

**UALBANY THEATRE**  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
PRESENTS

# **LOVERS & LUNATICS**

*Devised from the work of William Shakespeare*

Episode 1: Thursday, 9/17/20 @ 8pm

Episode 2: Friday, 10/2/20 @ 8pm

Episode 3: Friday, 10/16/20 @ 8pm

Lighting Design

**Andi Lyons**

Costume Design

**Reneé M. Bell**

Sound Design

**Emmett Costello**

Technical Direction

**Steve Michalek**

Stage Management

**Shelby Deere**

Directed by

**Angela Ledtke**

*This production is made possible with generous support from  
The John Orser '55 Theatrical Endowment*

# The Company

## Mistress of the Count

Jade Imperato

## The Players

Kaitlyn Baswell

Anna Eaton

Colin Gioia

Michael Glantzis

Rheo Koss

Joseph Olawoye

Shawn Passero

Ronni Tribuzio

## Understudies

Jayden Rodriguez

Jillian Sharp

FIND YOUR LIGHT

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## Notes from the Dramaturg

You might have heard the sayings “To be or not to be”, “Is this a dagger which I see”, “I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow, than a man swear he loves me” and “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is To have a thankless child!” However, do you know where these famous quotes come from? None other than one of the greatest writers of all time: William Shakespeare! I specifically pulled these famous quotes because each line is distinctive of some plays and characters you are about to witness. “To be or not to be” resides with the titular character and **flawed hero/lover** in *Hamlet*. “Is this a dagger which I see” comes from the **tragedy’s minion** and protagonist of the play whose name shall not be said aloud in the theatre: the Scottish play, aka *Macbeth*. Yes, we may be online but “All the world’s a stage” (bonus points if you know what Shakespearean play that is from). Next is a cynical line expressed by the witty **independent woman**, Beatrice in the comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. In the last quote, if you figured the connotation was harsh, best believe it came from the **flawed ruler** known as King Lear.

Why the bold font on these descriptions you may ask? Well, the process of this production was all collaborative and the material was molded together by the director, assistant director, the actors and the dramaturg. We want you, the audience, to understand that these characters from four of Shakespeare’s most famous plays, represent certain archetypes. But before we can appreciate the characters’ archetypes, how about a little crash course on the four plays?

*Hamlet*: A world in which the prince of Denmark is distraught over the news of his father’s passing, while being distraught over his uncle taking over the crown and marrying his mother. He is urged to revenge by his dead father’s ghost who tells him that his uncle had been the perpetrator of the murder. This is followed by the deterioration of relationships that soon leads to a tragic end for the hero and others.

*Macbeth*: A Scottish noble soldier is met with fate when three witches prophesy his becoming King. While pursuing this omen, the pressures from his wife and his own ambition consume him to go from the most loyal Thane to the epitome of evil: a murderer!

*Much Ado About Nothing*: Two individuals, Beatrice and Benedick, who are against the idea of love and settling down (especially with each other) get unsuspectingly mixed up in their friends' and families' plan to believe that they are falling for each other.

*King Lear*: An aging, egotistical King of Britain is set on dividing his land among his three daughters in exchange for their expression of gratitude and love. Yet, when his favorite daughter cannot hyperbolize her love as her greedy, false-hearted sisters do, she is banished. King Lear's mental state declines after finding out the two daughters' underlying intentions. Meanwhile, Edmund, the illegitimate child of a nobleman, plots his way into getting his legitimate half-brother Edgar banished. The world of the play spirals down when Edmund and the sisters soon grasp control and destroy the morals of the Britain that Lear left behind.

We decided to use these archetypes to help make sense of the characters you will be seeing. In Episode 1 you will be witnessing the players' interpretations of these characters within the context of the world of their original plays. However, the next two episodes will be controlled by the power of your voice at your fingertips. Your wish is now in command because "we know what we are, but know not what we may be" or should we say, become!

- Alexa Rose Passante

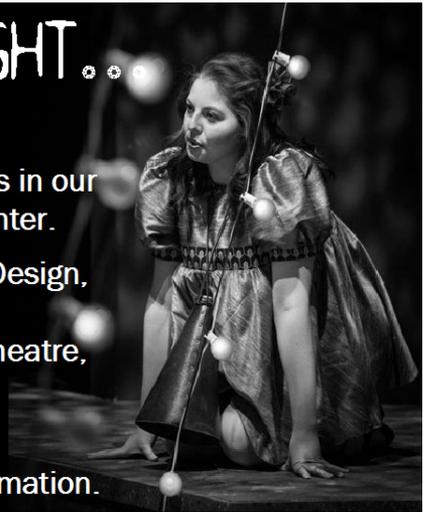
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## WHO'S WHO

**KAITLYN BASWELL** (Lady Macbeth: the Powerful Woman) is a new transfer at UAlbany. Though she can't be on campus, she is grateful to be able to experience this innovative form of theatre alongside an outstanding cast and crew. You might have also seen her as Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Ernest*, Mrs. Saunders in *Cloud 9*, and Cassie in *Rumors*. She has been involved in the theatre for over 9 years, trained at the Upright Citizen's Brigade, and just recently ran an entire mile for the first time ever. When she isn't in the theatre you can find her binge-watching West Wing with a cup of noodles and her fur son Francis.

**ANNA EATON** (Ophelia: the Innocent Babe) is a transfer student in her junior year. This is her first time working with the Theatre Program at UAlbany and hopes to continue doing shows in the future. Anna is a double major in English and Psychology with a minor in Theatre. She is passionate about mental health, poetry, and theatre and is very engaged in her community. She looks for ways to collectively represent all these values in her personal and professional life and she tries to find the best ways to service her community.

**COLIN GIOIA** (Macbeth: Tragedy's Minion) is thrilled to be doing another production here at UAlbany. He is a senior Theatre major with a minor in Musical Theatre. Some of Colin's past credits include Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jesus in *Godspell*, and The Phantom in *Phantom of the Opera*. He is very excited to be taking on more Shakespeare. Colin would like to thank his girlfriend, friends, and family for their continued love and support.

**MICHAEL GLANTZIS** (King Lear: the Flawed Ruler) is a senior Theatre major at the University. This is Michael's second production with the UAlbany Theatre Program. As a native of the Capital Region, he has appeared in many local productions, however most recently, you might have seen him as Nick Bottom in The UAlbany Theatre Program's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He would like to thank director Angela Ledtke for the opportunity, and the cast and crew for their shared passion for the theatre arts.

**JADE IMPARATO** (The Mistress of the Count) is a senior at UAlbany pursuing a Theatre Major and Musical Theatre Minor. In addition to performing, she has had the privilege to direct and work

behind the scenes of many shows and is thrilled to be part of this new age of exploration in theatre. She'd like to thank Angela and her friends and family.

**RHEONNA KOSS** (Beatrice: the Independent Woman) is a Junior as well as a Theater and Psychology double major at UAlbany. This will be her second Shakespeare show she has done, and she is very excited to be continuing to learn more about Shakespeare's writing. Recent shows she has taken part in are *Our Country's Good* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has enjoyed acting for many years and plans on continuing after graduating.

**JOSEPH OLAWOYE** (Benedick: the Sidekick) is a returning senior English and Theater major at SUNY Albany. He's played George in *Intimate Apparel*, The Aborigine in *Our Country's Good* and Milton in *Something's Gotta Give* over the years here. He would like to thank God, Chad Larabee, his friends, and family for pushing him to pursue his dreams to perform.

**SHAWN PASSERO** (Edmund: the Malign Influence) is senior. He is majoring in Theatre with a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous credits include Judas in *Godspell* and Major Ross/Ketch in *Our Country's Good*, Ensemble in *La Traviata* at the Glimmerglass Opera, Helenus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He was an apprentice of the Commonwealth Shakespeare 2020 company. He is grateful to the cast and crew for their hard work on this production.

**JAYDEN RODRIGUEZ** (Understudy) is rather new to Shakespearian productions but is excited to participate in this unconventional take. Jayden has a bit of acting experience in middle school and high school productions, Amos Calloway in *Big Fish* was his latest role, and is extremely grateful for this chance to participate in something so unique. He is fully prepared to be the butt of the joke!

**JILLIAN SHARP** (Understudy) defiantly wasn't expecting to be performing the first show of the semester from behind her laptop screen. Then again, all the world's a stage, right? Hailing from Nyack, NY, Jillian made her UAlbany Theatre Department debut as Sera in *Six Scenes in a Theatre* last fall and hasn't looked back since. She is more than grateful to be working with such incredible performers and to bring back some sense of normalcy to the world we live in.

**VERONICA “RONNI” TRIBUZIO** (Hamlet: Flawed Hero/Lover) is a Sophomore Theatre Major and Creative Writing Minor with an extensive love and appreciation for Shakespeare and his works. Her previous roles include Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* and Gremplin in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. She has also been Stage Managers for shows including but not limited to *West Side Story* and *Les Miserable*.

**JULIA AIREY** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre major with an Art minor. Julia has previously been in productions of *Cinderella* (Ensemble), *The Bride of Brackenloch* (Mavis Beaufort), *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Martin of tours), *Tartuffe* (Dorine), *Laffing Room Only* (Hazel) *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Protean). She would like to thank her friends in the department for supporting her and pushing her to get involved with *Lovers and Lunatics*.

**RENEE M. BELL** (Costume Designer) is the Resident Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager, and Lecturer at the University at Albany-SUNY. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at Marietta College, a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, and the Craft/Stock Supervisor at the University of Texas, Austin. Renee is a freelance Costumer/Wardrobe Lead with Celebrity Cruise Lines where she works on over 20 production. Shows including her favorites- *Colors of Life*, *Rock City*, *Life*, *Motown*, and *Broken Strings*. She continues to design shows for educational and professional theatres including *Weathervane Playhouse*, *University of Iowa*, *Transport Group*, *Barrington Stage Company*, *Manhattan Theatre Source*, *Riverside Theatre*, and *Shakespeare by the River*. She designed costumes for the independent feature film, *Splatter: Love, Honor, Paintball*. Renee has worked as a Milliner on such Broadway shows as *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple*, *The Lion King* and *The Pajama Game*. Renee holds a BA in Design and Technical Production from Western Michigan University and an MFA in Design from the University of Iowa. [www.reneembell.com](http://www.reneembell.com)

**JACK VANESSA BESTERMAN** (Assistant Director) is a Sophomore Theatre Major. Jack has previously worked professionally at RPI Players. Theater has become one of his favorite hobbies that he started working in four years ago. Jack would like to praise himself on living, sleeping, and showering in his

favorite tie and vest. He would also like to thank Shelby for writing his bio for him, along with help from Angela and Julia.

**EMMETT COSTELLO** (Sound Designer) is excited to be working for the first time as Sound Designer on *Lovers and Lunatics*. He has been involved in theatre for 5 years and enjoys working behind the scenes to help ensure a successful production. Last semester he was the Sound Board Operator for *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Emmett is looking forward to seeing how online theatre can create new and interesting media. He would like to thank his friends, family, and all the members of the cast and crew for their support throughout *Lovers and Lunatics*.

**SHELBY DEERE** (Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre major at UAlbany. She had previously professionally Staged Managed for a production of *The Polar Express Train Ride* with the Adirondack Scenic Railway in Utica. She was an Assistant Stage Manager for UAlbany's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and worked professionally with the Stanley Theater's union crew in costumes for the *Hello Dolly!* National Tour. Shelby has previously been in *Jekyll & Hyde the Musical* as Nellie at Utica College and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as Doc Robinson at Players of Utica.

**ANGELA LEDTKE** (Director) Angela is thrilled to FINALLY be a part of the incredible UAlbany Theatre production team! As a dedicated UAlbany Theatre undergraduate, graduate student and faculty member over the span of the past 24 years, she has enjoyed every experience shared with her fellow PAC rats. With a BA in Theatre, Classical Vocal Training from the Eastman School of Music and an MA in Theatre History, Literature and Criticism, Angela set her sights on gaining valuable teaching experience at Siena College, The College Saint Rose and here at UAlbany. During this time, while working with college students in the classroom, she found her love for directing. She has served as the drama production director and producer for the College of Saint Rose English Department's Drama Program for the last 7 years, adding 16 academic theatre productions under her belt. Prior to this hiatus from appearing on stage, Angela had performed with regional and area companies such as Downstairs Cabaret, Rochester Children's Theatre, Circle Players, Steamer 10, Schenectady Civic Players, 3 Dollar Bill, C & R Productions & SLOC. Her creative life continues off-stage as the proud owner of Artique - an artists' cooperative with 2 locations, in Clifton Park and

Crossgates Mall, where she has collaborated and supported artisans from all over the Capital Region for the past 11 years. She rounds out her roles in life as a mother to 2 beautiful daughters - Olivia & Sophia. Angela would like to thank the entire production team and fellow faculty members for having the confidence to allow her to lead our digital season; to the crew for their support in developing this new work; to the cast for their collaboration that grew this production to new heights; and lastly to the audience - for whom this project was born because in the theatre (and in life) we must be active participants.

**ANDI LYONS** (Lighting Designer) is Resident Lighting Designer, Head of Design and Technology, Professor of Theatre, and former Chair of the Theatre Department at UAlbany. She has designed several hundred productions for a variety of professional and academic venues over the past decades. A few favorites include Ann for both the Dallas Theater Center and Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; WAM Theatre's Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight; Capital Repertory Theatre's The Seahorse and Looking Over the President's Shoulder; La MaMa E.T.C.'s Sole Sisters; Theater for the New City's Distant Music; Tri-Cities Opera's Tosca; Stageworks/Hudson's Imagining Madoff and I Am My Own Wife; and Des Moines Metro Opera's Street Scene. Andi is also an active member of USITT, the association for design, production, and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry. She currently serves on USITT's Board of Directors as Vice-President for Members, Sections, and Chapters. Professor Lyons has received both the Chancellor's and the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and for Excellence in Academic Service. Andi is a proud Fellow of USITT, and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. She earned her MFA from Yale University's School of Drama.

**ALEXA ROSE PASSANTE** (Dramaturg) is super excited to be working on this Shakespearean adventure! She is a senior theatre major with a double minor in Musical Theatre and Psychology. She would like to thank Angela and Eszter for guiding her in this process of dramaturgical studies. Break a leg to cast and crew!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

AILEEN BURKE, MAX CONAWAY, JOYCE HILLS  
LEANNE ROBINSON-MAINE, JARED ZIEGLER

## THEATRE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Head of Design and Technology.....ANDI LYONS  
Head of Performance.....CHAD LARABEE  
Head of Acting.....KIM STAUFFER  
Theatre Program Secretary .....VERONICA MOTT

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**COMING SOON**

### **New Works/New Ways**

***Mothman*** by Maddy Rolon

***Postmortem*** (Or, How to Live After Death) by Ava O'Dea

Directed by: Jacqueline Springfield

November 12-14, 8 p.m., November 14 & 15, 2 p.m.

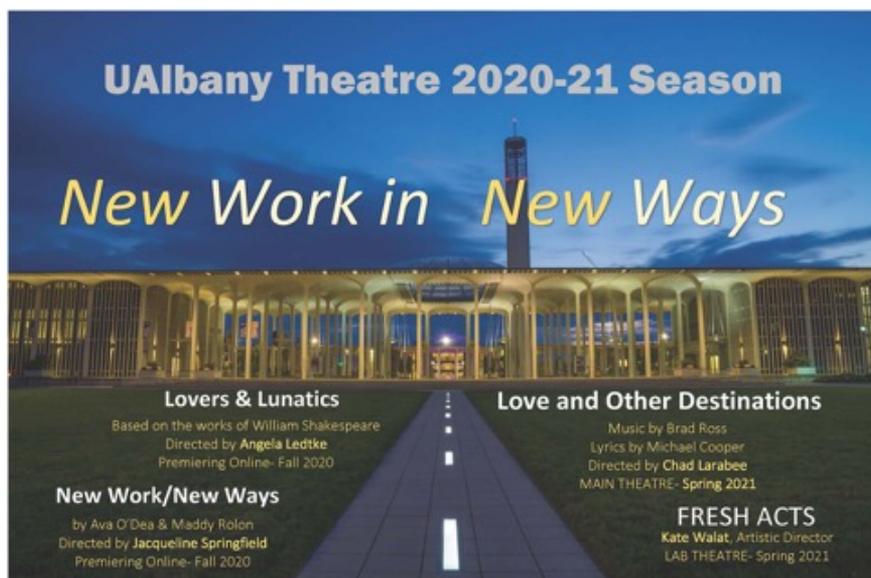
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**UAlbany Theatre 2020-21 Season**

*New Work in New Ways*

**Lovers & Lunatics**  
Based on the works of William Shakespeare  
Directed by **Angela Ledtke**  
Premiering Online- Fall 2020

**Love and Other Destinations**  
Music by Brad Ross  
Lyrics by Michael Cooper  
Directed by **Chad Larabee**  
MAIN THEATRE- Spring 2021

**New Work/New Ways**  
by Ava O'Dea & Maddy Rolon  
Directed by **Jacqueline Springfield**  
Premiering Online- Fall 2020

**FRESH ACTS**  
Kate Walat, Artistic Director  
LAB THEATRE- Spring 2021