

Program design by Frankie Marsh.

YOUR GUIDE TO

King Henry VIII

OR

All is True



"Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues we write in water."

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The World of the Play

Tudor England (1485-1603)



HAMPTON COURT
(A.K.A. HENRY'S PLAYPEN)

TIME & PACE (YES, PACE)

If it feels like things are moving fast, it's because they are: the events of this play take place between 1520 and 1533—which is kind of a lot to cram into 2-and-a-half hours (or so).

FIELD OF CLOTH & GOLD

Basically an annual d*ick measuring contest between France & England. As expected, it got awkward, and now they can't be friends.

CATHOLICISM VS. PROTESTANTISM

Catholicism was a booming business, but encouraged a culture of materialism that ultimately led to political failure following the events of this play. So, what do we do when we fail? Destroy all the evidence and overcompensate! Thus, Protestantism.

The People of the Play

THE MONARCHS

Henry - Plays hard, cries harder.

Katherine - One tough chick. Loves him still.

Anne - Homewrecker.

Elizabeth - A baby.

THE CHURCHMEN

Wolsey - Greedy bastard. Antagonist.

Cromwell - His servant.

Cranmer - Wolsey's replacement and foil.

Campius - Liason to the Pope.

Gardiner - Bishop of Winchester, bully to Cranmer.

THE KING'S GENTLEMEN

Buckingham - The fallen golden boy. Duke.

Norfolk & Suffolk - Want Wolsey out. Dukes.

Surrey - Rookie, REALLY wants Wolsey out. Earl.

Chamberlain - Chaotic neutral. Earl.

Sands - Horny old man. Baron.

THE HENCHMEN

Lovell - A lovable guard. Pun intended.

Griffith - Katherine's right-hand.

Capucius - Spanish ambassador and friend of Katherine.

Butts - The King's physician.

THE CITIZENS

Gentlewomen - Your new favorite gossip girls.

Old Lady - Anne's friend.

Porter - Lazy knave.



The Purpose of The Play

The pen is mightier than the sword...

...and this proves particularly true in Shakespeare's Henry VIII. In a play with no sword fights, no wars, and no bloodshed, the most powerful men and women in the world rise and fall through pen-strokes and word-of-mouth. As the alternate title (All is True) implies, the notion of what is fact and what is fiction pervades this play, and rumor runs rampant as political factions vie for power. The subjects of gossip range from high treason to marital infidelity, and the tellers of these stories run from the lowest members of court to the King of England himself. In our modern world where social media creates a melting pot of the opinions of users regardless of social standing, the impact of truth versus fabrication appears as relevant as ever.

I was inspired by the hit TV and book series Bridgerton to blend design elements of past and present to ease some of the anxiety of the audience around seeing a "king number play" and highlight the timelessness of the lessons that history teaches us.

- Jeff Miller, Director



Who's Who?

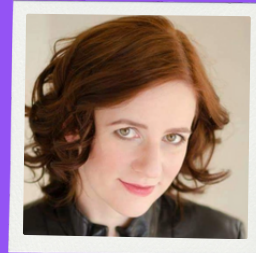
Main Cast



Sean Eustis
King Henry



Steven Hoochuk
Wolsey/Dr. Butts



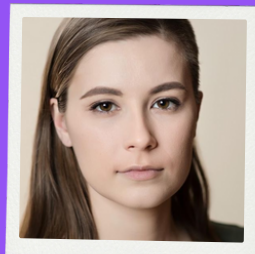
Katharine Vary
Queen Katherine/Surrey



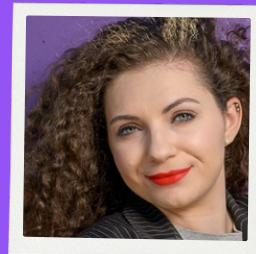
Peri Walker
Buckingham/Cromwell/
Campeius



Oz Heiligman
Norfolk



Lauren Romagnano
Suffolk/Gentlewoman 3



Allie Press
Gardiner/Griffith



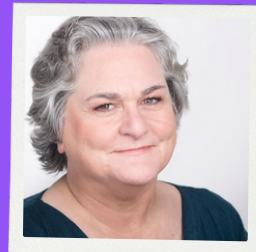
Allison Jones
Lovell/Capucius/
Brandon



Frankie Marsh
Chamberlain/
Gentlewoman 2



Nancy Linden
Sands/Old Lady/Porter

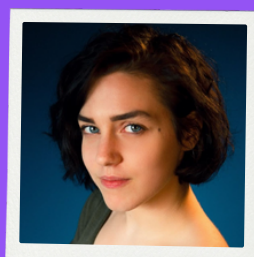


Greta Boeringer
Cranmer/Gentlewoman I



Emily Hoefstedder
Anne/Chancellor/
Surveyor

Understudy



Autumn Koehnlein



Who's Who?

Biographies

Sean Eustis as King

Henry VIII

Sean Eustis (he/him/hon) is full of wonder at the journey he has taken with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory over the last 4 years. Recent notable appearances have been in Scharf's Shorts (Spotlighters Theatre), Rozencrantz/Gravedigger in Hamlet (Original Pronunciation with BSF), Holofernes in Love's Labour's Lost and as Fluellen in Henry V (Rude Mechanicals). Sean also serves as the current Artistic Director for BSF.

Steven J Hoochuck as

Wolsey/Dr. Butts

Henry VIII marks Steven's debut with BSF. Past roles include Westmorland in Henry IV, Parts I & 2 as well as Antonio (The Tempest), Mortimer (The Fantasticks), Baptista (Taming of the Shrew) and Marcus Andronicus (Titus Andronicus) with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. Steven has also appeared with Maryland Shakespeare Festival, (where he also served as Director of Education), as Malvolio in Twelfth Night, Richard in Richard III, Macbeth (Macbeth), Falstaff (The Merry Wives of Windsor), Dogberry (Much Ado About Nothing) and Claudius (Hamlet). He will be appearing this season as Thomas Cromwell at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. He is also an accomplished close-up magician and board game enthusiast.

Who's Who?

Katharine Vary as
Katherine/Surrey

Katharine Vary is a Baltimore-based classical and contemporary actor. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University, completed an acting apprenticeship with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and studied classical performance in London through Fordham University. This is Katharine's tenth show with BSF! Favorite prior roles here include Portia in Julius Caesar, Launcelet in The Merchant of Venice, Borachio in Much Ado About Nothing, and all the witches and apparitions - at once - in Mini-Macbeth. Other credits include Blood Countess at The Strand, Sally McCoy and Hamlet at Cohesion, and The Tempest at Annex. Katharine is a member of the Submersive Collective. For a full résumé and production photos, please go to katharinevary.com.

Peri Walker as

Buckingham/Cromwell/Campeius

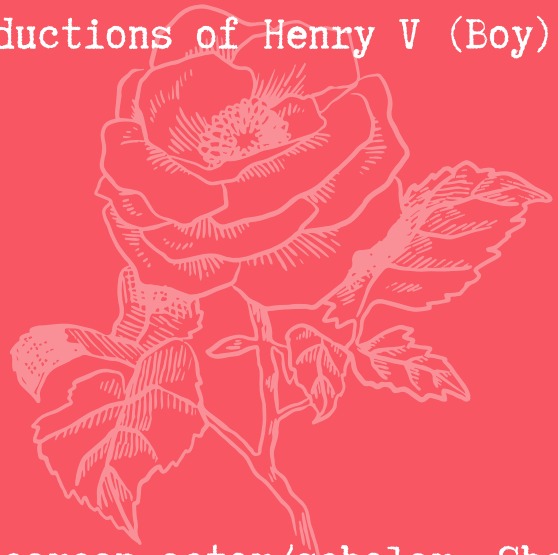
After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019, Peri thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail, then moved to Baltimore in 2020. She has most recently appeared as Persephone in the world premiere production of Her, Across the River (Rapid Lemon Productions) and Boy Hamlet/Marcus in The Book of Will (The Colonial Players of Annapolis). Previous favorite roles have included Agnes in She Kills Monsters (UP Stages) and Romeo in Romeo and Juliet (Fluidity Theatre). Peri is delighted to return to BSF after stage managing King Lear in 2021.

Who's Who?

Oz Heiligman as Norfolk

Oz Heiligman is a classically trained actor based in the DMV area. This will be their second show with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, having performed in BSF's Mini Twelfth Night as Maria/Orsino this past summer. They also recently appeared in Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's productions of Henry V (Boy) and Twelfth Night (Antonio.)

Lauren Romagnano as
Suffolk/Gentlewoman 3



Lauren Romagnano is a trained Shakespearean actor/scholar. She graduated from Mary Baldwin University in May 2020 with her MFA in Acting and joined BSF in October as the Managing Director. This will be her first performance in the post-Covid theatre climate. Her prior credits include (in rep) Cressida in Troilus and Cressida, Dapper and Dame Pliant in Ben Jonson's The Alchemist, First Witch, Banquo, and Macduff in Macbeth, and Marcellus and the Players in QI Hamlet (at Mary Baldwin University), Anne and William Page in The Merry Wives of Windsor (BSF), and Third Witch and Third Murderer in Macbeth (BSF).

Who's Who?

Allie Press as
Gardiner/Griffith

Allie Press is so pleased to be in one more BSF show before she moves to Atlanta to pursue film. Working with Shakespeare Factory has been the highlight of Allie's time acting in Baltimore. From her first role as Rose (The Shoemaker's Holiday) to her time in Henry VIII's court, it's been an absolute pleasure. She experienced true magic as Puck in Midsummer mid-summer out under the stars among the fireflies. For that, she'll always be grateful. She thanks Jeff and Katie; you've been lovely as ever. She sends great thanks to her fiancée, mom, and siblings for their endless support. This one's for you, Brucie Bear.

Allison Jones as Lovell/

Capucius/Brandon

Allison is thrilled to join BSF for her first theatrical role since college! A Maryland native, she performed in school productions such as The Diary of Anne Frank (Mrs. Frank) and Incorruptible (Jack). After more than a decade as just a theater-goer, Allison decided to reconnect with acting thanks to some nudging from a friend. She is currently working on the short student film Last Act and is delighted to be Sir Thomas Lovell in Henry VIII's court.

Who's Who?

Frankie Marsh as

Chamberlain/Gentlewoman 2

Frankie Marsh is thrilled to be performing in her first production since graduating from Towson University with her BFA in Acting. She appeared in several mainstage shows throughout her academic career including Merrily We Roll Along, Ways of Dying, and Paradise Lost. In 2018, she composed and performed an original underscore for Hamlet, for which she earned a Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Musical Composition from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Most recently, Frankie led as Taylor in the faculty-produced Towson University short film, It Takes Courage. She is proud to be a lifelong member of the vibrant Baltimore arts community, and has aspirations to explore those in cities all over the world!

Nancy Linden as Sands/Old Lady/Porter

Nancy's recent work includes Our Town at Baltimore Center Stage, The Tempest at Grassroots Shakespeare DC, Pride and Prejudice at Annapolis Shakespeare Company, The Rocky Horror Show at Iron Crow, and The Trojan Women Project at Brave Spirits Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination 2019 for Outstanding Ensemble in a Play). She also makes art and writes (see <https://bakerartist.org/portfolios/nancy-linden>), sails schooners and square-rigged ships (aka tall ships) with a Coast Guard license as Mate, and tends a very sweet but very needy cat.

Who's Who?

Greta Boeringer as
Thomas Cramner/
Gentlewoman I

Henry V, King Lear (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory) Macbeth, Richard III, Winter's Tale, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, A Christmas Carol (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); High School Coven (Strand Theater); A Doll's House Part 2 (Silver Spring Stage); Romeo and Juliet (Endangered Species Theater Project); Timon 2016 (Off the Quill); Taming of the Shrew (Walking the Dog Theater, Hudson, NY); Cemetery Club (Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop South Fallsburg, NY); The Three Sisters (Cressid Theater Company, NYC)

As You Like It (Aaron Posner dir), Macbeth (Craig Baldwin, dir) Two Gentlemen of Verona (Dan Crane, dir.), Henry60 (Paul Reisman and Dodi Disanto, dir.) Academy for Classical Acting. George Washington University, MFA.

Film: Macbeth (Baroness Films); Bird's Eye (Nextnik Films)



Who's Who?

Emily Hofstaedter as
Anne/Chancellor/Surveyor

Emily Hofstaedter (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Baltimore and BSF debut! She comes to the city via Alaska and Pennsylvania where she has done a variety of theatre projects-- like directing the most northwestern production of the Vagina Monologues in the US. Most recently she directed a production of Heroes of the Fourth Turning with Disrupt Theatre in Lancaster. Other favorite roles include Phyllida in Gallathea (Gamut Theatre) and Crissy in Hair (Barebones Theatre).

Autumn Koehnlein as Understudy

Autumn Koehnlein (she/her) is happy to be back for another show with BSF! Her previous credits include Mini- Midsummer (Oberon/Bottom/Helena/Demetrius), Romeo and Juliet (Paris), A Chaste Maid in Cheapside (Davy), and Macbeth (Ist Witch). When not on stage she currently works as a standardized patient at both John's Hopkins and Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Who's Who?

Katie Rey Bogdan:
Assistant Director/
Music Director

Katie Rey Bogdan (she/her) is full of joy and mirth to be returning to BSF on the other side of the table after performing in Mini-Midsummer (Hermia/Titania/Quince), As You Like It: The Radio Play (Orlando), and The Knight of the Burning Pestle. Recent performance credits include Richard III (Earl of Derby) at the Maryland Renaissance Festival and The Strand Theatre, Macbeth (First Witch/Musician) and Much Ado About Nothing (Verges/Musician) at Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks, and Spring Awakening (Anna, u/s Adult Woman) at Round House Theatre. Directing/dramaturgy credits include Urinetown (Associate Director) at Catholic University, Hamlet (Dramaturg) at Catholic University, and Seasons of Light (Director) at Silver Spring Stage. She loves nothing in the world so much as the theatre and is so thankful to Jeff, Lauren, Sean, and the entire BSF team for letting her be a part of this production!



Who's Who?

Jeff Miller: Director

Jeff Miller (They/He): Jeff is a big fan of Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. With BSF, they have played such roles as Edgar, Frank Ford, Stephano, Francis Flute, Peaseblossom, and Malvolio. Jeff holds an MFA and a Master of Letters in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University, and a BFA in Acting from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Directing credits include King Lear (Assistant Director under Kate Eastwood Norris) and Timon of Athens at Mary Baldwin University, and countless children's productions at Children's Theater of Annapolis and Drama Learning Center, where they currently work as the Staffing Manager. Jeff is also an adjunct professor in UMBC's Theatre Department. When they are not making theater, you may find Jeff inside of a professional wrestling ring.

