



**ITHACA SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**


**20TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON**

The  
**Two Gentlemen  
of Verona**



**JULY 20, 22, 24, 28, 30**

**ANTONY  
AND  
CLEOPATRA**



**JULY 21, 23, 27, 29, 31**

**ALL SHOWS AT 6 PM  
AT ROBERT H. TREMAN STATE PARK**

**[ITHACASHAKESPEARE.ORG](http://ITHACASHAKESPEARE.ORG)**

## 20 Years of Outdoor Shakespeare

Welcome to the twentieth anniversary of our outdoor Shakespeare performances!

It's hard to believe it's been twenty years since we started doing this. Many things have changed during that time. To take just one example, we've performed at nine different outdoor locations over the years: three different sites in the Cornell Botanic Gardens, Allan H. Treman State Marine Park, Robert H. Treman State Park, Stewart Park (at the Ithaca Festival), the Farmer's Market, downtown on the Commons, and at the Seward House museum in Auburn.

At the same time, many things have stayed the same. I was recently reminded of this when looking at a set of principles we wrote down more than a decade ago, which are still the basis for our work on Shakespeare:

Our approach to Shakespeare is built on the core principles of: dynamic ensemble acting; close attention to the details of language, character, and relationship; a strong component of physical action; staging that forges a historical bond with the practices of Shakespeare's own theatres; and performances that immerse the audience in the action and emotion of the play.

Many, many thanks to all the performers, designers, stage managers, choreographers, and crew members who have contributed to these productions; to all the institutions that have funded us; to all the individuals who donated money, time, or both to help us succeed; and most of all, of course, to all of you for coming to see our shows for 20 years. We are deeply grateful that you've chosen to spend so many evenings with us.

– Stephen Ponton, Artistic Director

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Our work is made possible by financial support from:

**The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature**

**The Tompkins County Tourism Program**

**Special Thanks:** Dennis and Libby Ponton, Amina Omari, Michael Pinnisi, Barny Cole/Calf Audio, Buffalo Street Books, Tompkins County Public Library, Bill Snyder of WSKG

# The Two Gentlemen of Verona

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Proteus.....	Dexter Conlin
Valentine.....	Jack Hopkins
Speed.....	Jorin Clougherty
Julia.....	Carolyn Best
Lucetta.....	Miranda Bianchi
Antonia.....	Nancy Kane
Pantino.....	Ross Haarstad
Sylvia.....	Joan Raube-Wilson
Lance.....	Mike Chen
Crab.....	Sawyer
Thurio.....	Bob Arco
Duke.....	Dave Dietrich
Outlaws.....	Raia Gutman, Nancy Kane, Ross Haarstad, Mike Chen
Hostess.....	Miranda Bianchi
Sir Eglamour.....	Ross Haarstad

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....	Chris Nickerson
Stage Manager.....	Ivy Stevens
Scenic Design.....	Thomas Jenkeleit
Costume Design.....	Elizabeth Kitney
Fight Directors.....	Jacob Lehman and Jennifer Wholey Lehman
Scenic Artist.....	Anna Fredrick
Set Construction Supervisor.....	Dave Dietrich
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Christine Fanourakis

For cast and crew biographies, please visit:  
<http://ithacashakespeare.org/prod/202207/bios.php>

## Special thanks to:

Miranda Bianchi for choosing the pre-show and intermission music

Dexter Conlin for writing the music for Proteus' Poem and arranging Roger Quilter's music for 'Who is Sylvia'

Actors who did double duty as musicians and singers:

Miranda Bianchi, Joan Raube-Wilson, Nancy Kane, Dave Dietrich, Jorin Clougherty, and Dexter Conlin

Louise Montgomery for Sawyer's performance as Crab the dog

Ben Stevens and Jamie Dye for ASM assistance

Music for sound cues provided by [Tunetank.com](http://Tunetank.com).

## Director's Note:

Welcome to Ithaca Shakespeare's first production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. This is one of Shakespeare's very early plays. In fact it may be the first play of his to be performed.

You'll find many devices and character nuances that Shakespeare will go on to use in many of his later plays. As Valentine says 'What light is light if Sylvia be not by' we hear stirrings of Romeo. And, as I see it, in Proteus, Valentine's devious 'best friend' we see an embryonic Iago. With a few changes this might be a tragedy and not a comedy.

The more I worked on this script I also noticed how much writing is important to so many developments. There are letters delivered to the wrong person, love letters written to oneself, and love sonnets written to win a lady's heart.

We hope you enjoy this early effort by The Bard.

– Chris Nickerson

# ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

## CAST

Mark Antony..... Andrew Ryan Perry  
Cleopatra..... Holly Adams  
Octavius Caesar..... Will DeVary

### *Antony's Followers:*

Enobarbus..... Ross Haarstad  
Scarus..... Lloyd Harris  
Eros..... Lauren Howe  
Soothsayer..... Beth Harris

### *Octavius's Followers:*

Maecenas..... Nancy Kane  
Agrippa..... Dave Dietrich  
Dolabella..... Louise Montgomery  
Thidias..... G. Tristan Berlet

### *Cleopatra's Court:*

Charmian..... Miranda Bianchi  
Iras..... Carolyn Best  
Alexis..... Judith Andrew

### *Others:*

Lepidus, *the third member of the Triumvirate*..... Louise Montgomery  
Octavia, *Caesar's sister*..... Joan Raube-Wilson  
Pompey, *younger son of Pompey the Great*..... Gwen Livesay  
Menas, *a pirate fighting for Pompey*..... Ivony Whiteley  
Menecrates, *a pirate fighting for Pompey*..... Casey Silidjian  
Messenger..... Lloyd Harris  
A poor Egyptian..... Dave Dietrich  
Soldiers..... Casey Silidjian, Beth Harris, Joan Raube-Wilson

### **Special thanks to:**

Amelia Rosenthal, Carrie Lampman, Lauren Cowdery, and Kris Park  
for costume assistance

Ben Ramirez Reed of Frost & Ember Creations for leatherwork

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....	Stephen Ponton
Stage Manager.....	Ivy Stevens
Scenic Design.....	Thomas Jenkeleit
Costume Design.....	Elizabeth Kitney
Fight Directors.....	Jacob Lehman and Jennifer Wholey Lehman
Scenic Artist.....	Anna Fredrick
Set Construction Supervisor.....	Dave Dietrich
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Christine Fanourakis
Assistant Directors.....	Beth Harris, Samantha Sloma
Fight Captain.....	Casey Silidjian
Cleopatra hair and makeup design.....	Ivony Whiteley

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### Director's Note:

I think of *Antony and Cleopatra* as the continuation and conclusion of a two-part story begun in *Julius Caesar*, which we performed in June. Seen this way, the overall arc of the whole story concerns Rome's transition from a Republic, governed by many, to an empire, ruled by one man.

While *Julius Caesar* focused on the varying motivations and uses of political violence driving this transition, *Antony and Cleopatra* focuses more on the personalities of its protagonists. Antony and Cleopatra are larger than life, emotional, impulsive, highly volatile figures who challenge and satisfy each other in ways that others simply can't. Antony is torn between two worlds, between what he wants to do and what he thinks he should do. Cleopatra starts out like a teenager in love, a woman of "infinite variety," but she undergoes much more of a maturation process shaped by the events of the play. By the end, she has become "marble-constant," focused on "immortal longings," and seems to be in the process of transcending the mortal world. Octavius has his emotional moments but on the whole is more coldly rational and remorseless in his march toward power...which is probably why he wins.

It's been fascinating to return to this play 20 years after first directing it as our very first outdoor production in 2003. The play, the characters, and the process all seem very different to me now...but I hope this production, like that first one, also leads to 20 more years of outdoor Shakespeare in Ithaca!



**for 20 years of outdoor Shakespeare!**

**We are truly grateful for everyone who has come to see our shows over the past two decades.**

**We'd like to invite you all to visit this page, where you can watch a short video with highlights from ALL of our previous outdoor shows...**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/20-for-20-years-of-outdoor-shakespeare>

**...and help us launch the next 20 years of outdoor Shakespeare in Ithaca!**