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Directed By: Emily Mattina

Produced By: Shakesperience Productions, Inc.

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Shakesperience Productions, Inc.

Shakesperience is a nonprofit professional theater company located in Connecticut that reaches a Northeast audience of adults and students alike with outdoor and in-studio performances, Saturday and private acting classes, school & camp tours, and residency programs. The company was founded in 1996 by Emily Mattina and Jeffrey Lapham, with a mission to educate and inspire students, families, and theater professionals through the arts.

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When the Friends of Shakesperience in the Litchfield Hills first came together in late 2017 to assess the community's interest in a summer program of Shakespeare in the Park, we had no idea there would be such resounding support for the project. Our goal was to offer the greater Litchfield Hills community an opportunity to engage with Shakesperience in the production of five free, professional quality performances of *The Comedy of Errors* in summer 2019. And the community responded with such enthusiasm and generosity!

On behalf of the Friends, I'd like to thank those of you – individuals and business owners—who had such faith in the concept and provided financial support and limitless volunteer help. Also, many thanks to those of you who provided beautiful venues for our friend raisers and to those who hosted fund-raising cocktail parties so that we could introduce the founders of Shakesperience – Emily Mattina and Jeffrey Lapham (along with their children Thomas and Viola!) – to so many in the community.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to my fellow Friends of Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills; yes, this has been an amazing journey fraught with ups and downs, but never with any doubt that we'd make it here to welcome the Bard!

~Kathryn S. Kehoe



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A Note from the Artistic Director

It seems fitting, in a community of community builders, that this summer we are experiencing an early play by William Shakespeare, who, perhaps, we can call one of the early community builders. Over a year and a half ago, a group of passionate advocates--lovers of the arts, education, and sharing of ideas in the Litchfield Hills--began a project to bring Shakespeare in the Park here. The first time Shakesperience elected to produce this play, my devotion to the flexibility and balance of the playwright and his remarkable insight into the human condition inspired and drove my directing. Then I read an article in *The New York Times*, "The Mixed up Brothers of Bogota," describing two sets of identical twins, switched at birth, and raised separately as fraternal twins. Yet they shared many of the same traits! As Shakespeare gives us a twin study in this *Comedy*, this gave me the spark to rekindle my passion for this production--the contemporary lens, the issues that we deal with today. I became even further connected to this work recently, with my viewing of *Three Identical Strangers*.

These two contemporary stories of identity hold a mirror up to the laughter, pain, and wonder which focuses *The Comedy of Errors*. Through the dark and light sides of *Comedy*, we explore the question posed in the first line of *Hamlet*: "Who's there?" --Who am I? How do I affect my community? How do my surroundings affect me? All of the Shakespearian canon continually looks to define what it is to be human, what affects the individual has on the community and vice versa. Since our identity is shaped by our genetic code and our environment, exploring this play and the characters' choices and responses allows us to perceive more than one viewpoint and thus woven right along with various comical mistakes, the painful side of mistaken identity becomes evident, too. Our perspective on the world is further shaped by how we are viewed within the world in which we live; conversely, our view on the world is shaped by who we are.

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Note from the Artistic Director (cont.)

Shakespeare splits one man into two (twice), the Antipholi and the Dromios, one from within the world and one from without, inviting the audience to view different perspectives. Changing our perspective and learning about ourselves can help us to change for the better, to communicate effectively, and to elevate our local and global communities.

While technological advances excite and stimulate and increase possibilities for our world, live theatre brings communities together, as people have been doing for thousands of years, to share a love of storytelling. With the Bard, this also means that the audience is, to quote *Hamlet* again, looking at, "a mirror up to nature." Each night creates a special, unique community; a community which comes together to share a story, to exchange thoughts, to explore the laughter, pain and wonder inherent in all of the canon. Tonight we experience the early William Shakespeare introducing the human emotion "wonder": in this case the reunion of family members thought lost. Over and over we experience this alongside his characters in the later plays; in the wonder-ful developments of *Midsummer*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Winter's Tale*.

Tonight, thanks to the passion and hard work of so many, as *The Comedy of Errors* unites audience and actors in the Litchfield Hills, we revel in the wonder-ful experience of viewing the world through another's eyes. A very special thank you to all who have made this beautiful experience possible, to the cast, production team, and staff at Shakesperience, to our board and supporters, and to the Friends of Shakesperience in the Litch-field Hills. And to Tommy and Viola, who help me with gain-ing perspective every day.

~Emily Mattina



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And Marty, thanks for being the angel on my shoulder.

The Comedy of Errors Synopsis

The Great Clock of Ephesus tolls twelve as Egeon, a merchant of Syracuse, is brought before Solinus, the Duke of Ephesus. Because of enmity between Ephesus and Syracuse, the merchant has been sentenced to death, but after listening to the aged man's sympathetic tale—shipwrecked many years ago at sea, he was separated from his wife, Emilia, one of his twin infant sons, Antipholus, and one of the twin infant servants that was bound to that son, Dromio; at eighteen, the remaining son and servant, also named Antipholus and Dromio, respectively, went in search of their missing brothers and disappeared; now, five years later, Egeon has come to Ephesus to find them—the Duke declares a stay of execution, allowing time for the merchant to raise money for a ransom on his life, but if he fails, Egeon will be put to death.

Elsewhere, Antipholus of Syracuse has just arrived in Ephesus with his servant Dromio, but within minutes, he is met by the twin Dromio of Ephesus. Confusion ensues. Not long after, Antipholus of Syracuse has been mistaken for his twin by Adriana, the local Antipholus's wife, and her sister, Luciana, with whom the visiting Antipholus falls instantly in love. Adriana's true husband arrives home but finds his own doors locked against his entry.

Soon after, Angelo, a goldsmith, gives a gold chain commissioned by Antipholus of Ephesus to Antipholus of Syracuse, promising to return for payment. When he later meets Antipholus of Ephesus, who refuses to pay him, Angelo has him arrested. Adriana and Luciana become convinced that their Antipholus and Dromio have lost their minds, so they hire Dr. Pinch, a charlatan, to cure their madness, which he does by tying them up and locking them in Antipholus's cellar.

Meeting Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse a moment later, Adriana is convinced that they've escaped. The foreign pair take sanctuary in the adjacent abbey, and Emilia, the wise abbess, prevents Adriana's entry. Then Antipholus, and Dromio, of Ephesus do escape their confinement, and he entreats the Duke, who is leading Egeon to his death, for justice. As everyone tries to make sense of their conflicting accounts of the day's proceedings, Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse appear with the abbess—who recognizes Egeon as her long-lost husband! Thus, the twins discover their doubles, the proper couples are reunited, and Egeon is pardoned by the Duke—it's time to celebrate!



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Production Team

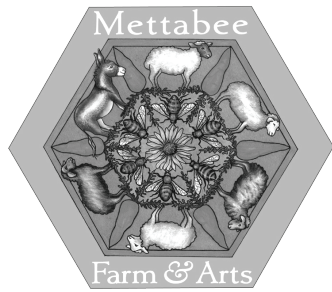
Director.....Emily Mattina
 Stage Manager.....Catherine Kolos*
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Fallon Dignan
 Music Director.....Gerald Farnham
 Technical Director.....Steve Sudell
 Additional Music Designers.....Doug Donato & Jake Green
 Costume Design (2015).....Julie Leavitt
 Costume Design (2019).....Lloyd Hall
 Flight Captain.....Michael Striano*
 Sound Designer / Board Operator.....Glen Aliczi
 Lighting Designer / Master Electrician.....Robyn Joyce
 Prop Master / Dance Captain.....Fallon Dignan
 Run Crew.....Tony Lacerenza
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 Production Assistant.....Liliana Lopez
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Cast

Duke Solinus.....Humphry Rolleston
 Egeon.....Roger Netzer
 Emilia (Abbesse).....Robbie Freedman
 Antipholus of Ephesus.....Michael Striano*
 Antipholus of Syracuse.....Ted Bushman*
 Dromio of Ephesus.....James Hansen
 Dromio of Syracuse.....James Hansen
 Dromio Double.....Céline Montaudy
 Adriana.....Abra Segerson*
 Luciana.....Kendall Segovia
 Nell.....Brian Bowyer
 Angelo (Goldsmith).....Lamar K. Cheston*
 Goldsmith's Daughter.....Clark Atkinson
 Courtesan.....Kristin Flagg Kunhardt
 Doctor Pinch.....Brian Bowyer
 Assistant to Doctor Pinch.....Bradd Cyr
 Jailer.....David Raccio
 Assistant to Jailer.....Christopher Gardner
 Busker with Lute.....Garald Farnham
 Clock Luciana Dopppeganger / Courtesette.....Kathleen Green
 Clock Dromio Dopppeganger.....Viola "Lucy" Lapham
 Clock Adriana Dopppeganger.....Yarden Barr
 Clock Antipholus Dopppeganger.....Lucy D'Avino
 Clock Chime.....Bradd Cyr

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The Company

Clark Atkinson (Goldsmith's Daughter) is a sixteen-year-old actor, model, and singer, and senior at Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Her credits include Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*, Morticia in *Addams Family*, and Grandma Josephine in *Willy Wonka*. She's ecstatic to be in the cast of *The Comedy of Errors*, and hopes you love the show!

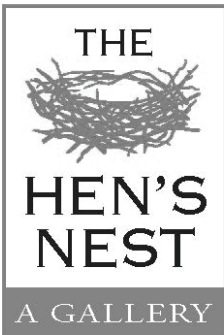
Yarden Barr (Clock Chorus Mini Adriana) is excited to be making her Shakesperience debut! Regional: *West Side Story* as follows: Maria (Seacoast Repertory Theatre), Maria u/s (Barrington Stage Company), Consuela in Concert (New Paradigm Theatre Company, Norwalk Symphony Orchestra). Educational: Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Allegro, Doll House, Brewed* (The Hartt School). Yarden is a junior Music Theatre major at the Hartt School. Much love to her friends and family!

Brian Bowyer (Doctor Pinch/Nell) holds a BA in Theatre & Performance from SUNY Purchase along with an AA from Naugatuck Valley Community College. He has been a certified Theatrical Combatant for the past 5 years through Dueling Arts International. Some of his favorite roles include: (Don Pedro) *Much Ado About Nothing*, (Truffaldino) *The Servant of Two Masters*, (Porthos) *The Three Musketeers*, & (Lenny) *Rumors*.

Ted Bushman* (Antipholus of Syracuse) hails from Pittsburgh, PA and studied at Brigham Young

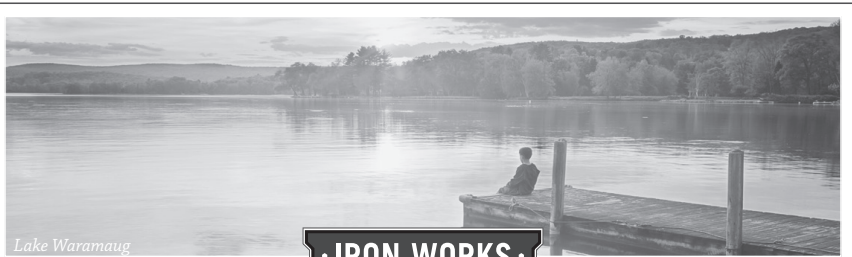
University. Some favorite roles include Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Tony in *West Side Story*, and Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. Ted writes plays, musicals, and humorous text messages. His folk musical *Theodore in the Valley*, about Teddy Roosevelt and the beginning of the National Parks, will premiere this fall in NYC. @importanceofbeingted

Lamar K. Cheston* (Angelo/Goldsmith) is excited to return to Shakesperience Productions (*Much Ado About Nothing*, 2013)!!! He is a New York City native, spiritually ground-ed at New Life Cathedral under the leadership of Archbishop Robert J. Rochford, and daily meditates on the scripture "the Lord will perfect that which concerneth me." (Psalm 138:8) Off-Broadway Credits: *Black Angels over Tuskegee* (NAACP Award), *Kings of Harlem* (Audelco Award Nominee), *This Stretch of Montpelier* (Best Actor Nominee), *Most Dangerous Man in America* (Audelco Award Nominee). Regional: *The Music Man*, ASOLO Repertory, *Byhalia*, *Mississippi* (Best Actor, Carnegie Stage), *Pipeline* (Horizon Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Oedipus* (PICT Classic Theatre). In addition, he has been in a number of commercial, television, and independent film projects. He thanks his family, mentor, and fraternity brothers for their continued support, and leaves you with the statement, "if there is no struggle there is no progress." (Frederick Douglass, 1895) www.LamarKCheston.com.



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The Company

Bradd Cyr (Clock Chorus/Asst. to Dr. Pinch) is a current student at Fairfield University and a working musician around the state of Connecticut. He is excited about the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew on *The Comedy of Errors*.

Lucy D'Avino (Clock Chorus Chime) is a 12-year-old girl who attends St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown as a 7th grader. Her interests include acting, competition dance, XC, softball, and basketball. Previous work with Shakesperience includes Young Fan in *A Christmas Carol*, Della's Mirror / Katy in *The Gift of Peace*. She resides in Waterbury with her older brother Billy, her parents, and her animals

Fallon Dignan (Assistant Stage Manager) makes her debut as an ASM, she holds an AA in Dance from Naugatuck Valley Community College. Dance: (Feat. Dancer) *A Rebours*, (Lead Choreographer) *Mr. Burns*, (Asst.Choreographer) *Little Shop of Horrors*, (Ens. Dancer) Cabaret. Acting: (Puck) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (Edna / Waitress) *Hearts like Fists*, (Destiny) *Love/Sick*. Fallon thanks Shakesperience and cast for the incredible opportunity, Catherine Kolos for her guidance and mentoring, and her family and friends for their support and encouragement.

Garald Farnham (Busker, Music Director) has entertained children and adults on five continents with his Renaissance spirit and song for over four decades. For five years,

he studied and performed with Michael Moriarty's Off-Broadway theatre company, *Potter's Field Players*, including the role of Feste in *Twelfth Night*. He has served as Musical Director / Performer for *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice* at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, *The Tempest* at North Shore Music Theatre and *The Winter's Tale* Off-Off Broadway. He has performed his solo concert, *Passing By: My Life as a Minstrel*, over a hundred times in homes throughout the USA and in Merry Olde England.

Robbie Freedman (Emilia) is thrilled to be returning to the stage for the first time after a long hiatus. She has been a Shakespeare lover since childhood but this is her first time performing in *The Comedy of Errors*. Robbie did her undergraduate degree in Performance at Northwestern University more years ago than she cares to mention. She has trained in Mask, Clown, Commedia dell'Arte and other Physical Theatre forms. Robbie is also a certified Art Therapist. It is her firm belief that the Globe Theatre never burnt down, but rather blasted off, taking young William back to his home planet. She dedicates this performance to the late Edward Henry Julius Joseph, who was lovable if not terribly likable.

Christopher W. Gardner is the Assistant GM at Shakesperience Productions. He is a graduate of UCONN with a BA in English Literature and studied abroad at



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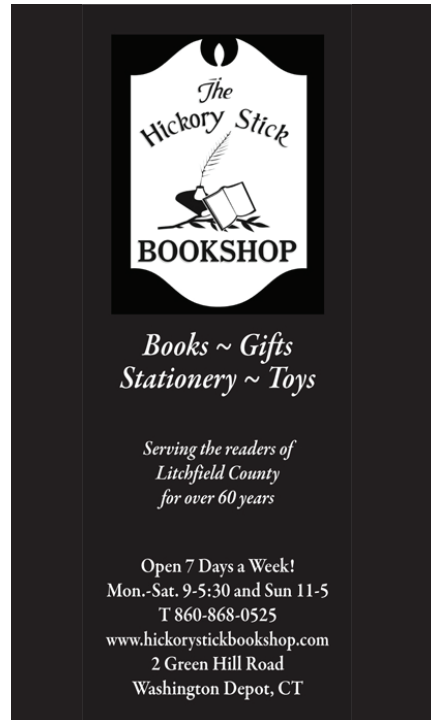
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The Company

University College Dublin. He looks forward to working on *The Comedy of Errors*. He would like to thank his parents.

Kathleen Green (Courtesette/Clock Chorus) Kathleen is thrilled to return to Shakesperience after previously appearing in *The Tempest*, *Two Gentleman of Verona*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. Favorite roles include Louise in *Gypsy* and Kathryn in *Radium Girls*. This year, she will be a freshman at Smith College, double majoring in Theater and English and heavily involved in Music and Environmental Studies. She is grateful to work with such talented and kind professionals at Shakesperience!

James Hansen (Dromio of Ephesus/Syracuse) is a Hong Kong born actor who lives in LA where he works as a voice, mocap and on-screen actor. He received a MA from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and previous credits include Polixenes in *The Winter's Tale*, Pompey in *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Duke Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Catherine Kolos* (Stage Manager) Shakesperience Debut! An actor, director, and stage manager, Regional Credits include: two seasons with PICT Classic Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, Stephen Belber's *We Are Among Us* (World Premiere) and the Momentum Festival at City Theatre, *Chatterton* (World Premiere) at Quantum Theatre *Hairspray* (Tracy) at Interlakes Summer Theater, Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Pittsburgh New Works Festival, Prime Stage and Pittsburgh Musical Theatre.

Catherine is a Point Park University Alum and proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

Kristin Flagg Kunhardt (Courtesan) met Emily and Jeff in Washington Depot two summers ago. After her first audition in over 30 years she found herself happily acting again in the company's 2017 summer production of *Radium Girls*. She has been a vital part of The Friends of Shakeperience in bringing Shakespeare in the Park to her beloved home town. Singing and acting in this year's production of *The Comedy of Errors* is a total pleasure for her, especially alongside fellow NU graduate Robbie, her college roommate of yesteryear. Kristin can be found bopping about town running her wellness center Valley Spirit which she opened in 2016 and singing up at Hunt Hill Farm's music venue.

Viola Lapham (Clock Chorus Mini Dromio) is a rising fifth grader at Rotella Arts Magnet School in Waterbury. Her favorite roles with Shakesperience have been Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*, Rosie in *The Gift of Peace*, and Fire/Water Ariel in *The Tempest*. She counts the environment, running, reading, and her loving family among her driving passions.

Emily Mattina (Artistic Director) The founder of Shakesperience, Ms. Mattina tirelessly guides the company to offering innovative touring productions, including a new program highlighting the culturally and historically rich neighborhoods of Waterbury, CT and

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The Company

starring its youngest residents. In her 15 years of directing, her productions have headlined festivals, including Shakespeare in Library Park, Shakespeare in Hollow Park, Festival! Stratford, Shakespeare on the Shoreline, and Vintage Shakesperience, a tour of Connecticut's wine trail. Emily's educational programs and public performances have received high acclaim and recognition, including enthusiastic reviews, presentations for Connecticut's HOTS Schools, speaking and interviews for UCONN Theatre classes, and guest lectures for her alma mater, the University of New Hampshire. Ms. Mattina has worked as an actor, director, teaching artist, and arts administrator for companies and regional tours based in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, and New York. She consults with other nonprofit arts groups regarding collaboration, outreach, education and positive company culture. She is proudly listed on the Connecticut Office of the Arts Directory of Teaching Artists. The *New Haven Business Times* named Ms. Mattina among the 2006 "Forty Under 40" for her professional success and community involvement in New Haven County. Ms. Mattina was also named the State of Connecticut's 2015 Elizabeth L. Mahaffey Arts Administration Fellow. Since attaining her M.A. in 17th Century English Literature with an emphasis on Shakespeare from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England, Ms.

Mattina has directed approximately half of Shakespeare's canon at least once. Her favorite ongoing creative endeavor is nurturing her two beautiful children, Thomas Charles and Viola Lucia.

Céline Montaudy (Dromio Double) is thrilled to be returning to work with Shakesperience after touring with the company as a resident artist playing Nurse/Mercutio/Lord Montague/Apothecary in *Romeo & Juliet* as well as touring with *The Jungle Book* and *Sword in the Stone*. A Summa Cum Laude graduate, University of Rhode Island, BFA in acting, Céline has studied at the British American Dramatic Academy and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, spent two summers interning at the Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, and has apprenticed at Shakespeare on the Sound. Recent credits include: Viola, *Shakespeare in Love*; Ophelia, *Hamlet*; Helena, *All's Well That Ends Well*; Demetrius, *Titus Andronicus*; Sarah Schorr, *Trying*. As always, thanks to her mother.

Roger Netzer's (Egeon) most recent local appearance was in the Goshen Players' June 2019 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, in which he played Dr. Chasuble. Last year he appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus, Oberon, Flute, Thisbe) and *Private Lives* (Elyot), both at Theatre for Good in Washington. He will make his feature film debut in *The Bohemians*, which finished shooting last month. His poems have appeared in *Chiron*, *Mas Tequila*, *The Five-Two*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*, *The Potomac* and other literary magazines.



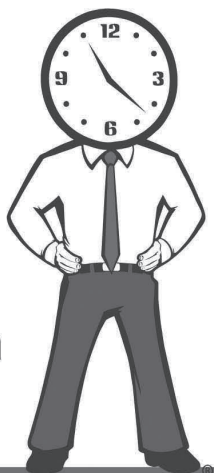
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The Company

David Raccio (Jailer) is ecstatic to be joining his first ever outdoor Shakespeare production. David has been working as a Resident Artist at Shakesperience, performing in several school tours as characters such as "Arthur" in *The Sword in The Stone*, "Bagheera" in *The Jungle Book*, and "Romeo" in *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2018, David received his BA in Acting as well as Political Science from Muhlenberg College and had the privilege of studying physical comedy at The Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy.

Humphry Rolleston (Duke Solinus) is delighted to make his debut with Shakesperience and is honored to be part of this terrific cast. Acting credits include *Spamalot* (Narrator, God), *Mamma Mia* (Father Alexandrios), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Mr Gower) at the Landmark Community Theatre in Thomaston and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lane, Merriman) with Goshen Players.

Abra Segerson* (Adriana)
Shakespeare credits include Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* and Lady M in *Macbeth* with The Oxford Shakespeare Company. Abra studied acting at The Tom Todoroff Conservatory, and holds degrees in Music and Economics from Union College. Based in New York City, film work and additional information can be found at www.abrasegerson.com.

Kendall Segovia (Luciana) is elated to make her Shakesperience debut right off the heels of playing Katherine of Aragon in Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*. Some other favorite projects include *Lettice and Lovage* (Lotte), *Into the Woods* (Stepmother), *The Merchant of Venice* (Nerissa/Solanio) and Chekhov in *Yalta* (Masha). Love to her family and husband for their unending support. www.ksegovia.com

Michael Striano* (Antipholus of Ephesus) is excited to be returning to Shakesperience Productions. Past Company Credits: *Comedy of Errors*. Other credits include: *My Big Gay Italian Midlife Crisis* (Off-Broadway), *Macbeth* (South Dakota Shakespeare Festival), *Waiting for Giovanni* (TO-SOS), *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); Film: *Wonder Wheel*; Webseries: *Dependence*. BFA, Emerson College. MichaelStriano.com. IG: @michael_striano

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

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AUTUMN CLASSES

The Gift of the Magi & Silent Night
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