

indianapolis
SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



Presents William Shakespeare's

*A Midsummer
Night's Dream*

THOMAS TA

Sponsored by:



**Welcome to the
Indianapolis Shakespeare Company
Production of
*A Midsummer Night's Dream!***



Whether you are a longtime follower of our theatre company or are with us for the first time, welcome to A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM at the brand-new Taggart Memorial Amphitheatre in Riverside Park. There are so many people and institutions to thank at this historic moment. Thank you to the Near Northwest (NNW) leaders and residents, past and present, including Phyllis Hackett, Peggy Gamlin, Lillian Davis and her family, Ron Rice, Phyllis Forney-Tate and many, many more who worked before, alongside, and/or currently with them to provide the community with vibrant arts and educational offerings. Thank you to the Taggart Task Force, who worked with Indiana Landmarks and Ratio Architects for years on restoration plans for the Taggart Memorial. Thank you to the Riverside Masterplan Committee who created exciting plans for Riverside Park. Thank you to the Riverside Regional Park staff: we appreciate Yolanda Echols, Tony Johnson, and Roman Coffer very much. Thank you to all the neighbors who have welcomed us on committees and projects throughout the NNW. Whether it is a beautification day with Northwest Landing, Groundwork Indy, and Aspire House; meetings of all of the Northwest Quality of Life committees; Halloween at the Riverside Family Center; or working on the planning phases of the proposed Friends of Frank Young Park group—it is an honor to be included in this community.

Deep appreciation goes to Lilly Endowment who created the "Strengthening Indianapolis Through Arts and Cultural Innovation" grant which funded the Taggart Memorial Amphitheatre project. Thank you to our grant partners: the Parks Alliance of Indianapolis, who were the lead writers for the grant, Indy Parks/Riverside Park, and Indiana Landmarks. Thank you to Ratio Architects and all those associated with the design and build of this truly world-class facility. Ratio has done the impossible with a design that both honors the majesty of the Taggart Memorial while also providing an amazingly intimate performer-audience relationship. This dynamic juxtaposition of great and small makes for an absolutely thrilling space.

Gratitude also goes to the many people who have made Indy Shakes the organization it is today. Founded by a group of professional actors in 2006 as the Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre, HART rebranded in 2016 to the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company when creating free outdoor Shakespeare became our primary focus. Thank you to the artists, board members, staff, volunteers, and audiences who have supported us all of these years. We have come this far because of the dedication of so many who believe that high quality theatre should be accessible to everyone, that artists should be paid for their work, and that Shakespeare is a fabulous vehicle for exploring what is meaningful in our lives today.

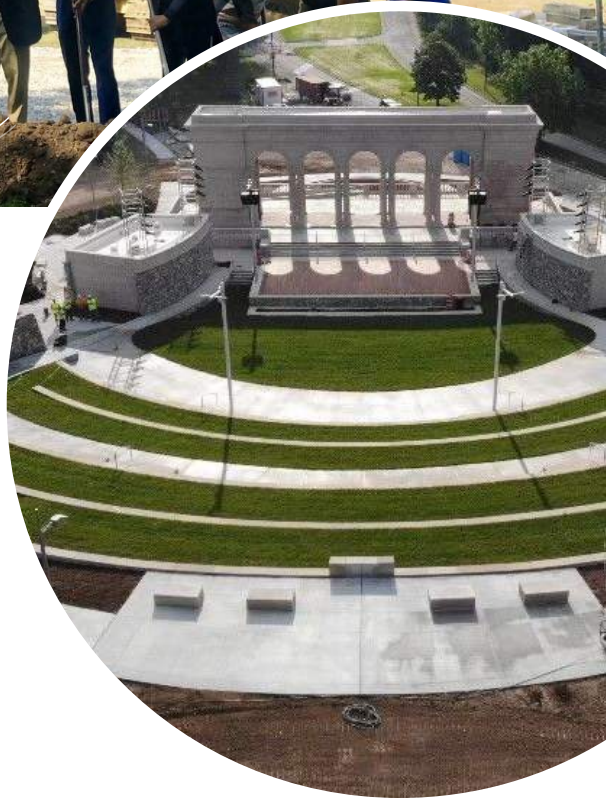
We are launching into a new era where we are seeking to redefine the intersection of professional theatre and community. Embedded in all we do is the commitment to continually align with the Near Northwest neighborhood by welcoming more and more people of color as artists, board members, and leaders into our organization. We want to have a year-round presence and are planning to build Shakes House on our property at 2717 Rader Street. The vision is a center providing creative opportunities for neighborhood children and adults in all areas of theatre onstage and behind the scenes and also offering affordable housing and employment opportunities for the neighborhood. Our 2022 Hip Hop Shakespeare project, led by artists of color and a finalist for the prestigious Impact 100 grant, will bring together Indy's finest hip hop and rap artists with Shakespeare artists to create a new, exciting art form that honors both disciplines. This fall, our Traveling Troupe COMEDY OF ERRORS will share the joy of live theatre with students across Indy. Finally, our Indy Shakes Gala on Sept. 23rd at the brand-new Guggman Haus Brewery Festhall here in the Riverside neighborhood will feature NNW cuisine and loads of fun!

If any of these initiatives sound exciting to you, please drop me a line anytime! We are always looking for Board and Associate Board members and volunteers of all sorts and would love to have you join us!

Diane Timmerman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Timmerman". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Executive Artistic Director, Indy Shakes
diane@indyshakes.com



We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Lilly Endowment Inc. for the Strengthening Indianapolis Through Arts and Cultural Innovation Grant that made the Taggart Memorial Amphitheatre possible!

architect:



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A Private Philanthropic Foundation



Presents William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 22, 23, 24 & 29, 30, 31 of 2021

Performance is 2 hours with one 15-minute intermission

Executive Artistic Director	Diane Timmerman *†
Director	Lauren Morris *†
Assistant Director/Associate Producer	Ryan Artzberger *†
Props & Set Designer	S. Bart Simpson †
Lighting Designer	Laura Glover †
Costume Designer	Guy Clark †
Sound Designer/Composer	Todd Mack Reischman †
Stage Manager	Nathan Garrison *†
Assistant Stage Manager	Matt Shives
Fight Choreographer	Rob Johansen *†
Choreographer	Mariel Greenlee †
Production Manager	Nolan Brokamp †
Technical Director	B Sutherlin †
Lead Sound Engineer	Jeff Mountjoy †
Sound Engineer	Kevin Caraher †
Sound Engineer	Brittany Hayth †
Costume Assistant	Finnegan Chu
Intimacy Director	Claire Wilcher *†
Carpenter	Jonathan Power
Theatrical Interpreter for the Deaf	George Bartley
Premium Seating Coordinator	Janet Hock †
Event Manager	LaKisha Cooper †
Marketing/Development Coordinator	Courtney Remley
Marketing/Development Assistant	LaKesha Lorene
Accountant	Lara Schmutte
Grant Writer	Phyllis Kinsey

Pre-Show Entertainment (Performance Dates Vary):

Riverside Summer Camp Kids, Yolanda Echols Spoken Word, Staci McCrackin & Friends,
Vickie Daniel & Friends, F.A.M.E., Eric Saunders Spoken Word, DJ Phressure

† INDY SHAKES Company Member

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League Of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



NEAR NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Indy Shakes is proud to be new neighbors of the Near Northwest! We invite you to visit the information booths near the Amphitheatre entrance and listen from the stage during our pre-show to learn more about the missions of local Near Northwest non-profits and how you can help support some of the amazing work they are doing!

Indianapolis Shakespeare Company
was a Top 5 Finalist for the
2021 Impact 100 Change Maker Grant!

We'd like to thank the
women of Impact 100 of
Greater Indianapolis for
supporting our 2022
Hip Hop Shakespeare
project!



Congratulations to the 2021
Impact 100 Change Maker!



Synopsis

Welcome to our play! Plan to be bewitched, bothered and bewildered by magic, practical jokers and trickery. At court, parents and rulers dictate who marries whom, and punish girls who disobey. In the nearby forest, fairies and magic decree who falls in love with whom. The ordinary working people, out for a good time, get caught up in spells and trickery. As always, true love triumphs.

Theseus, Duke of Athens conquered Hippolyta, the Amazon warrior queen in battle, and wants to marry her. Proud Hippolyta has other ideas, but not many options. As Theseus woos, he is interrupted by Egeus, an ambitious mother with a rebellious daughter, Hermia. Egeus tells the Duke to order Hermia to marry the eligible Demetrius. Hermia is madly in love with Lysander. The Duke gives Hermia 3 days to decide. She can marry her mother's choice; become a nun; or be executed. What's a girl to do?


In desperation, Hermia and Lysander plan to elope, and flee to the forest. They share their plans with their friend, Helena. Helena has loved Demetrius for a long time. Thinking that the elopement will free Demetrius to marry her, she tells Demetrius of the elopement plan.

Now, we meet Bottom, the weaver, and her friends. These folks love to act. They are creating a play to celebrate the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta, and will rehearse in the nearby forest. They are unaware of the fairy trickery that goes on each night in the forest.

The rulers of the fairy world in the forest, King Oberon and Queen Titania, have had a huge argument. Oberon is so angry, that he decides to trick Titania. He asks his mischievous servant, Puck, to bring flowers to make a magic love potion. Oberon will pour this potion on Titania's eyelids when she is asleep. When she wakes, she will fall in love with the first being she sees.

As Oberon plots, Helena enters the forest following Demetrius. He is searching for Hermia, his promised bride. Oberon is moved by Helena's distress is over her lost lover. Oberon orders Puck to charm Demetrius's eyes with the love potion. Lysander and Hermia arrive on the scene. Puck mistakenly charms Lysander's eyes. Lysander falls madly in love with Helena when he wakes. Lysander abandons his true love, Hermia, who was sleeping with him, to pursue a bewildered Helena.

Meanwhile, Oberon is charming Titania's eyes. Nearby, Bottom and his friends are rehearsing their play. Puck, always ready for a laugh, overhears the group. With a spell, Puck transforms Bottom's head into the head of a donkey. The other players run away, terrified. Bottom sings to fight her fear of being abandoned in the forest. Her loud "singing" wakes Titania. Under the spell of the love potion, Titania falls in love with Bottom.



The time has come to deal with the magical mayhem in the forest. Oberon discovers that Puck magicked Lysander's eyes in error. Oberon magics Demetrius' eyes, so he sees Helena as he wakes. When Demetrius discovers Lysander is wooing Helena, the two former friends quarrel fiercely. Hermia now arrives. Misunderstanding each other, the four lovers are in hell. To stop the conflict, the fairies cast a spell. The four lovers wander the forest until they fall asleep, exhausted. Then, under Oberon's supervision, Puck puts the love potion on Lysander's eyes. Now, Lysander loves Hermia; Demetrius loves Helena; and the girls get the guys they want. Oberon regrets his trickery as he watches Titania pursue a bewildered Bottom. He lifts his spell and reconciles with his Queen.

Walking happily in the forest before their wedding, Theseus and Hippolyta discover the four lovers. Theseus approves the marriages of Helena to Demetrius and of Hermia to Lysander. The three couples share their wedding party. As they celebrate, Bottom and her players present the "comic" tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe. The fairies bless the newlywed and return to their forest. All is well.



*The course of true
love never did run
smooth.*



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Key Characters

OBERON

Queen of the fairies and at odds with partner Titania, because she refuses to give a young Indian prince as a Knight for Oberon.

DEMETRIUS

Young man of Athens who initially was in love with Hermia but ultimately loves Helena.

LYSANDER

Young man of Athens in love with Hermia, but cannot marry her openly because her frather wishes her wed to Demetrius

EGEUS

Hermia's father who wants her to marry Demetrius and not Lysander.

PHILOSTRATE

Responsible for organizing the entertainment for Theseus's wedding celebration.

PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, AND MUSTARDSEED

Four fairies ordered by Titania to take care of Bottom once she falls in love with him.

TITANIA

Queen of the fairies, who refuses her partner, Oberon, the Knight she has been given.

THESEUS

The Duchess of Athens, engaged to Hippolyta.

HERMIA

Young woman of Athens in love with Lysander, childhood friend of Helena, and Egeus's daughter.

HELENA

Young woman of Athens in love with Demetrius, childhood friend of Hermia.

SNUG

The joiner who plays the lion in the celebration play.

SNOUT

Tom Snout, the tinker, who will play the wall in the celebration play.

PUCK

Robin Goodfellow, a mischievious fairy who plays pranks and serves as Oberon's jester.

HIPPOLYTA

The Queen of the Amazons, engaged to marry Theseus.

BOTTOM

Nick Bottom, a weaver who is a player in Theseus's marriage celebration play. Transformed temporarily into an ass by Puck.

QUINCE

Peter Quince, a carpenter and the leader of the player's who will put on the play for Theseus.

FLUTE

The bellows-mender who will play Thisbe, a young girl in love, in the marriage celebration play.

STARVELING

Robin Starveling, a tailor who will play the part of moonshine in the marriage celebration play.

Cast



JEN JOHANSEN *†

Theseus and Oberon

Jen's Indy Shakes productions include Coriolanus and Hamlet. Most recently she appeared in Indiana Repertory Theatre's streamed production of The House That Jack Built. Other theaters include: the Phoenix Theatre, The Human Race Theatre Co., Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Geva Theatre Center, and Kitchen Theatre Co.



CONSTANCE MACY *†

Hippolyta and Titania

Constance played Volumnia in Coriolanus and Paulina in The Winters Tale, both at WRSP. She has been an actor and teacher at the Indiana Repertory Theatre and teacher at Butler University. Her acting career has taken her to regional theatres across the country, but she prefers to make the art here. A graduate of Indiana University, Ms. Macy is a Lunt-Fontanne (national) Fellow, co-founder of ShadowApe Theatre Company, a two-time Arts Council of Indianapolis Creative Renewal Fellow, and an Indianapolis Foundation MVP.



JOSHUA COOMER *†

Puck and Philostrate

Joshua is excited to be working with Indianapolis Shakespeare again--this time as a company member! Credits include: Polonius in Hamlet and Jacques in As You Like It with Indy Shakes. A Christmas Carol at IRT. Acid Dolphin Experiment, Clark Gable Slept Here, North of the Boulevard and others at Phoenix Theatre Indianapolis. Member AEA.



MILICENT WRIGHT *†

Egeus and Quince

Milicent played Maria in Twelfth Night for Indy Shakes when it was HART in WRSP. She is most often seen performing at the Indiana Repertory Theatre where she is also a teaching artist. She has also worked at the Fonseca Theatre Company, the former Park St./9th St. Phoenix Theatre, and Cardinal Stage in Bloomington. This Fall she will be in The Rise and Fall of Holly Fudge at The Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Recently she has been a drama coach for Hancock County Children's Choir. Milicent as a 2011 Arts Council Creative Renewal Fellowship Recipient and a 2015 award recipient from the Center for Leadership and Development.



CLAIRE WILCHER *†

Bottom

Claire is thrilled to be back with Indy Shakes, having appeared in the company's production of As You Like It as Phebe. Since May, Claire has completed her MFA in Acting from Michigan State University, joined Indy Shakes as a company member, became a member of AEA, and got married! Whoa!



CHARLES GOAD *†

Starveling

Chuck appeared in Indy Shakes' inaugural production of The Merchant of Venice as well as Winter's Tale, Tempest, and Much Ado about Nothing. He's also worked with Indiana Repertory, Phoenix Theatre, Actors Theatre of Indiana, Beef and Boards and regionally at Cincinnati Playhouse, Missouri Rep and Syracuse Stage.



MICHAEL HOSP

Snug

Michael is thrilled to play outside again with Indy Shakes! He was last seen as Silvius in As You Like It. Other credits include You Can't Take It with You at the Indiana Repertory Theatre and Vino Veritas at the Phoenix Theatre of Indianapolis. "Much love to my wife, Katelyn."



SHAWNTÉ P. GASTON †

Snout

Shawnté is very proud to be a company member for the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company, where she was recently seen as Rosalind in *As You Like It*. She can also be seen performing with Sapphire Theatre Company, spreading knowledge about Indiana's black history through short plays at Conner Prairie, and in classrooms as a teaching artist for IRT. Shawnté is a graduate of the University of Southern Indiana.



ISAIAH MOORE

Flute

Isaiah is ecstatic to make his Indy Shakes debut! You may recognize him from productions at Summer Stock Stage, Eclipse Company, Fat Turtle Theatre, Butler University, OnyxFest, and IRT's production of *The Little Choo Choo*. After a year of patience, he is grateful to perform with fellow theatre lovers.



ADAM TRAN

Demetrius and Moth

You may have seen Adam at Actors Theatre of Indiana, Summit Performance, or Indiana Repertory Theatre. Catch him soon in "Mongrel" (1 man show about Genghis Khan by Adam) at Know Theatre of Cincinnati! Adam is ecstatic to be in this cast! As always, the biggest thanks and love to Kelsey!



KELSEY JOHNSON †

Helena and Cobweb

Kelsey Johnson is an actor and teaching artist. She received her BFA in acting from Ball State University. Some of her professional acting credits include *Helen and Mary Jane* with Summit Performance Indianapolis and *A Christmas Carol*, #MATTER, and *The Many Deaths of Nathan Stubblefield* at Actors Theatre of Louisville.



DANIEL A. MARTIN

Lysander and Peaseblossom

Daniel A. Martin is very honored to be making his Shakespearean debut portraying Lysander in *Indy Shakes Midsummer Night's Dream*. Daniel, a native of Indianapolis, has worked with many theaters on many projects. Receiving his roots at a very young age from the Asante Children's Theatre, Daniel's love of the arts has continued to grow.



KIM EGAN

Hermia and Mustardseed

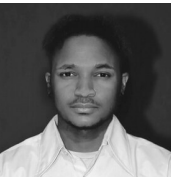
Kim Egan is excited to make her debut with Indy Shakes. She has worked with American Lives Theatre, Fonseca Theatre Company, Brooks and Bourke Theatre Company, and Monument Theatre Company. Thanks to the cast and crew and you (the audience) for supporting the return of local live theater. Love to Jeff for his support.



FRANKIE BOLDA †

Understudy

Frankie is a proud Indy Shakes Company Member; Indy Shakes Credits: *Hamlet & A Winter's Tale*. Local credits: ComedySportz, *Little Choo Choo* (IRT), *Puffs* (LAFF, Indiana Premiere), *Complete History of Comedy: Abridged* (Cardinal Stage), *Drankspeare* (EclecticPond), *Pride & Prejudice* (Civic), and others. She is an Indianapolis-based actor, improviser, musician, and AMDA NYC alum.



CHINYELU MWAAFRIKA

Understudy

Chinyelu Mwaafrika is an artist born and raised in Indianapolis. He is entering his third year at Butler University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Theatre. Aside from his work with Indy Shakes, he has previously done work with Butler Theatre, the Fonseca Theatre Company, and the Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette.

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**THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS:**

**WE ARE PROUD
TO PRESENT A
PRESENTATION ABOUT
THE HERERO OF NAMIBIA,
FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTH WEST AFRICA,
FROM THE GERMAN SUDWESTAFRIKCA,
**BETWEEN THE YEARS
1884-1915****

the DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

Directed by JCA Signature Series Artist &
Butler Theatre Alum Mikael Burke

By Jackie Sibblies Drury

OCTOBER 6-10, 2021

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Director's Notes

Welcome back to the theatre! This production feels like a homecoming for me for so many reasons—home to Indianapolis, home to this community of artists, and of course, back home to the theatre after a very long year away. And what a theatre we're coming home to! It is a true honor to be making art here in this beautiful and powerful space. As we thought of what play would best celebrate the opening of the Taggart Memorial Amphitheatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was the clear choice. Full of love and magic and silliness and exquisite poetry, it really is a celebration in itself, and I hope it feels that way to you. You may notice some of the choices and small changes we've made to bring this story to you in a way that begins to examine some qualities that are not worth celebrating in this play—or really any play that is over 400 years old. There are a number of things contained in this text that we now understand to be harmful or perpetuate stereotypes, so we have worked hard to make choices that create a world of *Midsummer* where all kinds of humans (and fairies!) will feel at home. Of course, the real miracle of Shakespeare is that it is chock full of beauty and truth about the human experience—all humans' experience. The universality and immediate relevance of this writing always takes my breath away, and it's my sincerest wish that everyone gets to have that revelation, no matter who they are.

Something about this play that really comes forward for me when I read it today is how different the Athenians are at the beginning of the play versus the end. Especially given what we have all been through in the last year—perhaps we collectively understand more than we ever have what it means to have an experience that changes our worldview forever. As the play progresses, the rigid nature of Athens gives way to the free impulses of Fairy World in the woods. By the end of the play, the lessons of the woods have begun to influence the unyielding rules of Athens. Theseus and Hippolyta have evolved their understanding of each other. Theseus makes the choice to change the rules so that the young lovers can marry who they like. We go on a journey together and come full circle a little wiser and a lot more compassionate. That is my hope every time we go to the theatre together, and that is my hope for us tonight as we gather again as a community after a very hard year. Let us celebrate that we have come through these particular woods, at least for now, and revel together in what beauty and magic we can find on the other side.

- Lauren Morris, Director



Production Team

LAUREN MORRIS *†

Director

Lauren is a native Hoosier now based in Atlanta. She is utterly thrilled to return to her home city to direct in this gorgeous new venue with Indy Shakes, where she is a company member. Much gratitude to this community and her wonderfully supportive family, husband Cole, and son Kellan.

RYAN ARTZBERGER *†

Assistant Director and Associate Producer

Ryan Artzberger is proud to be an Indy Shakes Company Member, having directed Hamlet and As You Like It, and acted in Twelfth Night, The Winter's Tale, The Tempest, The Merchant of Venice, Coriolanus, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Othello, and The Taming of the Shrew. Ryan has credits performing at Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Phoenix Theatre, and several other regional theatres. Ryan is a graduate of Ohio University and The Juilliard School.

S. BART SIMPSON †

Set and Props Designer

S. Bart Simpson is scenic designer, properties designer, and member of Indy Shakes. Bart has served as the properties designer for our last 6 summer shows. He adapted and directed two shows, MACBETH, and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, for Indy Shakes educational program in Indy Parks. After a career of 40 years in the performing Arts, including 20 years with the Blue Monkey Sideshow and 25 years designing and building the Children's Museum Guild's Haunted House, he looks forward to his retirement in the backwoods of Kentucky.

LAURA E. GLOVER †

Lighting Designer

Laura E. Glover is the Resident Lighting Designer for Dance Kaleidoscope and the Phoenix Theatre, as well as a company member of Indianapolis Shakespeare Company. She also has also designed lighting for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Time for Three, Indianapolis City Ballet, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Butler University, Wabash College, and the University of Indianapolis, where she taught for 18 years. She has worked internationally with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Rioult, Taylor 2, Todd Rosenlieb Dance, Ballets de San Juan and Workshop Theatre Group.

GUY CLARK †

Costume Designer

Guy Clark is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. He manages the Indiana Repertory Theatre Costume Shop. During his twenty-one year career in professional theatre, he has created costumes for many original Broadway productions, including The Phantom Of The Opera, Cats, and The Lion King. In 2007, Aretha Franklin commissioned him to design and build a dress for her performance at that year's Grammy Awards ceremony, and the following year, he created the two gowns she wore to President Obama's Inaugural Balls. At the IRT he has designed costumes for And Then They Came for Me, An Iliad, The House That Jack Built, God of Carnage, I Love to Eat, Fire in the Garden, and Mary's Wedding, as well as The Mountaintop.

TODD MACK REISCHMAN †

Sound Designer and Composer

Todd first worked with Indy Shakes (then known as HART) on A Dark, Dark House in 2009. Since 2013 he has designed sound and composed music for all of their mainstage productions—and performed some of those scores live. During the rest of the year Todd can be found at the IRT where he has been resident sound designer/head of audio since 2002. He also plays music for a variety of projects around town, from rock bands to musicals to Beatles concerts. Todd runs LostSound, a small project recording studio and pro audio company.

NATHAN GARRISON *†

Stage Manager

Nathan is proud to be a Company member with Indy Shakes & grateful for the return of live theatre. He is also the Production Stage Manager at Indiana Repertory Theatre, where he has worked for 25 years.

MATT SHIVES

Assistant Stage Manager

Matt is thrilled to be making his Indianapolis Shakespeare Company debut! Previously, Matt worked backstage on over 30 productions spanning 7 seasons at the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Around Indianapolis, Matt has also worked with Dance Kaleidoscope, Phoenix Theatre, and Summer Stock Stage. Matt was a member of the production team for the Pepsi Super Bowl LIV Halftime Show featuring Jennifer Lopez and Shakira and has worked other NFL events featuring artists that include Madonna, Meghan Trainor, Demi Lovato, Yolanda Adams, and Meek Mill. For television, Matt has worked on The Voice (NBC), First Responders Live (Fox), Encore! (Disney+), Dear...(AppleTV+), Golden: The Journey of USA's Elite Gymnasts (Peacock), Tough as Nails (NBC), Predator at Large (ID), and 90 Day Fiancé (TLC). Matt holds a BA in Theatre Design and Production from Purdue University and lives in Indianapolis with his wife and son.

ROB JOHANSEN *†

Fight Choreographer

Rob Johansen has been a professional fight choreographer for 23 years, and his first fight gig was actually a production of Midsummer! While Rob has choreographed plenty of "serious" fights on stage, his favorites are comic fights. Along with several productions of Midsummer, Rob's favorite choreography has been The 39 Steps and The Game's Afoot at IRT. "It's more fun when the audience knows a fight's going to end with a laugh and not a death!" Rob was lucky enough to act in A Winter's Tale at Indy Shakes a few years ago, under the brilliant direction of Robert Neal. And Rob is extremely proud to be a company member of Indy Shakes, along with his lovely and funny wife, Jen.

MARIEL GREENLEE †

Choreographer

Mariel Greenlee is a freelance dancer/choreographer/teaching artist. She spent 14 years dancing professionally with Dance Kaleidoscope. She teaches classes locally in ballet, modern, musical theater and stage movement. She has set work for The Phoenix Theater, Indiana Repertory Theater, Dance Kaleidoscope, Phoenix Rising Dance Co., Indy Summer Stock Stage, Indianapolis Ballet, Marian U, Indy Shakes, Pittsburgh Public Theater and others. Mariel is a 2021 fellow for the OnRamp Program with the Indiana Arts Council.

NOLAN BROKAMP †

Production Manager

Nolan Brokamp (Production Manager) Is excited to see the new amphitheatre at Riverside Park come to fruition. He has worked at Indy Shakes for several seasons and loves working with these amazing artists and humans. During the year he is the Technical Theater Director and Teacher at Park Tudor School.

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Production Team Continued

B SUTHERLIN †

Technical Director

B is a local Carpenter/Artist/Craftsman and he could not be more thrilled to be a part of Indy Shake's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. B also works around the country with various scenic arts companies as well as his own company building sets and scenery for stage, photography and films. As a scenic carpenter B has worked on sets in most of the theaters around Indianapolis and for the last twenty years has been an intricate part of the design and construction of the Haunted House at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. B is also a performing member of The Blue Monkey Sideshow, since 1999.

JEFF MOUNTJOY †

Lead Sound Engineer

Jeff is Production Coordinator for the Arts Council of Indianapolis where you have probably seen him at many Artsgarden events. Jeff is an Indy Shakes Company Member and is looking forward to working in the new Taggart Memorial Amphitheatre with *MIDSUMMER*.

KEVIN CARAHER †

Sound Engineer

Kevin has been a Sound Assistant with the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company since 2014, and has Stage Managed the 2019 touring production of *Much Ado About Nothing* for the Company. Kevin manages his own production group, Stage Door Productions, which had a successful run of *Bill W and Dr. Bob* at The District Theatre in February of 2020. Stage Door Productions is looking forward to producing the heralded and powerful play *People Place and Things* at The District Theatre in June of 2022. Kevin holds a degree in Theatre and Drama from Marian University, and has been active doing theatre around the Central Indiana area since 1988. He wishes to thank his wonderful wife Katy for all her love and support!

BRITTANY HAYTH †

Sound Engineer

Brittany has been with Indy Shakes since 2018 and is always thrilled to spend summertime with this talented company. She's worked on the main stage productions as well as with the 2019 Traveling Troupe. During the rest of the year Brittany can be found at the IRT working as the lead audio engineer under Todd Reischman. Brit has done work for Footlite Musicals, IndyFringe Theatre, and the Indianapolis Artsgarden. Her long-standing gig has been with her alma mater Lawrence Central High School as their sound designer/engineer since 2013.

FINNEGAN CHU

Costume Assistant

Finnegan is a rising BFA 4 Costume Designer attending The Theatre School at DePaul University. She is so excited to be working with Indy Shakes again after being a costume intern for *Hamlet* in 2019! While they live in Chicago, she originally hails from Fishers, IN. They are currently designing *Peerless* in the Fall at TTS, and will be designing *Much Ado About Nothing* in Spring 2022.

CLAIRE WILCHER *†

Intimacy Director

Claire is thrilled to be back with Indy Shakes, having appeared in the company's production as *As You Like It* as Phebe. Since May, Claire has completed her MFA in Acting from Michigan State University, joined Indy Shakes as a company member, became a member of AEA, and got married! Whoa!

JONATHAN POWER

Carpenter

Jonathan has volunteered his expertise in construction for several years for Indy Shakes. An avid Shakespeare fan, Jonathan looks forward to assisting Indy Shakes with our load-in's and strikes each year.

GEORGE BARTLEY

Theatrical Interpreter for the Deaf

George Bartley lives in Indianapolis and has previously interpreted 25 Shakespearean plays. Midsummer marks the third play he has interpreted for IndyShakes. George has a BA in Interpreting for the Deaf and a Masters from the American Shakespeare Center.

† INDY SHAKES Company Member

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League Of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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2021 Interns

JOHN CHUNG

Sound Intern

John is a sound engineer and editor from Indianapolis. He received his BA in Sound for the Performing Arts from Purdue University and is currently a sound engineer for the STAR Bank Performing Arts Center in Zionsville. He is honored to join Indy Shakes for A Midsummer Night's Dream.

REBEKAH RADLOFF

Lighting Intern

Rebekah is a recent graduate of Marian University with degrees in Theatre and Communication. She has been a part of many Marian shows during her time there. Her main focus is stage management but she is excited to work with lights this year. She has worked with Indy Shakes previously on Hamlet and her other professional credits include Be Here Now, Helen, and Where We Stand with Summit Theatre Performance. She is very excited to be working with Indy Shakes again this year.

NIAMH LANGFITT

Costume Intern

Niamh is excited to join the summer 2021 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in her home city of Indianapolis. She graduated from Indiana University's Fashion Design program in 2019 and has since worked as a costume and wardrobe assistant for the Indianapolis Ballet on various productions, as well as a stitcher for Theatre at the Center's production of White Christmas. In her spare time Niamh loves to design knitwear, read, write, and talk to her cat.

ELSIE MCNULTY

Costume Intern

Elsie is a recent graduate of University High School entering her freshman year at New York University Tisch School of the Arts, where she will major in Performance studies. Recent past productions include Grease, Clue!, and 9 to 5. Elsie has also been seen onstage performing with Q Artistry, Wisdom Tooth, and NoExit Performance.

JACOB HARRIS

Costume Intern

Jacob Harris is 19 years old and a sophomore at Marian University where he is a theatre major. He plans to act and direct his own plays and movies. Jacob performed in Newsies his junior year where he helped create his own costume and props. He also assisted with tech and lights for 45 Play for 45 Presidents his senior year.

EMMA LITTAU

Stage Management Intern

Emma is a Junior at Butler University majoring in Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Management. She has a second major in Human Communication & Organizational Leadership and a minor in Business. Emma has many stage management credits with Butler Theatre, most recently The Living. She works as a Shop Assistant in the Butler Theatre Scene Shop and on the Production Team at the Butler Arts & Events Center. Emma is thrilled to be working with Indy Shakes this summer and she can't wait to see where this opportunity leads her.

COREY CAGLE

Stage Management Intern

Corey Cagle is a senior at the University of Evansville, majoring in Stage Management for Theatre and minoring in Sociology. Corey has most recently stage managed zoom productions Richard II and Hotel California at UE and is looking forward to working in live theatre again.

2021 Interns Continued

AUDREY MAUE

Set & Props Construction Intern

Audrey Maue is very excited to join Indy Shakes for the Summer 2021 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream as a set and props construction intern. She is an undergraduate student currently attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, studying entertainment engineering & design with a theatre minor. Her stage work began with various high school productions, such as In the Heights and Once on this Island, where she worked in props design and construction, lighting design, and stage management. Other theatre credits include a production intern for Indiana University Summer Theatre's production of Little Shop of Horrors and a stage manager for UNLV Second Stage's Immortal Fear.

GABE ESCOTO

Marketing & PR Intern

Gabe Escoto is a senior at Tarleton State University where they are majoring in a BFA in theatre. You can find them on the stage performing the night away or painting a face or doing design work all around. He will be graduating this upcoming December.

SOPHIA KALSCHEUR

Community Engagement Intern

Sophia has been in theatre since she was twelve years old. She volunteered at Conner Prairie History Museum for several years and was involved in small community theatres around the Indianapolis area. She is currently a senior at Marian University studying theatre and history with aspirations to direct after college.

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Who was Thomas Taggart?

a brief biography by James P. Fadely

Thomas Taggart was a prominent political and business figure of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Indianapolis and across the state of Indiana. Born on November 17, 1856, in the village of Amyvale in County Monaghan, Ireland, Taggart was five years old when his family immigrated to the United States in 1861. They moved to Xenia, Ohio, where he left school at age fifteen and went to work in the local railroad depot restaurant. Sensing he had talent and was a hard worker, the company transferred him at age eighteen to the depot restaurant in Garrett, Indiana, north of Ft. Wayne. He became a U.S. citizen and then was sent to manage the dining hall at Indianapolis' Union Depot (predecessor to Union Station) when he was twenty-one. He married Eva



Photo sourced from historicindianapolis.com

D. Bryant, with whom he had six children. Taggart, with an ever-present smile, was a charismatic personality who could talk to anyone about anything. He was now in the center of the city and state political scene. Indianapolis Democrats, long out of power after the Civil War, convinced him to run for Marion County auditor, a lucrative position in those days, and he won and served in that role from 1886-1894. With a knack for organization, he was named Marion County Democratic chairman in 1888 and carried the county for Democrat Grover

Cleveland against hometown favorite Benjamin Harrison. Elected state Democratic chairman in 1890, he carried Indiana for Cleveland over Harrison in the latter's re-election bid in 1892. This put Taggart on the national political map.



Photo sourced from digitalcommonwealth.org

Taggart went on to be elected mayor of Indianapolis in 1895, 1897, and 1899. His major achievement as mayor was the purchase of 953 acres of land along the White River, an area the size of Central Park in New York City, for park land. He created the parks department and thus deserves the moniker “Father of Indianapolis Parks.” He served as the Indiana representative on the Democratic National Committee from 1900 to 1916 and rose to chairman of the DNC 1904-08. He became an influential player in national Democratic politics, especially given that Indiana was a swing state with fifteen electoral votes.

In business, Taggart had owned a couple of hotels in downtown Indianapolis, but in 1901, as he was wrapping up his last term as mayor, he purchased the French Lick Springs Hotel in Orange County in southern Indiana. He transformed the hotel into an internationally known spa and resort. The Taggart family would own the hotel until 1946.

Taggart was appointed to a United States Senate seat in 1916 upon the death of Senator Benjamin Shively, serving for eight months before losing the election in the fall that year to retain the seat. He did not retire but returned to

his business and political affairs. The state party persuaded him to run for the Senate seat again in 1920, but he lost in that year’s Republican landslide.

The Taggarts lived at 1331 North Delaware Street in the Old Northside of Indianapolis, the penthouse apartment of the French Lick Springs Hotel, and their summer estate in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, where their next-door neighbors were Joe and Rose Kennedy and children.

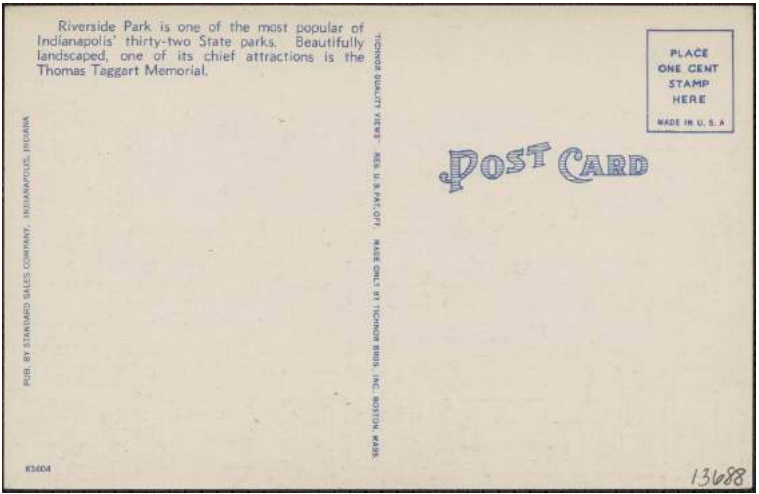


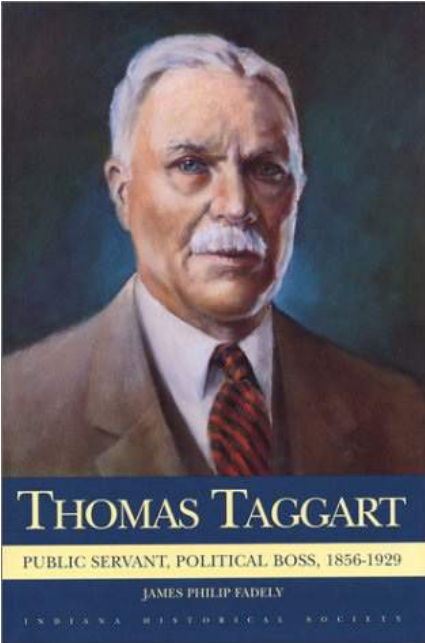
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Continued on Next Page

Thomas Taggart Continued...

a brief biography by James P. Fadely

Taggart died on March 6, 1929, and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery. Two years later, in 1931, the city and friends built this neoclassical colonnade memorial on the site of his signature achievement as mayor and named the park Thomas Taggart Riverside Park. Taggart's bipartisanship was echoed in the words of Republican Governor Harry G. Leslie, who stated at the memorial's dedication, "We can hope that this arch will inspire your children and mine to emulate the beautiful deeds that made Mr. Taggart famous."



Want to learn more about Thomas Taggart?

Get your own copy of ***Thomas Taggart: Public Servant, Political Boss, 1856-1929*** by James P. Fadely through the Indiana Historical Society or online at Amazon.com

*James P. Fadely, a sixth-generation Hoosier, is the author of **Thomas Taggart: Public Servant, Political Boss, 1856-1929**, published by the Indiana Historical Society. Fadely took his B.A. in history at Hanover College and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Indiana University Bloomington. He has been a teacher and administrator at five independent college preparatory schools and has taught as a lecturer at IUPUI, Butler University, and the University of Indianapolis. He has served on many nonprofit boards, including as board chairman of Indiana Landmarks, which partnered with the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company, the Indy Parks Foundation, and Indy Parks to receive funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to restore the Thomas Taggart Memorial and build the amphitheatre. He currently serves on the board of trustees of Hanover College. He and his family live in Indianapolis.*

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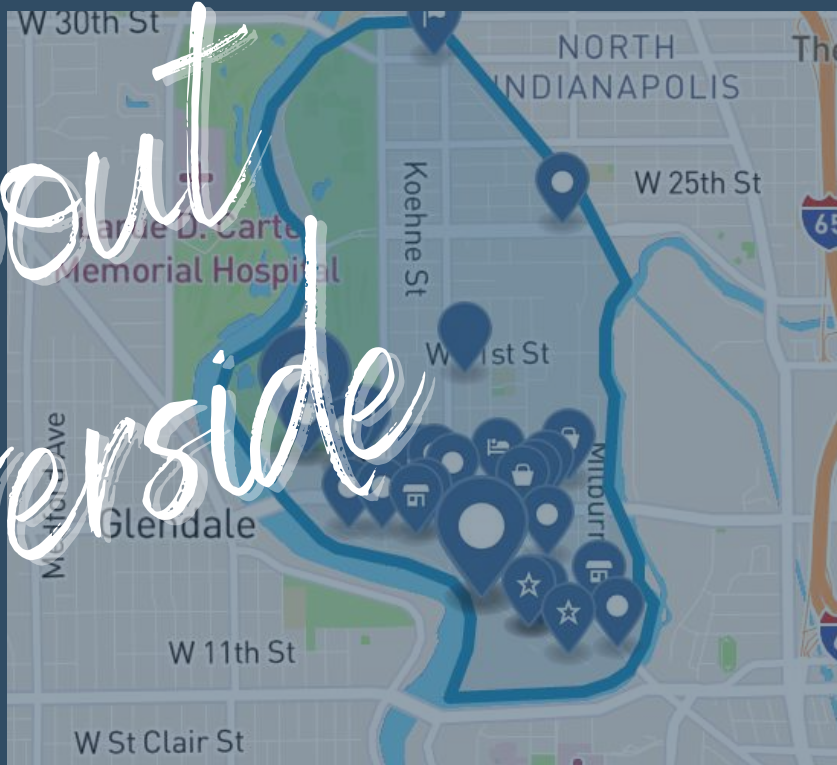


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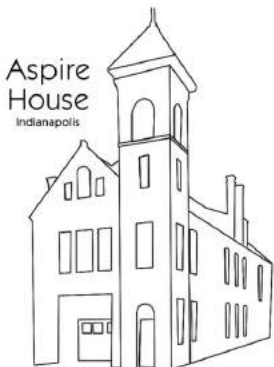
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