Directed by Anne Childress & Produced by Ronnie Bell

Advance sale tickets only
https://tickets.ssitp.org/tc

Syracuse Shakespeare In-The-Park

Thornden Park Amphitheatre
Fri. June 4, 11–5:30PM
Sat. June 5, 12–5:30PM
Sun. Jun 6, 13–2:00PM

* FREE
* Pay-what-you-will
* Premium

This project is made possible, in part, by a Community Arts Grant through NYSCA and administered by CNY Arts.

Designed by OCC Art student Dahlia Nguyen

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The Boards of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park hope you and your family are safe and well. We will do everything we can to keep you safe here.

We have made a CNY tradition of presenting our summer shows in the beautiful Thornden Park Amphitheatre. *We were the first theatrical company to produce a live show with last August’s Much Ado About Nothing*. We are presenting this show and *The Comedy of Errors* the first two weeks of August following the current safety rules of NYS DOH.

We plan to have you and our actors safely back in the Amphitheatre in August, meeting all the guidelines set out by NYS, Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse, all of whom partner with us in the presentation of our summer shows.

Please make your plans to safely attend *The Comedy of Errors*

**Aug. 6-15, 2021,** on the big stage. Tickets will be available on TicketLeap June 15th.

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*Troilus* (Aaron Alexander) and his brother, *Hector* (Derek Powell), practice how they will battle the Greeks in the field.
Cast in alphabetical order

Troilus .................................................................................................................. Aaron Alexander
Achilles .................................................................................................................. Peter Andres
Helen ...................................................................................................................... Emily Augello
Menelaus .............................................................................................................. Chris Best
Priam ..................................................................................................................... Mark Briaman
Thersites .............................................................................................................. Jim Byrne
Paris ..................................................................................................................... Jacob Garofalo
Ulysses .................................................................................................................. Roger Lipson
Diomedes ............................................................................................................. Tone Merrick
Cassandra ............................................................................................................ Mackenzie Moran
Cressida ............................................................................................................... Alyssa Otoski-Keim
Hector .................................................................................................................. Derek Powell
Agamemnon ......................................................................................................... Bob Reid
Prologue/Chorus .................................................................................................... Haylee Salmonsen
Ajax ...................................................................................................................... Stephen Shepherd
Pandarus ............................................................................................................... Jack Sherman
Patroclus .............................................................................................................. Malichi Simmons
Nestor .................................................................................................................. John Triana

This show is dedicated to the memory of Phil Brady, an actor in our company who passed away this year. He last graced our stage in our June 2015 production of Henry V, playing the role of the Earl of Westmoreland, pictured R, 2nd row, behind King Henry V, played by Trevor Hill, and John Bates, played by Simon Moody. He portrayed many roles at CNY Playhouse over the years as well. His favorite one was Lennie in Of Mice and Men at CNYP.
Cressida, R, played by Alyssa Otoski-Keim, has her heart mended and broken by love and war, respectively.
Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park began as the Syracuse Shakespeare Festival Corp. in May 2002 when two couples hatched the idea of producing Shakespeare at Thornden Park's Amphitheatre. In August 2003, we premiered *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, seen by 2,000 people in three days.

Now, we start our 19th season with...

**Troilus and Cressida**

We live in a time of war. Currently, we are fighting Covid-19, bigotry (BLM and child detention centers) and ignorance (the appropriateness of Dr. Seuss books seems more important than bloodshed). We face injustice and we try to find ways to combat it.

*Troilus and Cressida* is set in a time of war between nations. Troy is besieged by the Greek army. It is an unjust war caused by one man's need for power. *Menelaus* has called on kinship ties to bring about the fall of Troy. Men will die. Women are enslaved. The harshness of war touches many lives that are not part of the conflict.

*Troilus and Cressida* is a love story that is set during conflict. It is a microcosm of reality. We as people aspire to love and value it beyond measure. Yet, love is put aside in pursuit of survival. People feed their basic instincts over their nobler aspirations. It is sad and tragic that love does not triumph. The play reminds us that although we cherish certain values, at times, we must put them aside in order to live.

**Special Thanks To:**
Mayor Ben Walsh, Julie LaFave, Britney Farmer, our new SSITP Marketing Team led by Aley O'Mara, Simon Moody for costume contributions, Alyssa Otoski-Keim for stepping up, Thornden Park Association, Onondaga County Public Library, Christian Zabriskie, Jyvonna Chambers & Amanda Perrine

Last year's SSITP show, August 7, 2020, of *Much Ado About Nothing* was the FIRST live theatrical show in CNY since the start of the pandemic; 1,200 people attended six shows produced by 30 actors and production people without any COVID-19 cases.

*The Producer, Director, and Boards of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park regret any errors or omissions in this program.*
CAST CREDITS in alphabetical order

Aaron Alexander (Troilus) was last seen, August 2020, in SSITP’s ground-breaking first live theatrical post-pandemic show, Much Ado About Nothing, as Balthazar. He is a seasoned SSITP actor with ten years of experience with us in featured and starring roles, despite his young age.

Peter Andres (Achilles) most recently appeared as Conrade/Friar Francis in SSITP’s Much Ado About Nothing. He played Tony Kirby in Theatre in the Mist’s production of You Can’t Take It With You in Spring 2019 and was the operatic baritone Maestro Spinellaccio and Amantio di Nicolao in the International Young Artists’ Project’s Giacomo Puccini’s opera Gianni Schicchi in Summer 2018.

Emily Augello (Helen) is a rising senior at Niagara University pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance. She has been cast in eight shows with the NU Theatre Department and most recently appeared as multiple roles in Jane Martin’s Vital Signs. She is making her debut with SSITP.

Chris Best (Menelaulas) last played Antonio in Much Ado About Nothing for SSITP in August 2020 and has played French Ambassador in Henry V and Prostitute’s Customer in Measure for Measure in two other SSITP June shows.

Mark Braiman (Priam) has appeared in numerous SSITP shows including last August’s Much Ado as Don Pedro. Other favorite SSITP roles are King Alonso in The Tempest and Menenius in Coriolanus. Mark also performs in the Syracuse Opera Chorus, most recently Candide, in February 2020.

Jim Byrne (Thersites) debuted with SSITP as Scrooge in last December 2020’s Shakespeare’s Christmas Carol. He will appear next in SSITP’s The Comedy of Errors as The Merchant this coming August.

Jacob Garofalo (Paris) most recently performed in CNS High School’s original musical This Will Be Our Year as Mr. D. This is his second show with SSITP, having debuted as The Sexton in last August’s Much Ado About Nothing.

Roger Lipson (Ulysses) played multiple roles in SSITP’s virtual Shakespeare’s Christmas Carol in December. He played Lucifer/ King Carolus in Doctor Faustus at the Secret Theatre and Gonzalo in The Tempest at Columbia Stages. As a musician, he appeared Off-Broadway in Hedwig and The Angry Inch (Lead guitar sub) and played sitar at Carnegie Hall with composer Eric Whitacre. Member: AEA; SAG AFTRA; Local 802, A.F.M.

Tone Merrick (Diomedes) has been performing with SSITP for several years including roles as Mariner/ King’s Entourage in The Tempest and Second Citizen/Soldier in Julius Caesar. He has also appeared in Romeo and Juliet and Taming of the Shrew. Tone has appeared as an actor in several local Syracuse films as well.

Mackenzie Moran ⬈ J 4224 буквъ made her debut with SSITP last August as Hero in Much Ado About Nothing. She is looking forward to many more theatrical and Shakespearean days and plays in the future.

Alyssa Otoski-Keim (Cressida) made their SSITP debut in August 2018 when they played Pistol in Merry Wives of Windsor and was Rosaline in SSITP’s Love’s Labor’s Lost—virtual last June. They were Capulet/ Balthasar/Apothecary & co-fight captain in Romeo & Juliet for Redhouse in February 2020.

Derek Powell (Hector) was last seen as Berowne in SSITP’s Love’s Labor’s Lost—virtual, June 2020. In July, you can catch him in Building Company Theater’s virtual collision piece Re:Constructing America.

Bob Reid (Agamemnon) has been acting with SSITP since 2004. Some of his favorite roles are Brutus in Julius Caesar, Quince in Midsummer and Capulet in Romeo and Juliet. Bob is an accomplished keyboardist and member of several bands including The Debbie Gilbert Trio and The Silver Beats.

MORE CAST CREDITS on p. 7
Remember to get your tickets for The Comedy of Errors as soon as possible. Last year’s Much Ado About Nothing sold out six shows over two weekends. Tickets for COE go on sale June 15th on TicketLeap.com, where you got your tickets for Troilus and Cressida.

L, Bob Reid, as Agamemnon, has been with SSITP since our second season in 2004.
CAST CREDITS in alphabetical order (continued)

Haylee Salmonsen (Messenger) has been with SSITP since her 2018 debut in Scrooge Meets Shakespeare’s Three Ghosts. In December she returned as Fan, Belle, and Merchant 2 in Shakespeare’s Christmas Carol. Also part of the Auburn Players, she was recently seen in J-E’s The Wedding Singer.

Stephen Shepherd (Ajax) last appeared in BTG’s Assassins in 2019. He has performed with SSITP as Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet & Stefano in The Tempest. Soon, he will play Andrew Rally in SSITP’s I Hate Hamlet, originally slated for April 2020 and 2021 but noe on the schedule for November 2021.

Jack Sherman (Pandarus) has appeared in numerous SSITP productions, including The Winter’s Tale (Leontes/Autolycus), The Merchant of Venice (Shylock), Measure for Measure (Duke Vincentio), Julius Caesar (Brutus) and The Tempest (Prospero).

Malichi Simmons (Patroclus) was last seen in the title role of Jasper in Deadland at Redhouse where he will be interning this summer. Malichi recently auditioned for Sister Act at Redhouse. If you want the pleasure of hearing his beautiful singing voice, too, search Instagram— @malichisimmons

John Triana (Nestor) debuted with SSITP as King Ferdinand in Love’s Labor’s Lost--Virtual last June. He is looking forward to performing in many more SSITP shows in the future.

L, Emily Augello, makes her SSITP debut in the powerful role of Helen of Troy. She will be seen as Luciana in Comedy of Errors on the big stage in August.

R, Tone Merrick, continues his vivid portrayals on the SSITP summer stage as Diomedes.

L, Malichi Simmons, makes his SSITP debut as Patroclus.

L, Jack Sherman, delights in his many pivotal roles for SSITP as Pandarus.
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Your benefits as a friend of SSITP are:

1- Invitations to special SSITP events;
2- 50 % discount on all SSITP merchandise;
3- Preferred seating for all SSITP shows;
4- Name listed in Friends of SSITP playbill/program;
5- Opinions sought for selection of future productions;
6- Receipt of semi-annual e-mail newsletter.

Your low cost per year: $10-Bard Club; $25-Angels Club; $50-Globe Club; $100-Folio Club

Would you like to volunteer?  Yes _______  No thank you _______

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517 Stinard Ave
Syracuse, NY 13207

OR email a copy of the form to ronnie@ssitp.org and donate online: https://ssitp.ticketleap.com/donations/
**Act 1:**
A messenger explains the play is “beginning in the middle” of the Trojan War. Troilus, son of Trojan King Priam, complains to Pandarus that he cannot fight because of lovesickness for Cressida, his confidante’s niece. Pandarus and Cressida discuss Hector, Troilus’ older brother. Pandarus argues that Troilus is superior to Hector in every way. Alone, Cressida admits that she is hiding her true feelings of love for Troilus. The Greek leaders gather with King Agamemnon and decide to send Ajax to answer Hector’s challenge as Achilles refuses to fight.

**Act 2:**
Ajax chastises Thersites. Later, Achilles tells Ajax about Hector’s challenge. Priam and his sons discuss whether it would be prudent to return Helen to the Greeks and end the war. The Greek commanders come to call on Achilles, but he will not stir from his tent, sending his close friend Patroclus in his place.

**Act 3:**
Pandarus tells Helen and Paris to make excuses for Troilus’ absence at dinner with the King. Paris guesses correctly he is with Cressida, but Pandarus refuses to confirm it. Troilus nervously paces in Cressida’s garden. Pandarus arrives and fetches his niece. Cressida tells Troilus that she has loved him for months but has not wanted to admit it. The pair exchange vows of eternal faithfulness and Pandarus sends them to bed to seal the “bargain.” The generals purposefully ignore Achilles, who grows angry. Ulysses advises him he is not the favored warrior anymore. Worried about his exclusion, Achilles invites Ajax and the Trojan lords to his tent after the combat.

**INTERMISSION: 15 MINUTES — Please give generously to our actors and company**

**Act 4:**
Diomedes and Paris meet on a street in Troy. Diomedes reports the planned prisoner exchange involving Cressida. In the courtyard, the lovers bid farewell after their night together. Pandarus interrupts. Suddenly, a messenger arrives and delivers the news about Cressida. Cressida, distraught, says she will refuse the swap. Outside the house, Paris instructs Troilus to fetch Cressida; he pities his brother but says there is nothing he can do to help. Troilus and Cressida exchange love tokens: a sleeve and a glove. Troilus makes Cressida promise several times to be faithful. Diomedes walks Cressida to the port. The Greek leaders — except Ulysses — welcome Cressida to their camp with kisses. After a short fight with no clear winner, Ajax and Hector stop fighting and retire to the Greek camp. Troilus confesses his love for Cressida to Ulysses. Ulysses takes him to witness Cressida’s giving Troilus’ love token to Diomedes, whom she now calls her protector.

**Act 5:**
Achilles decides that he cannot face Hector tomorrow after Thersites delivers a message from Hecuba, the Trojan Queen. Hector ends his visit with the Greeks and heads home. Hector’s sister, Cassandra, tries to persuade him against going to battle. Hector then attempts to stop Troilus from fighting — and similarly fails. Pandarus enters with a letter for Troilus from Cressida. Thersites discusses the action on the battlefield, where Diomedes wears on his helmet the sleeve Troilus had given to Cressida. Agamemnon lists the dead Greeks, including Patroclus. Ulysses warns Nestor that Hector is on a killing streak, pursued by a wrathful Achilles. Ajax and Diomedes discuss who deserves to fight Troilus, but Troilus takes both on at once. Hector is pursued by Achilles but retreats momentarily. Achilles attacks and kills Hector who is alone on the battlefield. Agamemnon is overjoyed and predicts the fall of Troy and the end of the war. The Trojans mourn the death of Hector. Pandarus arrives and Troilus curses him before leaving him alone to rue the ways of a panderer.
SSITP has lots more excitement for you in our 19th season...

COMEDY OF ERRORS by Shakespeare

Have you ever had a day that just kept getting weirder? Perhaps not one filled with mistaken identities, surprise wives, and potential demon possession! This play truly epitomizes its title: get ready for laughs, gags, and too many errors to count!

I HATE HAMLET by Paul Rudnick

John Barrymore's ghost, swordfights, and Hollywood offers: all in a day’s work for a television actor who must navigate the highs and lows of a thrilling, tragic, well-known role — which he hates.

Scrooge Meets Shakespeare’s Ghosts by Charles Dickens, adapted by Ronnie Bell

Our annual fundraiser for a new theatre home, back by popular demand. All the elements of an Xmas celebration including music, dancing, singing carols, great BBD food and an interactive environment. Don't miss this fantastic event!

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS by Robert Bolt

Ever wondered about the events behind the Henry VIII’s decision to break away from the Church of England? Bolt’s historical play centers on the principled Sir Thomas More, and the deadly results of his opposition to the Tudor King’s divorce.
We thank our **major show sponsors** for helping us to bring **Syracuse Shakspeare-In-The-Park's **
**Troilus and Cressida** to you this year.

Our twelve *dynamic* sponsors whose logos appear above appreciate the efforts of **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**
and congratulate **SSITP** on their continuing commitment to
safely bringing **FREE Shakespeare** to the **Central New York public, visitors and especially school-aged students and seniors.**
1. **Where did you hear about the show?** (circle all that apply)
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   - Facebook
   - syracuse.com
   - Internet
   - Post-Standard
   - ssitp.org
   - Email
   - Poster
   - Friend/Family
   - Cast Member
   - TV
   - Instagram
   - TicketLeap.com
   - Other (please specify): ________________________________

2. **Please rate the show components by checking a box:**

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