

The Curtain Theatre presents

William Shakespeare's

THE
Comedy of Errors

Directed by Carl Jordan

Old Mill Park Amphitheatre, Mill Valley
Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday
August 20th to September 11th, 2016



2:00 PM

 curtaintheatre.org



An Equity Approved Project.

The Curtain Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

PLAYERS in alphabetical order:

DUKE SOLINUS	Paul Abbott
DR PINCH	Steve Beecroft
ENSEMBLE	Haley Bertelsen
DROMIO OF SYRACUSE	Heather Cherry
ANGELA THE GOLDSMITH	Alexis Christenson
DROMIO OF EPHEBUS	Nick Christenson
ADRIANA	Melissa Claire
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS	Skylar Collins
LUCIANA	Heather Gordon*
OFFICER	Isabelle Grimm
ABBESS EMILIA	Christina Jaqua
COURTESAN	Amanda Morando
ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE	Adam Niemann
EGEON	Tom Reilly
MOBSTER MERCHANT	Michael Walraven
BALTHAZAR	Cordell Wesselink
MINI MOBSTER	Daniel Helmer
PAPERBOYS	Zoe Rocco-Zilber
	Isabella Schlitt

**Member of Actors' Equity Association*

DRAMATURG'S NOTE:

What happens when you spill your heart to someone you think you're close to, except they aren't, they just happen to look and sound that way? They have no idea what you're talking about, and you feel confused and you try to retrieve the situation and dig yourself into an even deeper hole. In the hands of Shakespeare you get two things: words that articulate the mysteries of thought and emotion; and fun. This early play by Shakespeare, set in Ephesus, the city that St Paul thought needed some moral guidance for its loose approach to marriage and its witchcraft, is full of the pathos and the fun of mistaken identity, intimate indiscretion, jealousy and superstition. Written to be performed in front of an audience of lawyers, it's full of legal jokes and metaphors. It is most often produced as farce, yet here, as in most things that Shakespeare wrote, it gives us more than one side of the picture. It's funny, slapstick at times, full of truth and beauty in its words and still relevant in its treatment of the emotional nets we men and women are caught in. -Peter Bradbury



PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR	Carl Jordan
DRAMATURG	Peter Bradbury
STAGE MANAGER	Diane Pickell-Gore
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Lisa Immel
CHOREOGRAPHER/PRODUCER	Steve Beecroft
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Don Clark
SET DESIGN	Steve Coleman
COSTUME DESIGN	Amaris Blagborne, Melissa Claire and Janice Deneau
PROPERTIES	Janelle Ponte
PUBLICITY	Pat Meier-Johnson
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Mark Shepard
HOUSE MANAGER	Angelica Macmanus
SET BUILDING MANAGER	Michael Walraven

BAND

Benjamin Brown (horn); Michele Delattre (concertina);
 Don Clark (guitar/bass); Alice Montgomery (keyboard);
 Hal Hughes (fiddle,banjo, sound effects)



DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

“I to the world am like a drop of water,
 That in the ocean seeks another drop,
 Who, falling there to find his fellow forth,
 Unseen, inquisitive, confounds himself.
 So I, to find a mother and a brother,
 In quest of them, unhappy, lose myself.”

- *Comedy of Errors*, Act 1, Scene 2

These heart-achingly beautiful and poetic words, spoken by Antipholus of Syracuse, outline the central theme of *Comedy of Errors*. This early Shakespeare play is concerned with the search for family, for love and the self. To highlight this theme we set this production in a time of great cultural change, the roaring 20s. Women especially are throwing off the shackles of propriety and becoming more complete, more sexual, more alive. Thus the two sisters Adriana and Luciana are both smart and funny, as they argue about the virtues of ‘the marriage bed’. They both want much more than they currently have, and they both struggle to find their family, their identities and love. In this production we use the delightful sounds of Jazz age music to heighten the themes we explore. *Comedy of Errors* is a wonderful and wacky play that, in the end, teaches us about ourselves and our need for family. -Carl Jordan

 **THE COMPANY**

Paul Abbott (Solinus, Duke of Ephesus). This will be Paul's seventh production with the Curtain Theatre, including February's staged reading of *The Winter's Tale*. Last year he performed the title role in the Marin Shakespeare Company's production of the rarely produced *Cymbeline*. In 2014 he portrayed Prospero in the Curtain Theatre's *The Tempest* here in the redwoods. As folksinger PickleweedPaul, he appears regularly at Sweetwater, HopMonk, & several other musical venues around the North Bay

Steve Beecroft (Producer/Choreographer/Dr. Pinch) is enjoying his seventh show in the park and ninth with the Curtain Theatre. Previous roles include Caliban in *The Tempest*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tranio in last year's production of *Taming of the Shrew* and Cookie in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, for which he won an SFBATCC award for best featured actor in a musical. Steve's most recent role was Jean Valjean in a concert version of *Les Miserables*. Thanks to Carl and the wonderful production team of the Curtain. And thanks to you, the audience, for supporting theatre in beautiful Old Mill Park.

Haley Bertelsen (Messenger/ensemble) is making her Curtain debut and is thrilled to be performing in the beautiful redwoods. Originally from Seattle her stage credits include *Jekyll and Hyde* with At the Ridge Theatre, *Scapin* with Cental Theatre Ensemble. Film credits include *Wives with Knives*. www.haleybertelsen.com

Amaris Blagborne (costume design) received her costume design degree at Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Upon graduation she worked in fabric and textile design, before moving into costume design full time. She has worked on many dance and theater productions including last summer's Curtain production of *Taming of the Shrew*.

Peter Bradbury (dramaturg) started following Curtain Theatre when his wife was cast in *As You Like It*. He couldn't resist talking to the actors about Shakespeare's language so they made him a dramaturg to tame his wild academic reticence.

Benjamin Brown (band) owns more instruments than he can adequately play and plays more instruments than he can reasonably own. As with most aspects of his existence, that sentence makes perfect sense to him and almost no one else. Ben was in a Shakespeare play once when he was seven. He was a sword fighter in the background of one scene. He doesn't remember what play. It wasn't this one.

Heather Cherry (Dromio of Syracuse). "Tis true, I am an ass!" In her ongoing tour of the animals of the canon, Heather most recently played Hermoine/Bear for Curtain's *Winter's Tale* premier at After Hours at the Mill Valley Library. Before that, she appeared as Snug/Lion in Shoebox Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the

Throckmorton Theater, and horsed around last summer as Grumio in Curtain Theatre's *The Taming of The Shrew*. In addition to four other Curtain productions, she appeared in *All's Well That Ends Well* with Marin Shakespeare Company. So happy to be here with you! Thank you PB and CC!

Alexis Evon Christenson (Angela, the goldsmith) is honored to share in the art and heart at this magical theatre, surrounded by Redwood trees. She and Nick (below) have taken part in countless shows with many theatre companies in Sonoma County, a favorite role being (both of) the Tweedles in *Alice: the Rebellion of Wonderland*, an original play performed with Narrow Way Stage Company. The most appreciation goes to Nicolas, for his generous spirit and constant inspiration. Alexis also wants to thank every single one of you for being here--we can't think of a better way to perform Shakespeare than outdoors with all of you lovelies!!

Nick Christenson (Dromio of Ephesus) is excited to be returning to the Mill Valley Amphitheatre. He was previously seen in *King Stag* with Curtain Theatre. *Comedy of Errors* holds a special place in Nicolas' heart, it was the first Shakespeare he ever studied. Playing one of the Dromios is a dream come true for him. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unyielding support and his Love, Alexis, for making him the best he can be. Enjoy the show!!!

Melissa Claire (Adriana) is a Theatre Bay Area and San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award-winning actress and costumer. Recent roles include Katherine in last year's *Taming of the Shrew* and Vanda in *Venus in Fur*. Other credits: *God of Carnage* (Veronica), *As You Like it* (Rosalind), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), *Chybourne Park* (Betsy/Lindsey), *Noises Off* (Brooke/Vicki), *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (Ariel), *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Dolly). Thanks to Carl, Bella and L. Peter.

Don Clark (music director/band) has taken part in sixteen of the seventeen summer shows mounted by the Curtain Theatre. A journalist by day, he regularly collaborates on music with spouse Michele Delattre; both play in the Curtain band along with Alice Montgomery (flute) and Hal Hughes (fiddle). Don is grateful to Ben Brown for empowering this year's 1920s jazz tunes on trumpet and trombone.

Steve Coleman (set designer) is a longtime artist in Mill Valley and award winning set designer. He is known for his loving, often fantastical creations of everything from small models to the elegant reborn stage at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre.

Skylar Collins (Antipholus of Ephesus) is very excited to be joining Curtain Theater for his first summer under the redwoods. His recent Shakespeare credits include Albany (*King Lear*, College of Marin), Paris (*Romeo and Juliet*, Marin Shakespeare Company), and Orlando (*As You Like It*, Novato Theater Company). He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

Michele Delattre (band) is a founding member and artistic director of the Curtain Theatre where she happily acts, directs and plays in the band with her husband, Don Clark. Thanks to the wonderful company for their hard work and many talents this summer, and to our audience for sharing in the fun!

Janice Deneau (Costume Design) worked on the Curtain/Marin On-stage production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. She has costumed over twenty shows for Novato Theater Company, winning a 2015 BATCC costume design award for *Into the Woods*. She would like to thank her family for their love and support. Janice appreciates the opportunity to share her passion for costumes and theatre. Enjoy the Magic!

Heather Gordon* (Luciana) is a Bay Area native who received her MFA in acting from A.R.T., Moscow Art Theater & Harvard University. She recently played the role of Cory in 3Girls Theatre Company's production of *Low Hanging Fruit*. Other local highlights include, Clea in *The Scene* at SF Playhouse., Dodie in *Wilder Times* at Aurora Theater Co., Billie Dawn in *Born Yesterday* at Cinnabar Theatre, Annette in *God of Carnage* at Left Edge Theater, and Callie in *Stop Kiss* at TheatreFirst in Berkeley. You can see her next playing Celia in *As You Like It* this September with Petaluma Shakespeare Co. A special thanks to all the amazing people who have loved and supported her through this journey.

*Member of Actors' Equity.

Isabelle Grimm (Officer) is thrilled to make her debut with the Curtain Theatre! A Bay Area native, she recently returned from Southern California where she received her BFA in Theatre Performance from Chapman University. Locally, she has worked with Marin Shakespeare Company, Theater of Others, Novato Theater Company, and Marin School of the Arts. She will continue her Shakespearean adventures this January at Shakespeare & Company's Month-Long Intensive in Lenox, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit her website: isabellegrimm.com

Daniel Helmer (Mini-mobster), now a veteran of four Curtain productions, has graduated from a sword-fighter last year to a gangster this summer. His parents trust this is not a trend. An 8th grade student at Hall Middle School in Corte Madera, Daniel enjoys drawing, computers and Aikido.

Hal Hughes (band, sound effects) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Third Rail Power Trip, North Beach Beckett, and others. He currently plays and records with Gift Horse, Smooth Toad, and Microblind Harvestmen. He's delighted to be in his seventh show with Curtain Theatre.

Lisa Immel (Assistant Stage Manager) is very thankful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew. This is her second year helping Curtain Theatre bring Shakespeare to the park.

Christina Jaqua (Abbess Emilia) is very happy to be performing with Curtain Theatre under Carl Jordan's direction. After many years as a professional opera singer, Christina decided to retire to "straight theater". Her most recent performance was as The Woman in *Gossamer* at the C.O.M. She played Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance*, Julie in *Lend me a Tenor*, and the Grand Duchess in *You Can't Take it With You*, all at Ross Valley Players. She also performed Florence in *Leading Ladies* at Novato Theater Co.

Carl Jordan is a four-time San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Award winner for directing and choreography including Best Production for the Curtain/Marin Onstage's *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. He also won the prestigious Theater Bay Area Award twice for Best Director and his production of *Clybourne Park* won Best Overall production and Best Ensemble. With a background as a professional dancer and degrees in musical theater from San Francisco State University, he taught drama at Indian Valley College while running his own theater production company. Stay tuned as he will also soon be directing productions of David Mamet's *Rave* and David Templeton's *Pinky*.

Alice Montgomery (band) has been part of the Curtain since its first production in 2000. She has accompanied for Virago theatre as well as several productions for Actors Ensemble in Berkeley including Vicki Siegel's *Hot Day in Ephesus* and Walter Halsey Davis' *Panhandle*. She teaches piano and flute in Oakland and Piedmont.

Amanda Morando (Courtesan) is excited to be in her first "real" Shakespeare production with Curtain Theatre, having directed music and performed as Miranda for their co-production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (which won Best Entire Production, SFBATCC). She has recently co-directed and music directed *Little Shop of Horrors* (Marin Summer Theater), directed music and performed in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona, Marin Onstage), and performed as Usherette/Magenta (6th Street Playhouse). Thanks Carl Jordan & Steve Beecroft for giving me this opportunity!

Adam Niemann (Antipholus of Syracuse) will be making his Curtain Theatre debut with *The Comedy of Errors*. Adam's credits include understudying in *Macbeth* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days* (Douglas Morrisson Theatre), *Oreo Carrot Danger* (FaultLine Theatre), *Bad Kitty On Stage* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Berkeley Playhouse) and Jay Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby* (Role Players Ensemble). Adam is a graduate of UC Berkeley and studied at the A.C.T. Summer Training Congress. Find out more at www.AdamNiemann.com.

Diane Pickell-Gore (Stage Manager) is happy to be back at Curtain Theatre for her sixth summer! She has previously stage managed *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *King Stag*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and two productions of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. She has also stage managed for Marin On Stage, Marin Baroque, Ross Valley Players, Novato Theater Company, Stapleton Theater

Company, and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. On Sunday mornings she can be found “stage managing” services at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal Church in Corte Madera.

Tom Reilly (Egeon) is delighted to be working with Curtain Theatre again! He has previously appeared here in *As You Like It*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Earlier this year, he appeared in *No Man’s Land* in Berkeley and in *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, where he also played in *Candide*, *Eurydice*, and *Grey Gardens*. He has actually visited Ephesus (though not Syracuse or Epidamnum); he found it in ruins. He is very happy to be included in such a talented ensemble.

Zoe Rocco-Zilber (paperboy) has had the honor of working in 5 performances of Kids Musical Theatre under the direction of award winning actor Melissa Claire. Her favorite character was Young Adventurer the narrator (with forty-two lines) in *Press Start*. Zoe is entering 4th grade in West Marin School in Point Reyes Station.

Isabella Schlitt (paperboy) is 9 years old and this will be her 13th show. Favorite roles include Cheshire Cat, Cinnamon the elf, Little Mushroom. She is a proud Gryffindor. Bella is entering the 4th grade in west Marin School.

Michael Walraven (Mobster Merchant) most recently played a gangster in *Kiss Me Kate*, Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and was Verges in Curtain Theatre’s *Much Ado About Nothing*. He is pleased to be yet another totally different gangster with a beretta in *Comedy of Errors*.

Cordell Wesselink (Balthazar) was last seen as Rapunzel’s Prince in *Into the Woods* with the Novato Theatre Company and Theatre at Large. He hasn’t done Shakespeare before, although he was in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* in college, but he doesn’t count that as really doing Shakespeare . . .



THANK YOU!

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