

The Chronicles Of Hope Productions  
Present

# Shakespeare:

*Scenes, Sonnets and Surprises*



## Welcome to Shakespeare: Scenes, Sonnets and Surprises.

**I've always loved Shakespeare**, and so when I was thinking of some fundraising events for my new CIC, The Chronicles of Hope, it seemed obvious to stage an evening in homage to the bard. Any excuse to perform some of my favourite roles, albeit only snippets.

I joined the Eastbourne theatrical scene only a few years ago, following a good few years singing opera in Tunbridge Wells...as one does. But following the closure of the opera group after the covid pandemic, I knew that I needed to get onto the stage again...and as I'd had my eye on the EODS open air Shakespeare for a while, I joined, and was delighted to play Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* and Holofernes in *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Unfortunately, things took a turn in 2024...and shortly after being cast as Mistress Quickly in *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*, I was diagnosed with cancer, and so withdrew from the production, as chemo was then on my treatment plan.

A subsequent second diagnosis meant that the cancer treatment had changed. It was then that Sam and Pete had the idea to give me one night as Mistress Quickly, the role I'd originally been cast as. I can honestly say I've never enjoyed a role more, and I shall be eternally grateful to Pete and Sam and the whole of the *Merry Wives* cast for indulging me for one night!

Then, in December came my introduction to the company at The Grove Theatre, when I was asked to step in as Miss Marple in their production of *The Mirror Crack'd*. What an absolute delight that was, amongst a cast of very skilled actors.

And while all these theatrical shenanigans were afoot... The Chronicles Of Hope was created... please turn to the back of the programme for more details of our missions, the link to our website.

And so, for this evening's entertainment, I have arm twisted a handful of my fabulous thesphy chums... both from EODS and The Grove, and I thank them sincerely for lending their time and skill to raise funds for us this evening.

Annie  
x



# Tonight's delights...

So, what do we have in store for you this evening?

Well, firstly, it's a rehearsed reading. Which is a posh way of saying we've not learnt any lines... well, most of us haven't.

So it's informal.

No costumes as such... just a few hints of things here and there. And most of our rehearsal took place today... mainly because all the cast are busy being involved in numerous other productions...

But... we are bringing you some delights. There'll be some famous bits, some famous characters, some beautiful verse, a few cheeky sketches...and an experiment that could go either way... we cross our fingers.

So here's a rough idea of what might happen... but don't put any wagers on it not changing before we perform this evening...

**SCENE 1: INTRO AND MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM ACT 1 SC2**

**SCENE 2: MONOLOGUES - THE FAMOUS BITS...**

**SCENE 3: TWELFTH NIGHT ACT 3 SC4**

**SCENE 4: YOU KNOW MORE SHAKESPEARE THAN YOU THINK...**

**SCENE 5: ROMEO AND JULIET ACT 2 SC2**

**SCENE 6: COMEDY SKETCH**

**INTERVAL**

**SCENE 7: SONNETS**

**SCENE 8: UPSTART CROW**

**SCENE 9: MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR – CLOSET SCENE**

**SCENE 10: TAMING OF THE SHREW ACT 2 SC1**

**SCENE 11: THE 'UNSEEN' SCENE...ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN...**

**SCENE 12: MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM ACT 5 (OR MOST OF IT...)**

# The Company



## Callum Avery

Calum's first acting performance was actually Shakespeare, performing in EODS Shakespeare night in January 2023. Since then he has enjoyed roles in various plays and musicals such as Kipps, Kinky Boots, SpongeBob the Musical, Deadly Nightcap, Daisy Pulls It Off, and in August

this year will perform in Brighton Theatre Group's Les Miserables.

Calum's Shakespeare roles include Florizel in The Winter's Tale, King Ferdinand in Love's Labours Lost and Mr Ford in Merry Wives of Windsor, and he is about to perform in Brighton Fringe Festival with Shakesbeer Productions. Calum trains with The Actor's Lounge and has also undertaken TV work including The House Of The Dragon, The Witcher and The Death of Bunny Monroe.



## Claire Bolt

Claire is a stage actress with a degree in theatre. She has performed mostly in the Southeast, but also in Glasgow and as far away as Gothenburg, Sweden.

Claire's most recent Shakespeare production was Macbeth, playing the formidable Lady Macbeth, at The Grove Theatre, Eastbourne. Claire has also enjoyed

other dramatic roles, such as Ruth Ellis in The Thrill of Love and Queen Charlotte in The Madness of George III. Claire has loved this exploration of some of Shakespeare's great works and playing with some characters for the first time.



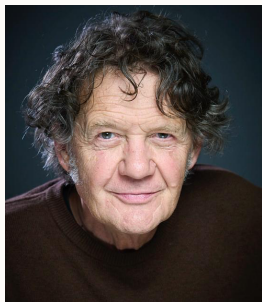
## Tom Bolt

Tom Bolt is an amateur actor who recently stumbled back onto the stage and decided to stay. He's recently been spotted lurking as Banquo in Macbeth and charming audiences as Jason Rudd in The Mirror Crack'd at the Grove Theatre, Eastbourne. Tonight, he's thrilled to dive into some more Shakespeare—mainly because it lets him show off and call it “culture.”



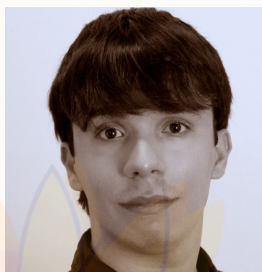
## Peter Boon

Peter lives and breathes Shakespeare! He is currently studying an MA in Shakespeare at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-on-Avon. He has directed *The Winter's Tale*, *Love's Labours Lost* and *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* for EODS, and is the Artistic Director of Shakesbeer Productions, performing in this year's Brighton Fringe Festival. In terms of Shakespeare roles, Peter has played Don John and First Watchman in *Much Ado*, Peter Simple in *Merry Wives*, Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Montague in *Romeo & Juliet*.



## Mark Jefferis

Mark has over 50 years experience in theatre, film, TV and radio. Credits include Narrator in *Blood Brothers* in the West End, *The Dauphin* in Bernard Shaw's *St Joan* alongside Jane Lapotaire, and Sparky in the Old Vic production of *Sgt Musgrave's Dance* opposite Albert Finney. He has worked as a puppeteer with the original *Spitting Image*, *The Jim Henson Company* and the Disney Channel. For the grove, Mark has played a wide range of parts, and has directed *Macbeth*, *Jeeves and Wooster*, *The Shawshank redemption*, *the Mirror Crack'd*, and most recently directed and took the role of Niels Bohr in Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.



## Sam Kavakli

Sam has been acting since he was 10 years old and this includes lots of Shakespeare, including *Romeo and Mercutio* for LAMDA exams. He has also been Assistant Director for Robinson Academy productions of *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo & Juliet*. For EODS, he has played Rogero & Dorcan in *The Winter's Tale*, Longaville in *Love's Labours Lost* and Slender in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, for which he was also Creative Assistant. Sam will be performing in Brighton Fringe Festival with Shakesbeer Productions. Outside of Shakespeare, Sam has played roles in *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Ghost Train* and *SpongeBob The Musical*.



## Christian MacDonald

Firstly Christian is absolutely honored to be part of this wonderful evening. Sharing a stage with the amazing Annie Bennett once again. Christian was a child actor touring with the NYT and returned to stage later in life. Most recent Shakespeare performances include Boyett in Loves labours lost, Dr Kiaus in Merry Wives of Windsor. Currently in the rehearsal stage to play Caliban (The Tempest) in this year's open air at the Italian gardens, all with EODS.



## Becky Robinson

Becca Robinson has played the following full Shakespeare roles in previous productions. Dromio of Ephesus, Lady Capulet, Titania, Beatrice, Hermione and Mistress Alice Ford. Other major roles played include; Hannah in Arcadia, Christine in A Dolls House and Dolly in The Mirror Cracked.

Becca is a drama teacher and is currently directing a modern current adaptation of 'Romeo and Juliet' with a cast of 30 young People aged 7-19, including young skaters, skate boarders, a youth rock band and a young DJ.



## Michael Shepherd

Michael? Michael who? He's not been to any rehearsals, you know. I suppose he thinks being part of the National Youth Theatre of Wales "As You Like it" was enough. As we keep reminding him, that was many, many, MANY years ago! He has brushed up on his Shakespeare with a few EODS productions, including a very memorable Don Armardo in Love's Labour's Lost, so, fingers crossed, he'll be okay. Well, we hope you enjoy his (ahem)"rehearsed" readings anyway.

# Thanks

There are lots of people to thank for this evening's performance.

Mark Lacey - my lovely chum who wanted to be more involved in this evening, but circumstances dictated otherwise. He wrote much of the script, and gave me the wealth of his vast Shakespearean knowledge.

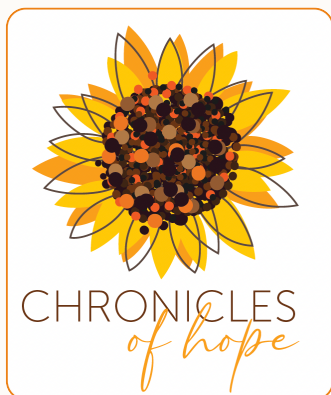
All the cast - you are all complete stars, and the fact you did this with barely any rehearsal shows how magnificent you all are.

Peter Boon - a special mention to Peter who gave me the benefit of his vast knowledge when it came to choosing scenes.

Graeme Herbert - for lighting us up and giving us sound, and for gathering props and bits and pieces... and generally being amazing.

Mark Jefferis - what that man doesn't know about staging a production isn't worth knowing...

Heather and Elfie - for all their support, with everything.



# CHRONICLES *of hope*

The Chronicles of Hope is a charitable organisation aimed at providing financial and emotional support to young adults who have parents with life limiting illnesses.

## **Our missions are to...**

Provide emotional and financial support for young adults, whose parent has been diagnosed with a life limiting illness.

Facilitate memory making experiences for these young adults and their families.

Host social events to help people connect and feel less alone during challenging times.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR SUPPORT,  
INFORMATION AND  
TO DONATE**



[www.thechroniclesofhope.org](http://www.thechroniclesofhope.org)