

COMING SOON
OUR 10TH SEASON

JANUARY 2009
THE SPANISH TRAGEDY BY THOMAS KYD
DIRECTED BY CHARLENE V. SMITH

SPRING 2009
MEASURE FOR MEASURE
DIRECTED BY AMY RAUCH

FALL 2009
TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA
DIRECTED BY JOSH ENGEL

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THE RUDE MECHANICALS
PRESENT



JULIUS CAESAR
A TRAGEDY OF ROME

AT ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

SEPT. 12TH AND 13TH AT 8:00PM
SEPT. 19TH AND 20TH AT 8:00PM

AT THE DC ARTS CENTER
SEPT. 26TH AND 27TH AT 7:30PM

WWW.RUDEMCHANICALS.COM

CAST AND CREW

FRIENDS

Antony - Caesar's greatest ally and bodyguard.

Brutus - Once Caesar's enemy, now his peer.

Caesar - Emperor, conqueror, soldier, husband.

Cassius - Leader of the Senate Conspiracy and Brutus' oldest friend.

Calpurnia - Caesar's wife, and Empress of Rome.

Portia - Brutus' wife and confidant.

Lucius - Loyal servant to Brutus and his wife Portia.

ROMANS

Casca - A coward, but honest to a fault.

Cinna - The Senator with the least power, and the biggest grudge.

Decius Brutus - A flatterer and master of lies.

Metellus Cimber - A bribesman and master of disguise.

Trebonius - Head security guard of the Senate.

Cicero - Caesar's most vocal opponent, but the only Senator not involved in the conspiracy.

Octavius - Adopted son of Caesar.

COUNTRYMEN

Artemidorus - The "soothsayer", a historian.

Flavius - Camera operator, seeks to show the truth.

Marullus - A journalist, seeks to speak the truth.

Fadia - Antony's first wife and citizen of Rome.

Marcella - Antony's eldest daughter.

Antonia - Antony's youngest daughter.

Pompey - One of the first Triumvirate, now a stony reminder of the past.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Assistant Directors

Producer

Stage Manager

Costumes

Music Director/Composer

Musician

Set and Lighting Design

Technical Assistant

Michael J. Dombroski

B. Harrington Moors

Alan Duda

Amy Rauch

(Lauren Julien 13th/26th)

Lauren Julien

(Amy Rauch 13th/26th)

Charlene V. Smith

J. Calvin Smith

Stephen Cox

Mikki Barry

Richard Atha-Nicholls

Patrick Mullen

Tom McGrath

Kareem el Dahab

Evan Ockershausen

Steve Kramer

Melissa Robinson

Josh Engel

Heather C. Jackson

Emily McKinnon

Dorothy Kramer

Donald Cook

Sean Eustis

Elise Berg

Lyn Belzer-Tonnessen

Robert Perkins

Leanne Dinverno

Heather C. Jackson

Nathen Wurzel

Seain Gutridge

Patrick Mullen

Torberg Tonnessen

What if...?"

What if, in the next 30 years or so, the Roman Empire returned to power?

What if, even though purely the invention of writer Isaac Asimov, the science of psychohistory was a viable way to predict future events through understanding past events?

What if, seeing history repeat, we were still powerless to stop not only the societal movements of large groups, but the actions of individuals as well?

In a possible 2044 A.D., rather than in 44 B.C., would William Shakespeare have been right when he has Cassius ask "How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over, in states unborn and accents yet unknown?"

Science Fiction and Soothsayers

Asimov wrote the original *Foundation* novels after having read Edward Gibbon's *The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire*. First released as short stories during the 1940's presents the predicted Fall of a Galactic Empire, in this case foreseen by a psychohistorian, a man who can mathematically predict large scale trends in the future of the Empire.

In the second novel of the trilogy one character asks the other with irony, "Et tu Brute?" and we are reminded that the "vault" through which the "soothsayer" and psychohistorian Hari Seldon reveals the predicted future opens on March 15 th.

Could a soothsayer, warning of the "Ides of March" be someone who had seen these trends, and would his warning come in time?

Running time is approx. 1 hour 40 minutes.

There will be one brief 10 minute intermission.

Richard Atha-Nicholls (Decius Brutus) feels honoured to be surrounded by so much talent and is happy to be playing with the Rudes. He was last seen in "The Beard of Avon" at GAC (unless you happened to catch him as CMOT Dibbler at the Discworld Convention 2008). My eternal love is sincerely sent always 2 C.

Mikki Barry (Cinna) is proud to play the most important of all characters in Julius Caesar. She has also portrayed such memorable roles as Citizen 1 in *Coriolanus*, The Donkey in *Man of LaMancha*, and the Starship Enterprise at a recent Star Trek convention, a role for which she was awarded a cheese sandwich. She will sadly not be available to sign autographs after the performance, as the doctors from the asylum require her immediate return.

Lyn Belzer-Tonnessen (Assistant Director) is pleased to return to the Rude Mechanicals after a short hiatus. *Julius Caesar* is her first time Assistant Directing. She has previously stage managed Rudes productions *Midsummer*, *Merry Wives*, and *King John*, and appeared in *Macbeth* (2005). Many thanks and much love to Sean and Elise for their patience and understanding with a brand new mom who might have been a little neurotic and overwrought about coming back to theater. Maybe. A little bit. Thanks also to Tor and Cheryl, without whom the aforesaid comeback would not be possible. Thanks finally to Brigie, for being a sweet baby who sleeps through rehearsals.

Elise Berg (Assistant Director/Costumes/Dramaturg) has not been so impressed with an entire cast since college. She's always been very proud and defensive of her snooty little school, therefore one should take notice. Thanks to Sean for being delightfully, brilliantly mad, Heather for the term "quad-venti", Brian for keepin' it rollin', and Jay for everything else ever. *Bona terra, Bennigans* (HV12.IV.vii, 2001).

Donald Cook (Pompey) -... His representative has a statement he wishes to relay: "Marble/Granite Rights Now!!!"

Stephen Cox (Casca) is delighted to be appearing with The Rudes after a gap of several years. Previous roles have been Stephano in *The Tempest* (2002) and Macbeth in *Macbeth* (1999). Other favorite roles have included: George in *Mr. Pim Passes By*, Lord Darlington in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Schastlivstev in *The Forest*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tartuffe in *Tartuffe* and Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons*.

Kareem el Dahab (Cicero) is an English major from San Antonio, TX. He's acted in such plays as *The Boys Next Door*, *All in the Timing*, and *West Side Story*. *Julius Caesar* is his first theatrical production in Maryland. He's a programmer of a kid-friendly website at AOL, and studies journalism at Georgetown University.

Leanne Dinverno (Stage Manager) - I wasn't even supposed to be here today!

Michael J. Dombroski (Marc Antony) Michael teaches Drama and English at Wise High School in Upper Marlboro, MD. He recently directed his students in a production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and will be directing *A Raisin in the Sun* this Fall and *Grease* in the Spring.

Alan Duda (Caesar) is happy that SPQR had minimal height requirements, allowing him to play every Roman general the Rudes have produced. He is a parade. Albeit a short one.

Joshua Engel (Marullus) dedicates this performance to Katie, who would have done it SO much better. Get well soon.

Sean Eustis (Director) has been a member of the Rude Mechanicals since 1999, performing various roles both onstage and off stage. His last directing effort, *Comedy of Errors* in 2005, was the first Rudes production to be reprised the following year at the request of crew, cast, and audiences. He has no desire to repeat the same with this production and wishes to dedicate the month of October to Constantia for her continued indulgence, and the month of November to pumpkin pie.

Heather C. Jackson (Fadia/Costume Designer) has appeared in and/or designed seven shows with the Rudes, playing such roles as Helena in *Midsummer* and the Host(ess) in *Merry Wives*. Other design credits include *Antigone*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Much Ado...* and *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief* at the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; *Into the Woods* and *As You Like It* (among others) at McDonogh School; Greenbelt Arts Center, and Theatre Hopkins. Thank you, Jules!

Lauren Julien (Calpurnia/Cassius): If life were 1776, I would totally be the Thomas Jefferson; a writing, painting, singing, dancing, acting, Merry Prankster-ing, politically active rock-and-lit guru. In my free time, I work the day shift. I do not, however, play the violin. This is my 896th or so production with the Rudes, and I've enjoyed [almost!] every moment of it. I owe a lot of thanks and love to many people - Andy, Nathen and Mo among them - for being so supportive through this process. Special thanks to Sean and Elise for allowing me to take on the role that's meant more to me than any other.

Dorothy Kramer (Antonia) is pleased to be working with her new friends in the Rude Mechanicals for the first time! (Except for Nathen, but he doesn't count...) Dorothy's first stage appearance was five years ago as Rosie in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (O2B2); other previous roles include the juvenile lead Susan, in *Miracle on 34th Street* (PGLT); Roger in *Grease* (Drama Learning Center in Columbia); and chorus roles in *Ben Jonson's Volpone* (O2B2) and *Knights of the Rad Table* (Bonnie Branch Middle School). She's also an accomplished backstage tech as props mistress for *A Company of Wayward Saints* (O2B2), sound design for *The Fabulous Fable Factory* (BBMS), and assistant stage manager for *Murder Takes the Stage* (O2B2). Dorothy would like to dedicate her performance in Julius Caesar to the memory of her friend and fellow performer John Malloy, with whom she worked in *Six Characters* and *Wayward Saints*.

Steve Kramer (Artemidorus/Soothsayer) This is Scooter's first performance with the Rudes (and likely his first being credited as "Scooter", as there are far too many Steves out there). He previously led as Harlequin in *A Company of Wayward Saints* (O2B2); his other credits include Dr. Sawyer in *Miracle on 34th Street* (PGLT), Larry in *Murder Takes the Stage* (O2B2), and most recently as The Magistrate in *Ben Jonson's Volpone* (O2B2) at the 2007 Capital Fringe Festival. Scooter would like to thank his family for being so supportive, to thank Sean for inspiring him to kick books, and to credit the Green Party of the United States, which showed him what it was like to speak truth to those in power and get completely blown off - an invaluable help in this role.

Tom McGrath (Trebonius) joined the Rudes recently as Stephano in *The Tempest* (2008). He is known for his rare gift of overstatement and for his highly controversial recitations of Walt Whitman using only the third person future perfect habitual tense. He wishes to dedicate his performance as Trebonius (a.k.a. T-Bone) to Rutherford B. Hayes.

Emily McKinnon (Marcella) also known as "that older blond girl in the chorus". She's been acting off and on since 3rd grade but this is her first time with the Rude Mechanicals. Hopefully it won't be her last.

B. Harrington Moors (Brutus) - Got suckered into taking this role after showing up at auditions just to say hi to old friends. Brian owes Sean and Elise one lash with a wet noodle for each of his 500 lines.

Patrick Mullen (Metellus Cimber / Set and Lighting Design) - here's to getting out early.

Evan Ockershausen (Octavius) This is his first time working with the Rude Mechanicals and he hopes it to be the first of many. He is currently majoring in Liberal Arts at Howard Community College.

Robert Perkins (Producer) is in his 10th production with the Rude Mechanicals, and the third in which he has served as producer (*The Tempest* in 2002, *As You Like It* in 2003). He is the creator and host of *Bargain Basement Game Show*, a theatrical-based game show that made its successful premiere at the 2008 Capital Fringe Festival. He thanks Sean for wrangling him into this production, but would really like to go to sleep now.

Amy Rauch (Cassius/Calpurnia) has appeared with the Rudes eleven times now, and hopes to appear with them eleven dozen more. Past roles include Gwendolyn Fairfax, Lady Macbeth, Hermia, Mistress Ford, and Borachio. Future roles include Director of the Rude Mechanicals upcoming production of *Measure for Measure*. Thanks to Sean for this phenomenal opportunity!

Melissa B. Robinson (Flavius), a journalist and author, thanks Sean and the Rudes for welcoming a newcomer. Melissa was last seen as Anne Hathaway in Greenbelt Arts Center's *The Beard of Avon*.

Charlene V. Smith (Portia) was last seen with the Rudes as Don John in the all-female production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other DC credits include Helen in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Silver Spring Stage) and as Katherine in *Love's Labor's Lost* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company). She will be directing the Rude Mechanicals' next production, Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*. www.charlenevsmith.com

J. Calvin Smith (Lucius) is happy to make his musical Rude Mechanicals debut in this, his (gasp!) thirteenth production with the troupe. Next up, the daunting task of persuading Pat Carroll to let him play Gertrude Stein in a one-(wo)man show. Pat, I know it was written for you, but this'd be such fun!

Summary of Events - Rome, 2044 A.D.

(Act I - March 14, 2044)

Artemidorus the historian visits Rome as the Citizens celebrate the holy festival of **Lupercal** and Julius Caesar's defeat of the rebel **Pompey**, mixing the State's religious and political agendas. Journalists **Flavius** and **Marullus** follow as **Antony** makes a show of **Caesar** refusing the title of King.

Rome is a democratic theocracy with no place for Kings and crowns, and the disgruntled **Cassius** reminds **Brutus** of his ancestral duty to keep it so.

Rome suffers power outages as it is beset by storms. **Cassius** eavesdrops on **Cicero's** assurances to the frightened **Casca** that everything is fine, **Cassius** then talks **Casca** into doing his part for the **Conspiracy**. **Cassius** assigns **Cinna** the task of delivering anonymous letters to help sway **Brutus** to their cause.

Lucius finds and delivers the anonymous letters, **Brutus** is visited by the **Conspiracy** (led by **Cassius** and including **Casca**, **Cinna**, **Decius**, **Metellus** and **Trebonius**), and helps them to resolve their own differences into a single plan.

Calpurnia and **Portia**, awake from bad dreams and late night visitors during the storm, each confront their husbands over recent events.

Decius arrives the next morning and talks the reluctant **Caesar** into going to the **Senate**, despite his promises.

(Act II - March 15, 2044 and beyond)

Artemidorus takes a page from the history books and attempts to warn **Caesar** of the impending danger, but is thwarted by the **Conspiracy**. He is met by **Portia** who in trying to keep **Brutus'** confidence, is sending **Lucius** to witness events at the Capitol.

Antony is held at bay by **Trebonius** as the **Conspiracy** surrounds **Caesar**.

Caesar, seeing that his end has come, embraces it in the shadow of **Pompey's** statue. **Cicero**, not having been part of the **Conspiracy**, is sent to **Antony** and comes back with **Antony's** answer of truce.

Antony negotiates with the **Conspiracy** to be involved in the funeral proceedings.

The **Citizens** and **Journalists** of Rome demand explanation of recent events, **Brutus** assures them that the deed was done for the love of Rome.

Antony brings the corpse of **Caesar** for his eulogy, but it is the actual **Will of Caesar** that ignites the sorrow of Rome which **Antony** uses in order to dispatch old enemies in the Senate along with the **Conspiracy**.

Octavius arrives in Rome, and his presence as the adopted heir to **Caesar's** power validates his **Alliance** with **Antony**.

Brutus and **Cassius**, now a **Rebel** faction escaped from **Antony's** pogrom, argue over financial woes and new sorrows but reconcile over their old friendship.

Parley between **Rebel** and **Alliance** forces ends badly over old grudges and new insults.

Brutus and **Cassius** pledge to each other against being taken prisoner during the coming battle. **Misinformation** drives **Cassius** to keep her pledge.

Lucius, mistaken for **Brutus**, is captured by the **Alliance**. **Brutus**, knowing **Cassius** is dead and the **Alliance** closing in, fulfills his own pledge.

The war over and Rome reconciled, a **new Triumvirate** is revealed.