



THE
BARON'S
MEN



Romeo
and Juliet

APRIL 5-27, 2024

thebaronsmen.org

Cast

Romeo	Jared Walls	Juliet	Shannon Gibson
Benvolio	Michael Pratt	Nurse	Chris Casey
Mercutio	Pablo Muñoz-Evers	Lord Capulet	Julio Mella
Balthazar	Olaf Heins	Lady Capulet	Anneliese Friend
Lady Montague	Laura Trezise	Tybalt	Michael Osborn
Friar Lawrence	Todd Jeffrey	County Paris	Aaron Niemuth
Prince Escalus	Gene Storie		
Sampson	Rylee Ross		
Gregory	Kendall Duffina		
Peter	Aleena Azhar		
Apothecary	Laura Trezise		
Rosaline	Renee Osborn		
Livia	Dawn Allee		

Crew

Director	Lindsay M. Palinsky		
Assistant Director	Michael Osborn		
Stage Manager	Hector Rae Fox		
Fight Choreographers	Phil Canzano, Michael Osborn		
Costume Designer	Renee Osborn		
Music Director	Josh Kavanaugh	Box Office Manager	Michael Osborn
Choreographer	Dawn Allee	House Manager	Dawn Allee
Set & Prop Designer	Laura Trezise	Social Media Manager	Shannon Gibson
Lighting Designers	Michael Osborn, Jimmie Bragdon	Head Draper	Dawn Allee
		Wardrobe Mistress	Rylee Ross
Stitchers	Dawn Allee, Aleena Azhar, Hector Rae Fox, Brooke Garrett, Shannon Gibson, Jacquelyn Lies, Julio Mella, Pablo Muñoz- Evers, Aaron Niemuth, Michael Osborn, Renee Osborn, Rylee Ross, Melissa Smith, Liegh Toland, Laura Trezise, Kate Waters	Builders	Kendall Duffina, Josh Kavanaugh, Aaron Niemuth, Michael Pratt, Jacob Saluto
		Musicians	Kendall Duffina, Gene Storie, Laura Trezise, Kate Waters

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

Dawn Allee



Dawn (she/her) is a founding member of The Baron's Men and the current President. She portrayed Emilia in TBM's original production of *Comedy of Errors*. Her first love, though, is costume design. Recent designs for TBM are *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It*, and TBM original show *The Dead Of Winter* (with Cherie Weed). She is a 3-time B. Iden Payne nominee with one BIP award for costume design. Dawn is excited to mentor the next generation of Elizabethan costumers. She is married to TBM founding member Steve Hemphill and in their spare time they enjoy renovating their 100+ year old haunted house.

Aleena Azhar



Aleena (they/them) is a student nearby studying Psychology & Acting, and has just recently joined The Baron's Men. This is their first show since moving to Austin, previously performing in the DFW area. Some favorite past roles include Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Snow White in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Helga in *Cabaret*, and most recently the Adult Women in *Spring Awakening*. While not on stage, Aleena likes to run around just as much as Peter; doing makeup and photos for various artistic endeavors all over. They'd like to thank everyone in The Baron's Men for a wonderful first show experience, their family, and their roommate and best friend Zosia for the endless support on and off stage.

Phil Canzano



Phil (he/him) has been a longtime collaborator with TBM, choreographing the fights in *A Tale of Robyn Hoode*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet* for which he received a B. Iden Payne Award Nomination.

Chris Casey



Chris (he/him) has been performing with The Baron's Men since 2012. He most recently appeared in *Twelfth Night* as Sir Toby.

Kendall Duffina



Kendall (she/her) found her love for theatre in her hometown over a decade ago. In the time since, she has worked in almost every aspect of crew and has performed many roles on stage. Most notably, she has played Isabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Ruby Rae in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. So far, her favorite role to play was Rory in *Bare: A Pop Rock Opera*. Kendall has a Bachelor's degree in Music from Texas A&M and is pursuing a Master's degree in Entertainment Business from Emerson College. When she is not on stage, she can be found reading, making music, or enjoying time with her husband and corgi. Kendall is super excited for *Romeo & Juliet* because this is the first non-musical play she's done! She would like to thank her friends and family who support her in all her endeavors. A special shoutout to Laura who brought her into TBM and has been an incredible friend and mentor.

Anneliese Friend



This will be Anneliese's (she/her) 6th year with The Baron's Men and she is excited to be a part of their production of *Romeo & Juliet*. Anneliese has an MA in Staging Shakespeare from the University of Exeter and has been a theater maker in Austin since 2018. Favorite roles include Joan of Arc in *Henry VI Part 1*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Anneliese had her directing debut with TBM with last year's production of *The Winter's Tale*. When she is not making theater, Anneliese enjoys rainy days, making chili, and boring her friends with history facts about the Tudors.

Hector Rae Fox



Hector (they/them), known as Rae by their friends, is an Austin native who has been attending and assisting with TBM shows for over a decade. They have always been a lover of stage production and the written word and read the complete works of Shakespeare by the time they were 13. Their past credits with The Baron's Men were as an understudy in *Hamlet*, Stage Managing *The Winter's Tale*, and working Front of House. You will see them on The Curtain stage this fall in *King Lear* as the King of France.

Shannon Gibson



Shannon (she/her) knows she is too old for this role but is so excited to be playing her anyway. She has been involved with The Baron's Men since 2018. She directed last season's *Twelfth Night*, assistant directed *Hamlet* in 2022, and currently serves on the board of directors of TBM. Past TBM acting roles include *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cobweb), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth). As always, thank you to the Gurls, and very very special love to her husband Mac (and the cats, Ignatius and Dolly).

Olaf Heins



Olaf (he/him) is thrilled to make his debut with The Baron's Men after years of staring in their windows. He grew up performing with Austin Educational Theatre, and now he cherishes the opportunity to work with as talented a community as this. This is his first time tackling the Bard; he would like to thank Lindsay for taking a chance on him. Some highlights of his acting career have been *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Clue*, *See How They Run*, and *The Three Musketeers*.

Todd Jeffrey



Todd's (he/him) previous theatre experience includes: *Macbeth*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, *The Winter's Tale* (The Baron's Men), *Dear Brutus*, *Death By Natural Causes*, *Night Watch* (Sam Bass Theater), *Dearly Departed* (Georgetown Palace Theater). He was also featured in the film "The Red Night" (UCLA). He thanks his amazing family, Amy, Kate, Layne, and Jack for their love and support.

Josh Kavanaugh



This is Josh's (he/him) second time getting roped into being the Music Director and playing a show his fiancée Lindsay directed, having last done so for *The Tempest* in 2021. A mechanical engineer by day, Josh has a Master's degree in Music Performance. He has been a featured composer and musician for local dance company BLiPSWiTCH and served as the Music Director for Pink Box Burlesque in Tuscaloosa, AL from 2011-2014. He sends love to the turdlette Tommie for dealing with both her parents being gone every night of the show.

Julio Mella



Julio (he/him) has been with The Baron's Men since its production of *The Alchemist*. He has also worked with other companies in Austin such as The Velvet Rut, The Wondrous Strange Players, and Teatro Vivo. He continues to be grateful for the privilege of working with such wonderful artists. "I hope you enjoy the show!"

Pablo Muñoz-Evers



Pablo (he/him) has been seen in a number of TBM shows: *Hamlet* (Hamlet), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), *The Comedy of Errors* (Antipholus of Ephesus), *The Tempest* (Caliban). Austin Shakespeare: *El Cid* (Don Sánchez), *An Enemy of the People* (Hovstad). Walking Shadow Shakespeare: *Cymbeline* (Cloten). TexARTS: *The Full Monty* (Tony). Pablo graduated from Texas State University and is an acting student at The Robichaux Studio. He is also a playwright. He's also a junior software developer looking for his first job after graduating from coding school, in case you know anyone who's hiring! He thanks Melanie for being Melanie, TBM for all these wonderful Shakespeare experiences, the rest of the R&J cast and crew for being so fun and cool, Lindsay for casting him in a role that he loves, and his dog, Lulo, for inspiring him to be a better boy every day.

Aaron Niemuth



Aaron (he/him) was part of the crew for The Baron's Men's first full-length production back in 2002, and after that there was no getting rid of him. He has appeared onstage in many TBM productions, notably as one of the twinned "Antipholi" (Antipholuses??) in *A Comedy of Errors*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Hortensio in *Taming of the Shrew* and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. In addition to many onstage appearances with The Baron's Men, Aaron co-wrote and co-directed 2014's *A Tale of Robyn Hoode* and 2017's *The Dead of Winter*. His third, fourth, and fifth plays are in varying stages of development, depending on how you count that thing where you have a brilliant idea but then something bright and shiny catches your eye and then you mostly forget it. Fun fact: this production of *Romeo & Juliet* is the first time Aaron will be wielding a sword in stage combat with The Baron's Men. It's true what they say, swords ARE sexy!! I'm not sure who exactly says that, but they're right! TINK TINK TINK SCHWING! SWISH SWISH SLASH!

Michael Osborn



Michael "Oz" Osborn (he/him) has been with The Baron's Men for over 10 years, and has filled almost every cast and crew position imaginable. He's very excited to have you with us for our 25th season. He's been proud to serve as Assistant Director for this show, as well as Fight Captain, and even getting his first chance at choreographing a fight (Romeo-Paris). Come and say hi to the cast after the show, we enjoy meeting our patrons!

Renee Osborn



After acting all last year, Renee (she/her) was excited to focus on creating gorgeous 15th century costuming for TBM's production of *Romeo & Juliet*. Now she can sit back and enjoy the fruits of her labor! Some of her onstage roles with TBM include *Love's Labour's Lost* (Maria), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), *A Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus), *The Winter's Tale* (Time/Mopsa), and *Twelfth Night* (Viola). Having fully joined the troupe in 2015, she has tried to help out wherever and whenever she can and has served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors since 2018.

Lindsay M. Palinsky



Lindsay (she/her) joined TBM in 2011 and she has been active ever since, including 7 years as a Board member and into her 3rd year as Co-Artistic Director. Some favorite roles: Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet*), Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Co-Lucifer (*Doctor Faustus*), Constance (*The Dead of Winter*), Porter (*Macbeth*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Co-Olivia (*Twelfth Night*) with TBM; Brodysseus in *The Trojan War* at FronteraFest 2019, Imogen (*Cymbeline*) with Walking Shadow Shakespeare, and Suzanne (*Twilight of the Gods*) with City Theatre. Lindsay has served almost every offstage role too, including directing *Lysistrata* and *The Tempest* and costume designing *Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Twelfth Night*. Her wig work for 2021's *Midsummer* was nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award. She is so excited to be directing both mainstage shows for TBM's 25th Season this year! Vivat Triumviratus, thanks to the Gurls and Jax, and so much love to Josh and Tommie Bohammie.

Michael Pratt



Michael (he/him) always looks forward to playing on stage with this group; returning for his seventh show with The Baron's Men and second time around with *Romeo & Juliet*. He's sure this show will be perfectly happy and nothing bad will happen to the characters whatsoever.

Rylee Ross



Rylee Ross (she/her), TBM's resident gremlin, is back for a third year and prepared to be as bloodthirsty and chaotic as ever. Her hobbies include catnapping, lace making, and knife tricks. Previously seen as Clown in *The Winter's Tale*, Fabian in *Twelfth Night* as well as working in costumes, lighting, and as stagehand, she is excited to portray Sampson in TBM's production of *Romeo & Juliet* this spring.

Gene Storie



Gene (he/him) gladly returns to The Curtain, and is very pleased to be part of this excellent cast. He has had many roles with The Baron's Men, most recently as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. But *Romeo & Juliet* marks the first time he has risen to royalty. Gene has even been included in two B. Iden Payne nominations for best ensemble with TBM, both as a member of the Rude Mechanicals in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snout and Quince). However, Gene has been assured that the Company can't just keep doing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* over and over again. Gene is happily retired and hopes to stay that way. He is most grateful for his darling wife, Tracie, and wonderful children, Emily and Will, who continue to support his theatrical fantasies.

Laura Trezise



Laura (she/her) has been with The Baron's Men for roughly 20 years. She has done everything from stagehand to writing/directing, and everything in-between (much to the chagrin of her husband, Drew). She penned and directed, *A Tale of Robyn Hood* (2014) and *The Dead of Winter* (2017) with her partner in crime, Aaron Niemuth. Currently, she is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors and is primarily responsible for Set Designs/Props and logistics. She loves listening to the audience and being a part of a group that brings so much magic to life on such a wonderful stage.

Jared Walls



Jared (he/him) is making his return to The Curtain with The Baron's Men after taking some time off to get married and have a kid. He has been seen in *Henry V*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Dead of Winter*, and *Macbeth*.

Director's Note

Boy meets girl, they fall madly in love without knowing anything about each other, there's some kind of miscommunication, something bad happens (in this case, a few deaths), then there's a reconciliation. We've all seen this kind of story a dozen different times. What we may be less familiar with is who these people are in between their scenes. Because the plot and the poetry are so well known, the intention that we set at the start of rehearsals was to really mine the script for more humanity, find pieces of ourselves in the characters, and find something new for audience members to latch onto. My goal is to have at least one person come up to one of us and say, "huh, I never really thought about [that moment] much before, but I noticed [something new]."

You probably immediately noticed that this show features an instance of Original Practice (OP) casting – that is, the casting of a man in a female role. While our mission statement says we aim to be as historically accurate as possible, one main way we differ from Shakespeare's time is that we do not cast exclusively male actors. In fact, we usually have at least one or two of our female or non-binary artists playing traditionally male roles in each show, including this one – something directors have been doing both out of necessity and by choice for a very long time. As our modern understanding of gender grows, our view of "traditionally female" roles and characteristics in Shakespeare ought to grow as well. The choice to cast Chris Casey as the Nurse is a nod to OP, but really, it's a choice to cast the right actor in the right role.

I would also ask you to take a moment to notice and appreciate all of the people who have put in countless hours behind the scenes to make this show possible. It is not in TBM's DNA to have anyone who just shows up to act and go home, and we are incredibly lucky to have such multi-talented and dedicated members and friends. We are also very lucky to have you, our patrons, who continue to support us as we start Season 25!

Very Special Thanks

Abraham Shoe Repair
Josh Baker – AzulOx Visuals
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Stephanie Crugnola, Amy Edwards, John Goosey, Steve Kavanaugh, Ulrike Lapham, Sandra McMinn, Carolyn Patrick, Suzanne Pickens, Ann Phipps, Linda Roach

Thank you to our 2024 Resident Artists

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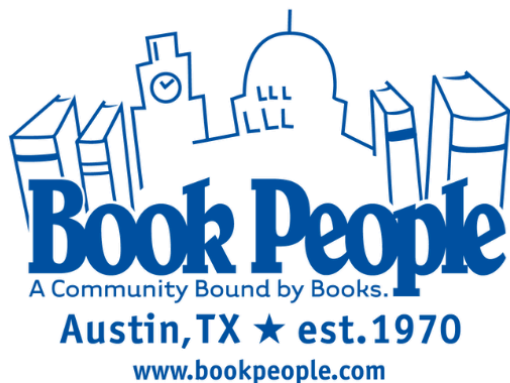


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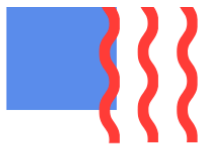


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