



**ITHACA SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**



**This production made possible in part by financial support from:**



**Council on  
the Arts**

## Summer 2021: Your Yorick Awards

Welcome to Ithaca Shakespeare's 19<sup>th</sup> year of producing summer Shakespeare!

Obviously, we're presenting this summer's production online again, but we're pleased to be able to incorporate some elements of live, in-person, outdoor theatre this year.

We have to start planning our summer productions well in advance, and in late 2020 and early 2021, we simply had no idea what was going to be possible or practical this summer. We didn't know when or if vaccines would be widely available, we didn't know what restrictions or guidelines might be in place, we didn't know if actors would be able to rehearse together or audiences would be able to gather together safely...

Our solution was to go with a flexible, modular approach to this production – a compilation of scenes from different plays, with several directors working with small groups of actors and technical personnel, mostly independently of one another. We considered several different possibilities for organizing these scenes, but ultimately the “awards show” format seemed like the most fun – and it gave us a good reason to reach out to you and find out what you would like to see! The categories and the top nominees in each category were all chosen by our audience. And of course, you get to choose the winners too!

This modular approach to the show meant we could incorporate a lot of variety in terms of how each team chose to approach their scene:

- Some scenes were done over Zoom, but made a point of playing with the expectations that go along with participating in a Zoom call...
- Other scenes were filmed and edited to look like a movie or a reality TV show...
- And some scenes tried to capture the experience of a live, outdoor theatre performance as much as possible.

There was also a lot of variety in the personnel involved in these scenes:

- 5 different directors and multiple videographers and editors worked on different scenes.
- Some personnel participated virtually from Chicago, Philadelphia, and New Jersey...
- While others worked together in person in Ithaca.
- One scene features two young actors making their first appearance with Ithaca Shakespeare...
- While others feature ISC veterans who have been with us for decades.

Exploring all these different options for performing Shakespeare in the age of COVID was a big part of what we wanted to do with this production. There will be some rough edges here and there in the final product, but the same is true of any live theatre performance as well. Regardless, we hope you enjoy the variety as much as we have! And of course, we can all hope to be back doing live, in-person, outdoor Shakespeare next summer.

In the meantime, you can [click here to vote for the winners](#) or visit <http://ithacashakespeare.org/vote.php>.

Thank you for choosing to spend some time with us, and we hope you enjoy the show!

– Stephen Ponton, Artistic Director

# THE BEST OF SHAKESPEARE: THE 2021 YORICK AWARDS

**AUGUST 20 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2021**

**Stage Manager**

Ivy Stevens

**Production Editor**

Robert Chi

**Host Script** written by AJ Sage

Host.....Jess Otterbine

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## *“Benedick Tricked” and Beatrice*

**Director**

AJ Sage

**Director of Photography**

Jeff Hodges

**Sound Recording**

Norm Scott

**Editing**

Jeff Hodges

Benedick.....Michael Donato

Beatrice.....Judith Andrew

Don Pedro.....AJ Sage

Claudio.....Lucy Purnine

Leonato.....Dave Dietrich

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## *Lady Macbeth*

**Directed by Emily Jimenez**

**Edited by Robert Chi**

Lady Macbeth.....Cameron Park-Miller

Macbeth.....Seth Koproski

Messenger.....Samantha Sloma

# *Rosalind and Orlando*

Directed by Miranda Bianchi  
Video editing by Miranda Bianchi  
Sound editing by Robert Chi

Rosalind.....Raia Gutman  
Orlando.....Jorin Clougherty

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# *Dogberry and the Watch*

Directed by Beth Harris  
Edited by Robert Chi

Dogberry.....Louise Montgomery  
Verges.....Samantha Sloma  
First Watch.....Shauna Cheatham  
George Seacoal of the Watch.....Karen Koyanagi  
Hugh Oatcake of the Watch.....Dave Dietrich  
Conrade.....Maya Ortiz  
Borachio.....Lucy Purnine  
Voice of the Sexton.....Jeffrey Dunston

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# *All's Well That Ends Well*

Directed by Beth Harris  
Edited by Robert Chi

All roles played by Nancy Kane

*In order of appearance:*

Countess  
Helena  
King of France  
Bertram (Count Rousillon)  
Parolles  
Soldier  
Diana

# Shakespeare's Greatest Villains

Directed by Stephen Ponton  
Edited by Robert Chi

Iago.....Erik Lucas  
Aaron.....Jeffrey Dunston  
Edmund.....Jorin Clougherty  
Tamora.....Melanie Uhler  
Richard III.....Seth Koproski

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## The Mechanicals' "Pyramus and Thisbe"

Directed by Miranda Bianchi  
Edited by Robert Chi and Stephen Ponton

Special thanks to Brien Bianchi for his clown workshops with the cast

Peter Quince.....Jorin Clougherty  
Nick Bottom/Pyramus.....Nancy Kane  
Flute/Thisby.....Samantha Sloma  
Snout/Wall.....Louise Montgomery  
Starveling/Moonshine.....Judith Andrew  
Snug/Lion.....Dave Dietrich

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## ABOUT THE SHOW

We asked our audience to choose the categories and nominees for this all-Shakespeare awards show. The top categories and nominees chosen by our audience were:

### The Funniest Scene in Shakespeare

1. **Benedick Tricked (Act 2, Scene 3 from *Much Ado About Nothing*)**. Beatrice and Benedick have been engaged in a "merry war" for years. Both of them swear they cannot abide the other, and that they have no interest in ever getting married -- which prompts Don Pedro, Benedick's friend and prince, to decide that he will "undertake one of Hercules' labors, which is to bring Signior Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection" with each other. So Don Pedro recruits Benedick's friend Claudio and Beatrice's uncle Leonato to help him execute his plan to make Benedick fall in love with Beatrice...

2. **Dogberry and the Watch (Act 3, Scene 3 and Act 4, Scene 2 from *Much Ado About Nothing*).** While Don Pedro is plotting to make Benedick and Beatrice fall in love, his brother Don John is plotting to break up the romance between Benedick's friend Claudio and Beatrice's cousin Hero. Don John's plan might have worked...if it weren't for Constable Dogberry and the watch. In these scenes, Dogberry gathers the members of the watch, gives them their instructions, and leaves them to their work of guarding the good people of Messina at night. Then, after they have captured one of Don John's henchmen, Dogberry interrogates the suspect. Our performance of these scenes this summer is being done through Zoom -- but with a playful twist on what normally can and can't be done in a Zoom setting.
3. **The Mechanicals perform "Pyramus and Thisbe" (act 1, scene 2 and act 5, scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*).** Nick Bottom and his merry band of amateur actors have prepared a play to be performed before the Duke and Duchess of Athens on their wedding night. Against all odds, their play is chosen as the royal entertainment for that night -- and the hilarious chaos ensues, punctuated with plenty of sarcastic commentary from the sophisticated onstage audience of noble newlyweds. Bottom and the others give it their all. What they lack in talent, skill, and experience, they more than make up for with endless enthusiasm...and lots of props. So many props. In this performance, we're going to show you parts of two scenes: the initial assignment of roles to the various actors, and the final performance. We've eliminated the other characters watching the play in the final scene, so Bottom and his crew will be performing just for you!

### Shakespeare's Greatest Female Character

Shakespeare is known for creating great female characters, and this category lets us highlight three of them:

1. **Lady Macbeth.** The director has chosen the letter scene, Act 1, Scene 5 of *Macbeth*, to represent Lady M. This is the scene where she first learns that the witches have prophesied that Macbeth would become king. She calls on dark spirits to help her do what must be done, and then takes charge when her husband arrives home...
2. **Rosalind from *As You Like It*.** We'll be using the "love is merely a madness" scene (Act 3, Scene 2) to represent Rosalind. Rosalind, having been forced to flee into the forest while disguised as a young man, encounters Orlando there. The first time they met, at the court, sparks flew; now she has the opportunity to test out his affections for her -- but has to do it without revealing who she really is...
3. **Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing*.** Beatrice will be represented by a section of Act 4, Scene 1 from the play, in which she and Benedick express their feelings for one another -- and she tasks Benedick with helping her avenge the wrong done to her cousin Hero.

### The Play We've Never Done That You Most Want To See Us Do: *All's Well That Ends Well*

*All's Well That Ends Well* is often classified as a romantic comedy, but there's something very unusual about it. In a typical romantic comedy -- *Much Ado About Nothing*, for example -- a couple falls in love, and something prevents them from getting married until the end. In *All's Well*, the opposite happens: the primary couple, Helena and Bertram, get married early on -- but something prevents them from falling in love until the end. And even then, the romance is a little...problematic. (Which is why a lot of scholars prefer to think of *All's Well* as one of Shakespeare's "problem plays.") This category was unique in that it involved picking a whole play, rather than a single scene or character. So we decided that's what we needed to give you -- a high-speed, super-condensed preview of the whole play!

### Shakespeare's Greatest Villain

If you've seen or read a fair amount of Shakespeare, you've probably noticed certain similarities between the villains in different plays. They often speak directly to the audience, explaining their plots and bragging about how brilliant and devious they are. It's almost as if they're trying to prove to the audience what a great villain they are. In this scene, that's exactly what they're doing! We've taken ALL the top nominees and put

them together into one scene -- a direct, head-to-head competition to see who can out-villain the rest! The host of the awards show will moderate, as each of the nominees uses the words Shakespeare gave them to convince you -- and each other -- that they deserve to be crowned Shakespeare's Greatest Villain. The nominees are:

- Iago from *Othello*
- Richard III
- Edmund from *King Lear*
- Tamora and Aaron from *Titus Andronicus*

The 2021 Yorick Awards are here! Watch the scenes, then vote for the winners!

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## **SOUND CREDITS:**

### **Opening Music**

"The Award Winning Show" by 2BStudio

### **Closing Music**

Sonatina No 2 in F Major (allegro) by Joel Cummins  
Courtesy of YouTube Audio Library

### **Sounds for *The Watch***

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### **Sounds for *All's Well***

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