essex Stage Company in its 2022 production of Julius Caesar. Although he has performed in live theater in various capacities for over a decade, this is John's first experience fulfilling a technical role in a production. In addition to OESC, he has previously acted and actively participated with such performance groups as the Merrimack College OnStagers (N. Andover, Mass.) and the Nashua (N.H.) Theater Guild.

While he is disappointed that he was not recently selected to become the next permanent host of Jeopardy!, he is nevertheless grateful to have been offered the opportunity to learn the technical ropes, and to be reunited with such wonderfully talented people among the cast & crew. In his off-time, John enjoys reading, making strawberry rhubarb pies and learning to play Hank Williams songs on his guitar. Huzzah!



Josh Canner

Josh is thrilled to be as Technical Director. This is Josh's third time working with OESC as the Technical Director, previously working on Much Ado About Nothing and Poe's Paramores. Previously Josh worked as the Assistant Technical Director and Merrimack College.



Meet the Crew



Gary Mannion

Gary is honored to have been given the chance to produce this production with such a talented cast and crew. Gary graduated from Merrimack College '12 with a degree in Political Science and Theater. Gary first stepped on the stage when he started tap dancing at the age of two. He has been privileged to perform with many different groups over the years, most recently he had his directorial debut in the Olde Essex Stage Company's inaugural production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, favorite past roles include Bobby in *Cabaret*, Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker*, and Sabu in *The Producers*.



Moriah Canner

Moriah Canner has been involved in theater one way or another since she was 10 years old. Her most recent on stage appearance was in last summer's *Much Ado About Nothing* (OESC). Moriah also directed the staged reading of Poe's *Paramours*, also for Olde Essex Stage Company. Moriah's day job is in marketing, and she is thrilled to bring this skill to OESC. Thanks for coming to our show, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

