APRIL 6-11, 2025

Gunston Middle School (Arts Center)

ÝNETIC HEATER

synetictheater.org @ f 🕬 🏧

TEENHAMLET

SYNTHESIS

Combining distinct elements to form a whole KINETIC Pertaining to or imparting motion: active, dynamic, energetic

SYNETIC

a dynamic synthesis of the arts

MISSION

Synetic creates unforgettable visceral narrative experiences for every audience by blending visual techniques and movement from around the world and training multidisciplinary artists of all ages.



Kaitlyn Shifflett DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

> Sam Linc STAGE MANAGER

Staci Tomblin ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Amy Kellett PRODUCTION MANAGER

Donna Reinhold ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

. .

Juan Juarez CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chris Muska CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER

Christion Jones LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Joshua Cole Lucas TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

> Lorna Ryan LX BOARD OP

Channing Tucker

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Adam Parker

AUDIO ENGINEER

Koki Lortkipanidze sound coordinator

Special thank you to Teen Company Alumni, Natan Maël-Gray and Stella Bunch.

This production runs approximately 90 minutes.

This project was supported, in part, by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

This program is supported in part by Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.





CAST SHOWS #1 & #4

Yasmine Weinberger

HAMLET

Emma Ruckh

OPHELIA

Kaz Cayere CLAUDIUS

Ellie Davenport GERTRUDE

Nora Beekman

LAERTES

Alma Lora-Rodriguez POLONIUS

Miranda Naser-Kunz PLAYER QUEEN / JESTER

Ava Krasner PLAYER KING / JESTER

Matthew Willis

ENSEMBLE / GRAVEDIGGER

Ada O'Connor ENSEMBLE / PRIEST / HORACIO

Clay Cates ENSEMBLE / ROSENCRANTZ

Sebastian Neff ENSEMBLE / GUILDENSTERN

Matilda "Moss" O'Sullivan ENSEMBLE / FORTINBRAS

> Jackie Stewart GHOST

ENSEMBLE Carissa Duffy, Claudia Cutting Kip Rockmann CAST SHOWS #2 & #3

Yasmine Weinberger

HAMLET

Carissa Duffy

OPHELIA

Claudia Cutting CLAUDIUS

Jackie Stewart GERTRUDE

Nora Beekman

Kip Rockmann POLONIUS

Miranda Naser-Kunz PLAYER QUEEN / JESTER

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Matilda "Moss" O'Sullivan ENSEMBLE / FORTINBRAS

> Ellie Davenport GHOST

ENSEMBLE Emma Ruckh, Kaz Cayere Alma Lora-Rodriguez It is with great pride and excitement to direct this year's teen company production of *Hamlet... the Rest is Silence*. Our teens present this physical spectacle of Shakespeare's masterpiece in a way no other Synetic Hamlet cast has done before - this is our first-ever teen company production outside of our Crystal City home and our first-ever female Hamlet!

It has been such a privilege to work with these kids and invite other amazing teen-alum mainstage artists into our rehearsal process. As a Teen Company alum myself; I understand the commitment these students pledge through training, rehearsals, and performances... so in our curtain call we not only applaud their performance, we celebrate their months (and for some; years!) of training and hard work.

I want to highlight the work of the MainStage teen alums who mentored students, the artistic & tech team for mounting this show with care, and my stage manager for being so "on it"!

Lastly, I want to personally thank Ira. When I auditioned for teen company 6 years ago I had no idea just how much this program would change the trajectory of my life... from graduating teens, to stage managing teens, artistic assisting, to now directing- I want to emphasize the teacher/director/inspiration that made me the artist I am today. From the bottom of my heart; Ira, Vato, and those behind the scenes- thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity.



Kaitlyn Shifflett DIRECTOR At Elsinore Castle, Prince Hamlet of Denmark is deeply affected by the sudden death of his father the king and the hasty remarriage of his mother, Queen Gertrude, to his uncle, Claudius, who has now become king. Hamlet encounters the Ghost of his father, who reveals that Claudius murdered him to gain the crown. The Ghost demands that Hamlet avenge his death.

Hamlet grapples with the weight of this revelation, but his philosophical nature causes him to delay taking action. He struggles with doubt, anger, and existential questions about life, death, and morality. In the meantime, Hamlet's erratic behavior alienates those around him, especially Ophelia and her father Polonius, the prime minister, who believes Hamlet is being driven mad by love for his daughter. Claudius and Polonius spy on Hamlet and Ophelia to confirm this, but Claudius only learns of Hamlet's suspicions of him.

To prove Claudius's guilt, Hamlet stages a play that mirrors the murder of his father. With Claudius' guilty reaction, Hamlet is convinced of his uncle's treachery but continues to waver, torn between action and inaction While Polonius spies on Hamlet and Gertrude after the play, Hamlet mistakenly kills Polonius, believing he is Claudius. Hamlet is banished from Denmark, in the company of two friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Claudius has given them secret orders to have Hamlet killed, but Hamlet switches the orders and has his two friends executed in his place.

Back in Denmark, Ophelia goes mad and drowns, as her brother Laertes, traveling abroad, returns, seeking revenge for his father and sister's deaths. Claudius manipulates Laertes into dueling with Hamlet, who has also since returned to Denmark, setting a trap to kill the prince. Hamlet and Laertes duel, and both are fatally wounded. Queen Gertrude drinks poisoned wine meant for Hamlet, and Claudius is finally killed by Hamlet. As Hamlet dies, Denmark is invaded by Fortinbras, who seizes Elsinore and becomes the country's new ruler.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Ava Krasner is thrilled to be in her first ever Synetic production! Her favorite past performances include Matilda Jr. [Matilda], The Laramie Project [Narrator], Legally Blonde [ensemble], Metamorphoses [Hunger], and Carried

to Shore [playwright]. When Ava is not at rehearsal, she loves to read, write, do gymnastics, and travel. Ava would like to thank her parents for all the opportunities they've given her, as well as the Synetic Teen Company for welcoming her into the program!



Kip Rockmann is very excited to be a part of her first show in Synetic Teen Company! She has performed in Willy Wonka (ensemble), Puffs (Professor Sprout), Matilda (Amanda Thripp), and many more through Synetic camps!

Outside of theater she enjoys rock climbing, choir and lots of music! She wants to thank all of her wonderful directors and members of the company for making this experience amazing! Kip is very appreciative for carpooling abilities and her parents for putting up with all her activities! Enjoy the show!



Jackie Stewart is overjoyed to be a part of Synetic's teen production of Hamlet. This is her fourth year in the teen company but has been attending synetic camps and classes for 9 years. In her previous years at Synetic's teen

company she has had the honor to be apart of Romeo and Juliet (nurse), Taming of the Shrew (ensemble), and Twelfth Night (ensemble). She is delighted to have these opportunities with the company she calls family!



Carissa Duffy is a freshman at Bishop O'Connell High School, and she is incredibly exited to be performing in her second show with the Teen Company. She has been with Synetic Theater for four years,

and is extremely grateful for her journey thus far. She wants to thank her friends, teachers, and family for encouraging her to work hard, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Ellie Davenport After four amazing years Ellie is performing in her final Teen Company Production. Teen Hamlet was the first show she ever saw at Synetic Theater and now she has come full circle. Synetic has been a part of her life for over a decade now, from summer camps, to Teen Company, and now Mainstage productions. Her previous roles include: Ensemble (Teen Twelfth Night), Kathrine (Teen Taming of the Shew), Lady Capulet (Teen Romeo and Juliet), Apprentice (Romeo and Juliet) and Understudy (Hamlet). She is honored to be a part of this incredible cast and knows everyone will be blown away by this performance.



Claudia Cutting is thrilled to be making their debut with Synetic Theater Teen Company as Claudius/ Ensemble. They have previously performed in productions with the Metropolitan School of the Arts

including 25th Annual Spelling Bee (Schwartzy), A Chorus Line (Val), and Legally Blonde (Paulette). Additionally, they have worked on a total of eight shows with Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater, both as tech and as a performer. They would like to thank their amazing cast and crew for this wonderful experience.



Yasmine Weinberger is a 10th grader at Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC. This is her second year with Synetic's Teen Company, after performing with the pre-teen company for two years. Yasmine

loves being a part of the Synetic family and is very excited for the opportunity to be in Hamlet.



Matilda "Moss" O'Sullivan This is Moss's second year at Synetic Teen company and they are just as excited! Moss has previously worked on shows like Romeo and Juliet (ensemble) and A Murder Is Announced (costume

designer). In their free time they like to make stuff and do things. They would like to thank their family and friends for their unending support, and they hope you enjoy the show!



the show!



Ada O'Connor is a 9th grader who loves performing. She recently performed in Titanic and Mamma Mia. She has been at Synetic for 3 years now and it is her first year in the Teen company. She is excited for you to see

Kaz Cayere is a transgender artist and this is his third year with Synetic Teen Company. He has loved being able to tell the haunting tragedy of Hamlet alongside his friends and mentors. Kaz was last seen in Synetic Teen Company

1ercutio in Romeo and Juliet and Hortensio in Taming

of the Shrew. He thanks you all for coming and sincerely wishes you enjoy the show as much as he has!



Sebastian Neff is excited to perform in Teen Hamlet, which will be his first show with Synetic. He has been in many acting roles before, but this is his first silent show. He hopes to deliver a satisfying performance as

Guildenstern, and the far more important ensemble. He hopes you enjoy all the literal metaphors (not little, though some are subtle) of the show.



Nora Beekman is so thrilled to be a part of Synetic Theater's Teen Company production of Teen Hamlet! This is Nora's fourth production within Synetic Theater's Teen Company program, which she has been doing

since she was 11 years old. Nora has really found much joy working with various mentors and directors this year, including Kaitlyn Shifflett, Natan Mael-Gray, and Irina and Vato Tsikurishvili. Previous Synetic roles that Nora has played include: Balthazar/Ensemble (Romeo and Juliet), Ensemble (Taming of the Shrew), and Ensemble (Twelfth Night). This year Nora is beyond excited to say that she will be playing the role of Laertes.



Miranda Naser-Kunz is thrilled to be part of her first teen company production! After participating in the summer camp she was hooked by the magic of Synetic. She is currently a sophomore at the Duke Ellington

School of the Arts studying acting. Last summer she played the title role in Romeo & Juliet for the Shakespeare Theatre Company teen intensive. She's a competitive gymnast, a dancer, and loves to bake for her friends and family. Thank you to the whole cast and crew, you are truly amazing!





Alma Lora-Rodriguez is 16 years old. This is his third year at Synetic and his 2nd year in teen company. He is super excited for people to see Hamlet and how much everyone has worked on it to get to where they are now.

Matthew Willis This is Matthew's first year in Synetic Theater. He has only ever been in school plays, and in every single one, he has been a narrator. Matthew has enjoyed actually acting for once and not simply standing of to

the side and talking his own ears off.



Emma Ruckh is a freshman at Wakefield High School. This is her fifth year involved with Synetic and her third year in Teen Company. Her previous shows include Teen Taming of the Shrew (Ensemble), Teen Romeo and

Juliet (Nurse/Ensemble) and Host and Guest (Little Girl). Emma is honored to play Ophelia in Synetic's Teen Hamlet and would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew for the opportunity.

Summer Camps

sessions run from 6/23 to 8/22



WONDERLAND

rising 2nd - 9th sessions run from 6/30 to 8/8





synetictheater.org/camps camps@synetictheater.org

2025 Summer Teen Conservatory

rising 9th - 12th session runs from 7/21 to 8/8 A Midsummer Night's Dream

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Kaitlyn Shifflett (DIRECTOR) is overjoyed to have the opportunity to direct this year's teen company production. As a proud alum of Synetic Teen Company and *now* Company Member, she is honored to have been affiliated with the teen company program for the past four years. Her past Synetic acting credits include: *The Immigrant* (U/S), *Little Comedies* (Tasiko), *Hamlet* (Ensemble/Gertrude U/S), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *The TellTale Heart* (Vulture), *Golden Fish* (Wife), *Snow Maiden* (Snow Maiden U/S), *Dracula* (Wives & Mina U/S), and *Host & Guest* (U/S). Kaitlyn would like to extend her gratitude to all of her friends and mentors who have helped her get to where she is today. @kaitlynshifflett

Staci Tomblin (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) This is Staci's first show with Synetic in any form. She is very excited for the opportunity to learn and grow in a new company. Recent credits include 9 to 5 SM at AU, Oliver! ASM with WCT, Urinetown SM at AU, Mean Girls PA with WCS, Once ASM at AU. Follow her on insta @staci.tomblin

Christopher Muska (CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER) is thrilled to be co-designing on his second Synetic production, Hamlet. He regularly designs with Young Artists of America, most recently on Six, Addams Family JR and Puffs: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic. He has worked at Cumberland Theater (It's A Wonderful Life) and prolifically in lighting departments around the DMV including Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theater Company, Folger Theater, Woolly Mammoth, and Olney Theater Center.

Channing Tucker (ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER) is a costume and puppet designer based in the DMV area and frequently assists on costume design. They most frequently design for dance, including various dance concerts for Dance Place, Dance Exchange, the University of Maryland, American University, and Howard Community College. Past designs include The Sound of Music (Catholic University), Monstrous (Howard Community College), Sense and Sensibility (American University), The Skin of Our Teeth and Puffs! (Howard Community College), and Risk of Play, Ghost Bride, Outbound, Flyin' West, Corpora Caelestia, and Tides (University of Maryland). Channing is a past recipient of the Jim Henson Fund for Puppetry and attendant of the O'Neill National Puppetry Conference. Their longterm project is a puppet film adaptation of the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Joshua Cole Lucas (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) is a DC based actor, dancer, teaching artist, and theatrical carpenter. He has worked primarily with Synetic Theater, credits include Hamlet . . . the rest is slience (Guildenstern), The Tempest (Stephano), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Stout), Dracula (Quincy), Host and Guest (Ensemble), Snow Queen (Kai), The Phantom of the Opera (ensemble), "Day 6, Story 4" of The Decameron, Shakespeare Revue, Cinderella (understudy), and Servant of Two Masters (understudy). Roundhouse Theater: Tempest (understudy). Arts on the Horizon: Off the Page (Quill), Birds of a Feather (understudy), Fitting In (understudy). DC Fringe: Pondering About My Memories (Max).

Koki Lortkipanidze (RESIDENT COMPOSER) is a native of Tbilisi, Georgia, and has composed original music for 14 Synetic Productions and has received 5 Helen Hayes nominations for his sound designs and received 1 award. He has also composed original music for films including *First Steps*, *Essay* (both directed by Paata Tsikurishvili), and *Marage*. His compositions for theater include work for *Hunter from the Sun, Guest of the Night, Mimikria, Labyrinth,* and *The Decameron*. His work has been performed at music festivals across Europe, including the Maqs Ophulos festival in Germany and the International Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam. Mr. Lortkipanidze received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Tbilisi State Conservatory.

SYNETIC THEATER

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Irina Tsikurishvili

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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GENERAL MANAGER

RESIDENT COMPOSER

KoKi Lortkipanidze

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER Megan Elliot Kueny Synetic is grateful to all the donors who make our programs possible. Please visit our website at **synetictheater.org/give** if you wish to join our family of supporters who create great art and great artists with us.

These donor levels span the period of 03/01/24 - 03/01/25. If you see any corrections, please contact **ben@synetictheater.org.**

ნგელოზი Angelozi (Angels) \$10,000+

Allison & Mark Foster Ruckh Amazon Arlington Commission for the Arts Claire & David Maklan Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation Cornelius James Coakley Elinor Coleman & David Sparkman Hans Kaper Jere Broh-Kohn Lola Reinsch Rick & Vicky Hardy The Greater Washington Community Foundation The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation The Share Fund The Virginia Commission for the Arts

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Adele Mouzon Ann Benson Arlene Sirkin David Ramer Dean Trackman Glenn Palacios Jane Mann Joelen K Merkel Judith Rivlin Kristin Henniger Marc Hutchinson Margaret Gaffen Marina Oberlander Mark Greene Matthew Gamser Peter & Jennifer Hall Rebecca Klemm Richard Norland Richard T Scully Scott Cantrell Sue Benson Sundai Riggins Susan Yamada Suzanne Grinnan Teresa Ball Tracy Gabriel

პერცხლი Vertskli (Silver) \$250-\$499

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ბრინჯაო Brinjao (Bronze) \$100 - \$249

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