Julius Caesar

Department of Theatre, Florida International University
FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

JULIUS CAESAR
By William Shakespeare

February 28 Through March 9, 2014

Directed by Phillip M. Church
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Mainstage Theatre
10910 SW 17th Street,
Miami, FL 33199

FIU Theatre
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + THE ARTS
theatre.fiu.edu
A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff here at FIU Theatre I want to welcome you to the last show of our 2013-2014 season, William Shakespeare’s great tragedy of power, lust and betrayal, Julius Caesar. I encourage you to read the Director’s Notes later on in the playbill for some insight into why we chose this play to end the season and what our approach to producing it has been.

As I mentioned in the last playbill a large contingent of our students made the trip to Roanoke, Virginia to participate in this year’s Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region IV. Thanks to the generosity of the CARTA Dean, Brian Schriner, our students were able to fly up to the festival instead of having to drive, which I know relieved the anxiety of a lot of parents who were worried about their sons and daughters driving on slippery, snowy roads. They attended workshops, competed in the Irene Ryan acting auditions, got their work critiqued, interacted with their peers from all over the southeastern United States, met renowned professionals in the entertainment field, went to shows presented by various colleges and universities in the region and generally got re-inspired by all they saw and heard and did. They came home with awards, scholarships, cash prizes and represented FIU Theatre very well indeed. To get the particulars on the awards, etc., just go to our FIU Theatre News page.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we will be offering the Summer Abroad Stratford program again this year. It promises to be another great season of plays for the participants to enjoy. For more information about how to sign up, cost, etc. check out our Facebook page and the FIU Theatre News page. There is information out in the theatre lobby as well.

I would also like to remind you about our new plays festival in March and all of the Senior Projects coming up at the end of the Spring Term. The Senior Projects are the final, individual creative works of the BFA seniors in both the performance and design areas. You will be amazed at the accomplishments of our seniors, and all performances are free of charge.

As always, I would like to remind you that our productions serve as our laboratory in which students put into practice what they are learning in the classroom. Their talent, hard work, professionalism and dedication are inspiring. We want to thank you again for your support of FIU Theatre and hope you will enjoy seeing our productions as much as we enjoy creating them.

NOTE: We are including in this playbill a very short survey to help us make decisions about how we market our shows. We ask you to please fill it out (there are pencils available in the lobby) and drop it in the box in the lobby before you leave the theatre. Thank you so much for your participation in helping us get the word out to you and the rest of the community about all the great things we’re doing here at FIU Theatre.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Please note that flash photography, video recording, or other audio or visual recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ADMINISTRATION

CHAIR/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  Marilyn R. Skow
ASSOCIATE CHAIR  Phillip M. Church
ADMINISTRATION  Marianna Murray, Paulette Rivera
HEAD OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  Jesse Dreikosen
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE  Lesley-Ann Timlick
DEPARTMENT DRAMATURG  Michael Yawney
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  Christopher Goslin
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  Geordan Gottlieb
TECHNICAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  Robert Duncan
MARKETING ASSISTANT  Natasha Neckles
COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANT  Sophie Hammad

EVENTS & OPERATIONS STAFF
EVENTS & OPERATIONS COORDINATOR  Kirstie Gothard
ASSISTANT EVENTS MANAGER  Gaby Lopez (BA)

PRODUCTION STAFF
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  • Pia Isabell Vicioso-Vila (BA)
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS  • Anderson Freitas (BFA Performance), Liana Sierra (BA)
VIDEO PRODUCTION  • Steven Lopez (BFA Scenic), Anton Church
PROPS MASTER  • Florencia Ancewicz (BFA Scenic)
SCENIC CREW  • Anderson Freitas (BFA Performance), Nanushka Rivera-Torres (BA), Sarah Nouri (BA), Krystal Aleman (BFA Performance), David Neale (BA), Rafael Martinez (BFA Performance), Kayla Martinez (BFA Performance), Miguel Bonilla (BA), Samuel Iglesias (BA), Adele Robinson (BA), Daniel Medina (BFA Performance), Brandon Hoffman (BFA Performance), Amber Benson (BFA Performance), Juanita Olivo (BA), Allyn Anthony (BFA Performance), Lucas Hodd (BFA Performance)
COSTUME CREW HEAD  • Paula Wilhelm (BA)
COSTUME CLEANING CREW HEAD  • Nakeyta Moore (BA)
COSTUME CREW  • Erika Aragon (BA), Juan Alfonso (BA), Gabriel Gonzalez (BFA Light), Edita Luperon (BA), Dante Di giacomo (BA), Alfonso Veites (BA), Amy Fedorko (BA)
COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW  • Lena Rodriguez (BFA Costume), Alex Garcia (BFA Performance), Luis O’Hallorans (BFA Costume)
ELECTRICS CREW  • Nicholas Alexander (BA), Melanie Knowles (BA), Jennifer Gonzalez (BA), Natalie Brenes (BFA Performance), Lisset Riera (BA), Reginald Baril (BFA Performance), Manuel Bonilla (BA), Mario Alonso (BFA Light), Karen Figueredo (BA), Jordan Vera (BFA Light)
PAINT CREW  • Madeleine Escarne (BFA Performance), Lucia Sassone (BA), Diana Hernandez (Theatre Minor), Chaille Stovall (BA)
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR  • Diego Perez (BA)
SOUND CREW  • Paul Steinsland (BA), Paula Wilhelm (BA), Alexander Machado (BFA Performance)
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR  • Carry Antenor (BA)

SET RUN CREW  • Victoria DeBlasio (BFA Performance), Maria Manino (BFA Performance), Sarah Perez (BA)
PROPS CREW  • Ashley Joseph (BA), Aine Carmona (BFA Scenic)
PROP RUN CREW  • Sarah Nouri (BA), Ryan Smith (Theatre Minor)
MILITARY COORDINATOR  • Anderson Freitas (BFA Performance)
HOUSE MANAGER  • Caitlin Wiggins (BFA Performance)
MERCHANDISE AND CONCESSIONS  • Katiana Davila (BA),
BOX OFFICE MANAGER  • Yonettsy Saritos (BA)
BOX OFFICE ASSISTANT  • Anthony Mediavilla (BA)
FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF  • Rachel Capote (BA), Katiana Davila (BA), Caitlin Wiggins (BFA Performance), Wayne Wilde (BA), Mayle Rodriguez (BA), Jillian De La Torre (BFA Performance), Anthony Mediavilla (BA), Maria Manino (BFA Performance)
MARKETING/PUBLICITY ASSISTANTS  • Albert Campillo (BFA Performance), Savannah Pritchard-Torres (BA), Sofi Sassone (BFA Performance), Patrick Rodriguez (BFA Performance)
SPECIAL THANKS  • Splat Attack Paint Ball Company, William Schwartz & Rick Walton

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ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES IN STAGING JULIUS CAESAR IS THE NEED TO DRAW EMOTIONAL INTERACTION FROM THE TEXT. MANY OF THE PLAY'S CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN PERCEIVED AS MERELY BEING THE FUNCTIONARIES OF A HEROIC SUSPENSE THRILLER. IN THE CASE OF JULIUS CAESAR, THIS FUNCTIONAL TRAP IS ENCOURAGED BY THE NOTION OF "ROMAN STOICISM" THAT ABOUNDED IN 43BC AND THAT SHAKESPEARE ATTEMPTED TO INJECT INTO HIS SPEECHES. AND THAT IS THE ISSUE – HIS SPEECHES. THE CHARACTERS NOT SO MUCH MAKE CONVERSATION AS THEY MAKE SPEECHES. YET ULTIMATELY THEY, LIKE ALL DRAMATIC CHARACTERS, MUST REPRESENT LIVING, BREATHING HUMAN BEINGS WITH HEARTS AND SOULS. THE CONSPIRATORS BECOME ASSASINS BY DEFAULT, IGNITING A COUP BY SETTING OUT, FIRST OF ALL, AS WELL-INTENTIONED LIBERATORS. WHILE THEY ARE PORTRAYED AS PROFESSIONAL CAREER POLITICIANS WITH PERSONAL AGENDAS, THEY ARE ALSO MEN (AND, IN THE CASE OF THIS PARTICULAR PRODUCTION, WOMEN AS WELL), WHO RETURN HOME AT THE END OF THE DAY TO HELP ORGANIZE THE WEEKEND COOKOUTS. BRUTUS EXHORTS THEM TO BE "PERJURERS, NOT MURDERERS". THESE CONSPIRATORS ARE NOT SIMPLY VIGILANTS BUT ARE VULNERABLE. IN THIS RESPECT THERE IS ENORMOUS VALUE IN BRINGING THE PRODUCTION UP-CLOSE-AND-PERSONAL BEFORE CONTEMPORARY AUDIENCES. TOGAS AND LAUREL LEAVES HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY A WARDROBE NOT DISSIMILAR TO ONE'S OWN. LIKewise, THE DECISION TO SWITCH GENDERS FOR SELECTED CHARACTERS HAS UNEARTHED A WEALTH OF NEW THINKING ABOUT THE PLAY'S CHARACTERS. TRADITIONALLY, CASSIUS IS REPRESENTED AS A SCHEMING, HEADSTRONG MANIPULATION. THROUGH THE EYES OF A FEMALE CASSIA, THE LINES BEGIN TO REVEAL A FAR GREATER COMPASSION. CASSIUS IN LIFE WAS MARRIED TO BRUTUS'S SISTER, THEREBY MAKING HIM BRUTUS' BROTHER-IN-LAW. THIS IS A FACT OFTEN OVERLOOKED IN THE POWER-HUNGRY STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. IN THIS PRODUCTION CASSIA NOW BECOMES BRUTUS' SISTER-IN-LAW MAKING THE "LOVE" THEY BEAR EACH OTHER FAR MORE FAMILIAL THAN IS APPARENT BETWEEN TWO MEN IN CONFLICT. AND, WITH TODAY'S INCREASED ATTENTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES, THE ISSUE OF GENDER RELATIONS IN THE MILITARY IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PLAY'S ACTION. WOMEN TRAIN FOR BATTLE-READINESS SIDE BY SIDE WITH MEN. THIS DYNAMIC BRINGS TO THE PLAY A MULTITUDE OF NEW PERSPECTIVES. SHAKESPEARE'S WORDS REMAIN UNALTERED YET BY HEARING THEM THROUGH THE MINDS AND MOUTHS OF DIFFERENT GENDERS THEY ONCE AGAIN GIVE FRESH MEANING TO BEN JONSON'S FAMOUS EPIGRAPH IN WHICH HE PROCLAIMED THAT SHAKESPEARE WAS THE "... MAN FOR ALL AGES."

PHILLIP M. CHURCH

SUMMER 2014!
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACFT). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACFT representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACFT programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACFT regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACFT involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACFT goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
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