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The COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

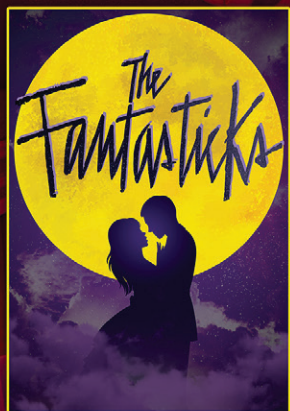
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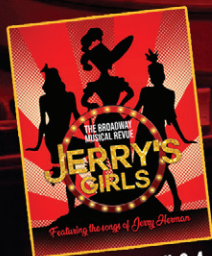
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Director's Notes...

The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged was written in 1987 by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jeff Winfield—who were also the founding members of The Reduced Shakespeare Company. The show was first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and later played at the Criterion Theatre in London, where it ran for nine years. With its universal “Shakes appeal” and improvisatory nature, it’s no surprise it has become one of the world’s most popular shows, playing frequently in a variety of languages. In the production notes, the playwrights encourage directors and actors to modify the show infusing their own unique flare and pop culture references. I feel incredibly lucky to have had an amazing cast whose wit, comedic timing, and physical antics helped to create the hilarious explosion you are about to see. I am grateful to Craig Uppercue and the entire Athens team for sharing this experience with me.

And so, for a moment, forget your troubles, sit back, and get your Bard of AV-ON. ENJOY!

Samantha Stern
Production Director



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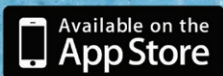
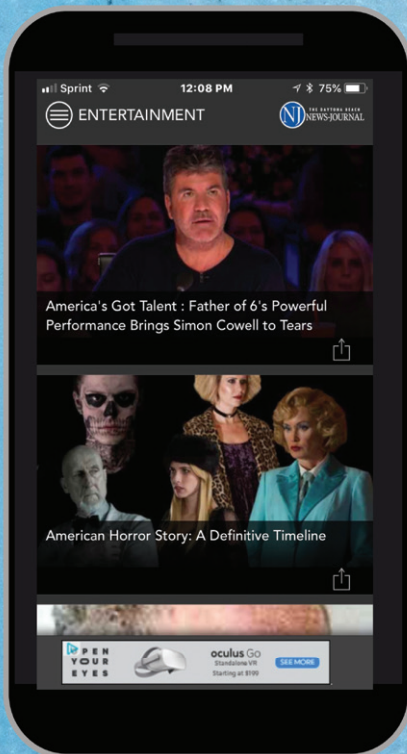
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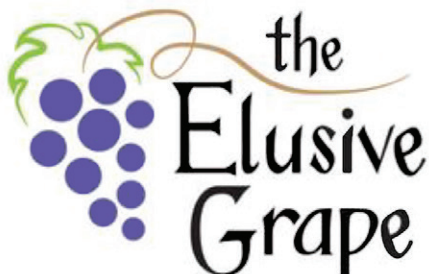
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~ MEET THE CAST ~



Alan Ware is thrilled to run amok again on the Athens stage in a show he's been dying to do for years. He first stepped in front of you in 2009 following a 12 year stint touring the country as a featured clown with the Ringling Bros, Barnum & Bailey Circus. Apart from graduating from Clown College, he trained intensively under Marcel Marceau in 1994 and 1996 and received his degree in Physical Theater Performance from the Dell Arte International School in Blue Lake, California. He has made DeLand his home since 2008 and has been serving as the Athens Theatre Facility Manager since 2011. His favorite principal roles include such shows/plays as *The Lion in Winter*, *A Christmas Story: the Musical*, *The Addams Family*, *Scrooge*, *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, *Greater Tuna*, *Les Miserables*, *Noises Off*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Cabaret*, *The Producers*, *Sweeney Todd*, *King Lear*, *Comedy of Errors* and of course his Ringling clown, Grampa in 6 separate editions of the *Greatest Show On Earth*. A shout out to his fellow fools - Nate Elliot and Forest Stringfellow for being such an incredible pair to work off of throughout rehearsals. With hugs as well to Samantha, Gabriel and Kayla for their support and vision in bringing you this delicious burlesque of the Bard. Alan dedicates his performance to his partner, Yves Antoine and to the loving memory of Mikey.

A group of about 12 young people, mostly teenagers, are posing on a stage. They are wearing dark t-shirts with a logo and light-colored jeans. Many of them have their arms raised in the air, some in a fist-pump gesture. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

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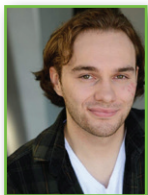
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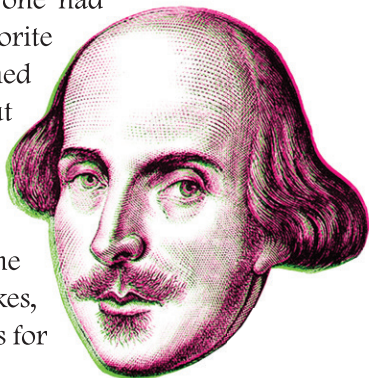
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~ MEET THE CAST ~



Forrest Stringfellow is an incoming junior in the Theatre program at UCF. Ever since his premier performance as “Cuban Man” and “Miscellaneous Gangster” in the Athen’s 2017 production of *Men and Women-But in the 1940’s* (otherwise known as *Guys N’ Dolls*), Forrest knew he would be battling against being “typecast.” Luckily, he has proved them ALL wrong

by returning to the Athen’s stage in a role no one had expected; the idiot. Take that MOM! Other favorite roles include: “Melancholy boy who is scorned by his own lust and hubris for knowledge about the female anatomy” (*Spring Awakening*) and “Smelly 1960’s man who pretends he’s an Englishman and hates his mother because it’s not ‘just a phase!’” (*Hair*). Special Thanks to the Professor of Idiotalogy and Mama Rose of Fart Jokes, Samantha Stern, for sticking this show out with us for over a year. We duh O-G! We are the originals!



A promotional poster for a VVA Tribute event. The background is a dark red with a white geometric pattern of triangles and lines. Four people are shown in the center, dressed in rockabilly style clothing. They are surrounded by thick metal chains. The text "OCTOBER 7 • 7:30PM" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below that, "COMPLETELY UNCHAINED" is written in a stylized, outlined font. In the center is a large, glowing yellow and red logo that says "VVA". Below the logo, "TRIBUTE" is written in a stylized font, and "NOTHING STAYS THE SAME" is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, "ATHENSDELAND.COM" is written in a bold, white font.

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~ MEET THE CAST ~



Nate Elliott is so excited to be back at the beautiful Athens Theatre after so long! Putting this show together has been such a different and interesting experience, due to the times we're in. But thanks to his two hilarious co-stars, it's never been anything less than an absolute blast. Some of his favorite past roles include Eugene (*Brighton Beach Memoirs*), Don Lockwood (*Singin' in the Rain*), Spider (*Jekyll and Hyde*), Gaston (*Beauty and the Beast*), and Ted Hanover (*Holiday Inn*).

While he's been furloughed from his jobs in Entertainment at Walt Disney World, and at Universal Orlando Resort, he's been sleeping, designing face masks, and enjoying food. He would like to thank his friends, his mother, his sister, the Professor and Mary Ann, and his girlfriend Julia for their continuous support and assistance with running lines. He'd also like to thank the creative and tech teams for this opportunity, and for all their hard work. A huge thank you to Alan and Forrest for being the greatest and funniest guys to work with. It is a joy to share the stage with you both. And most of all, he'd like to thank God for His continuous blessings and mercies. Finally—God bless, may the Force be with you, enjoy the show, and have a magical day! Oh, and welcome back to The Athens Theatre!

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

ROMEO & JULIET

Sampson, Romeo, The NurseNate Elliot
The Prince, Friar LaurenceAlan Ware
Renvolio, Juliet, Tybalt.....Forrest Stringfellow

TITUS ANDRONICUS

TitusAlan Ware
LaviniaForrest Stringfellow
The Rapist.....Nate Elliot

OTHELLO

Othello.....Forrest Stringfellow

THE COMEDIES

Duke, Merchant, Soldier, Shrew, BottomNate Elliot
Princess, Jew, BearForrest Stringfellow

MACBETH

Macbeth.....Alan Ware
WitchNate Elliot
Macduff.....Forrest Stringfellow

JULIUS CAESAR

CesarNate Elliot
SoothsayerForrest Stringfellow

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA

AntonyAlan Ware
Cleopatra.....Forrest Stringfellow

THE HISTORIES

Richard II, Announcer 2, Lear, Richard III.....Nate Elliot
Henry VI, Announcer 3, Henry VIIIForrest Stringfellow
Announcer 1, King JohnAlan Ware

HAMLET

HamletAlan Ware
Bernardo, Ghost, Ophelia, Claudius, GertrudeForrest Stringfellow
Horatio, Polonius, LaertesNate Elliot

ORDER OF PLAYS WITHIN THIS PLAY

Romeo and Juliet	Cymbeline	Henry IV Pt. 1
Titus Andronicus	Taming of The Shrew	Henry IV Pt. 2
Timon of Athens	Pericles	Richard II
Othello	Tempest	King John
Comedy of Errors	As You Like It	Henry VI Pt. 1
Two Gentlemen of Verona	Much Ado About Nothing	Henry VI Pt. 2
Measure for Measure	All's Well That Ends Well	Henry VI Pt. 3
Love's Labour's Lost	Macbeth	King Lear
Merry Wives of Windsor	Julius Caesar	Henry VIII
Merchant of Venice	Antony and Cleopatra	Henry V
Midsummer Night's Dream	Two Noble Kinsmen	Coriolanus
Twelfth Night	Troilus and Cressida	Hamlet
Winter's Tale	Richard III	

PRODUCTION TEAM & TECHNICAL CREW

Artistic Director.....	Craig Uppercue
Director.....	Samantha Stern
Costume Designer.....	Tamara Marke-Lares
Lighting Designer.....	Dylan Molitor
Projection & Sound Designer.....	Samuel Finken
Prop Designer/Scenic Charge Artist.....	Sarah Hargest
Production Manager.....	Frank Ramirez
Stage Manager.....	Kayla Mangold
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Gabe Barnett
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Grace Locklin
Soundboard Operator.....	Kevin Drips
Spotlight Operator.....	Emily Jarvis
Lightboard Operator.....	Grace Boynton
Costume & Prop Shop Manager.....	Amy Uppercue

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised] has become one of the most popular plays in the world, but it took years to get serious attention. In August of 1981 a few young performers set out to create a half-hour version of Hamlet for the Novato California Renaissance Pleasure Faire. In the originator Daniel Singer's own words: "the result was far more comical than I had originally planned. Our venue was hot, dusty, noisy, and full of distractions.

Holding an audience's attention was unusually challenging. Drunken hecklers, intrusive parades, and backstage confusion forced us to improvise bits... which constantly improved as our schtick evolved."

These conditions are reminiscent of what many scholars imagine the young William Shakespeare himself would have faced traveling through Renaissance England and later in his own Globe Theatre on the South Bank of London.

From these challenging circumstances came two performances, 400 years and an ocean apart, that share timeless comedic elements: actor to audience interaction, limited use of scenery, contemporary allusions and, of course cross-dressing.

Since its inception during the 1980s (in thanks to the hard work of The Reduced Shakespeare Company) this show has now been seen on stages across the world, has performed to sold out houses at the Kennedy Center, and seventeen years after its inception was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy.





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~ MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM ~



Craig Uppercue (Artistic Director) A Stetson University alumni, Mr. Uppercue has been teaching for 16 years in the public school systems of Florida from the Elementary to Collegiate levels. Craig is the Music Director of the Off-Broadway National Tour - *The Rock & The Rabbi* and performs with the show when available. Other performing opportunities include Broadway and Off~ Broadway credits such as *The Witnesses Musical* (Original Cast member), *The Lion King*, *Songs for a New World*, and numerous national tours throughout the U.S. He is actively involved with many professional symphonies and maintains an active performing schedule with professional artists throughout the nation. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011, and he has directed many musicals and plays at the Athens as well, most recently *Seussical, Jr.* Craig and his wonderful wife Amy live locally, enjoying every moment watching their three daughters grow up!



Samantha Stern (Director) is the Director of Theatre at Daytona State College. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from The UCF Conservatory Theatre. A member of Actor's Equity Association, she has performed professionally with such companies as *Walt Disney Entertainment*, *Orlando Shakespeare Theater*, *Florida Studio Theatre*, *Chicago City Limits*, *SAK comedy Lab*, *NYC Comedy Sportz*, *Just the Funny*, and *Costa Cruise lines*. She has worked as an educator and performer in Mexico, Italy and Japan and as a Professor of theatre and speech at DSC, UCF, FSU, and Le Cordon Bleu Orlando. She has directed over 15 productions at DSC and has also directed at *The Athens Theatre*, and assistant directed at *Orlando Shakespeare Theatre*. Samantha serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Florida Theatre Conference and frequently presents educational and corporate workshops on theatre improvisation.



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MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Frank Ramirez (Resident Production Stage Manager) Frank is excited to be celebrating his third season with the Athens Theatre. Frank has served as Company Manager for Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, Assistant Company Manager/Resident Stage Manager for the Tony Award-Winning Broadway Producing/General Management company Martian Entertainment as well as Resident Production Stage Manager for Seaside Music Theatre, Community Performance Series, Crane Opera Ensemble and Potsdam Music Theatre. Broadway and Off-Broadway credits include *Puppet Palooza* (The New Victory Theatre), *Flight: on Earth, in Sky* (La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club), *Altar Boyz*, *The Musical of Musicals*, *Naked Boys Singing!* *Reveals Christine Jorgensen* (New World Stages). Some of his favorite regional and touring credits include Jim Henson's *Singalong with The Muppet Movie*, *Labyrinth Singalong*, *Les Miserable* (National Tour), *Shades of Rhythm* (Vern Riffe Center), *Les Miscellaneous* (Ahmanson Theatre) and the world premiere of *Million Dollar Quartet*.



Kayla Mangold (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her first show at the Athens Theatre. She is currently a Junior at the University of West Florida where she is double majoring in Arts Administration and Stage Management. She would like to thank Samantha for always trusting her and giving her ample opportunities to do what she loves, as well as her family for their never ending support. She would also like to thank her girlfriend for not only keeping her sane throughout this process, but also for taking care of their cats while she is in rehearsals and shows. She hopes you remember to always spread love, not germs - wear your masks!



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MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Gabriel Neil Barner (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of his first show at the Athens Theater! He recently graduated with honors from Daytona State College and is continuing towards his Bachelors in Theatre Arts at Flagler College. He works closely with the Florida chapter of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and hopes you will take the time to check out the amazing work they do.

He urges you to be kind to one another, wear a mask, wash your hands, and spread love.



Tamara Marke-Lares (Costume Designer) is a Sculptor, Painter, Printmaker, and Creature Marionette maker. She has been designing costumes freelance for 19 years. She has designed for Dance, Ballet, Opera and Cirque productions, as well as numerous

collaborative and solo productions. Some costume credits include: *The Jungle Book*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *Once on This Island*, *12th Night*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Gypsy*, *Spamalot*, *The Addams Family*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Eurydice*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn*, *The Lion King, Jr.*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Singin' In the Rain*, *The Producers*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, *Seussical, Jr.* and *9 to 5*.

This is her fourth season with the Athens Theatre. She lives with her dreamy, musician husband and their two crazy talented children.



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MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Amy Uppercue (Costume and Prop Shop Manager) has been working behind the scenes at the Athens Theatre since 2011, and has loved being a part of all the magic that has been created on our stage. Favorite costume design credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and *Footloose*. In addition to running the Athens Costume Shop, Amy is also a teaching artist for the Athens Theatre Youth Academy and a Marketing Assistant for the Athens. Amy and her husband have three little girls and one little pup that continue to be their greatest joy. Enjoy the show, we hope to see ya'll back here again soon!

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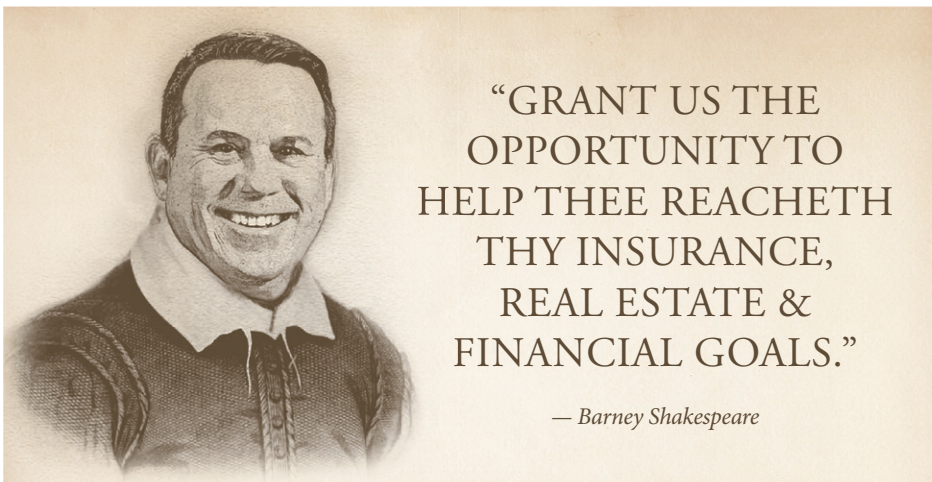
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Sarah Hargest (Properties Designer) is a recent graduate of Stetson University's Theatre Arts and Studio Arts programs. She held a variety of positions in Stetson's theatrical productions. Sarah has also worked as a Scenic Artist at Jean's Playhouse and as a Prop Artisan/Prop Master at McLeod Summer Playhouse. Currently, Sarah is also the Props Intern at Orlando Repertory Theatre.

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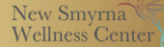
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