

THE  BARON'S MEN



King
Lear

OCTOBER 4-26

AT THE CURTAIN THEATRE

7400 Coldwater Canyon Drive, Austin, Texas 78730

Cast

<i>Lear, King of England</i>	Andy Bond
<i>Goneril, his eldest daughter</i>	Jacquelyn Lies
<i>Regan, his middle daughter</i>	Stephanie Crugnola
<i>Cordelia, his youngest daughter</i>	Audrey Renkenberger
<i>Earl of Gloucester, a statesman</i>	Aaron Niemuth
<i>Edmund, his bastard son</i>	Todd Jeffrey
<i>Edgar, his legitimate son</i>	Michael Pratt
<i>Earl of Kent, a military man</i>	Robert Deike
<i>Fool, servant to Lear</i>	Mac Gibson
<i>Duke of Albany, husband to Goneril</i>	Jimmie Bragdon
<i>Duke of Cornwall, husband to Regan</i>	Renee Osborn
<i>Oswald, servant to Goneril</i>	Shannon Gibson
<i>King of France/Knight/Curan/Servant</i>	Hector Rae Fox
<i>Duke of Burgundy/Servant/Captain</i>	Jennifer Fielding

Crew

<i>Director</i>	Lindsay M. Palinsky	<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Michael Osborn
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Stephanie Crugnola	<i>House Manager</i>	Dawn Allee-Hemphill
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Rylee Ross	<i>Social Media Manager</i>	Shannon Gibson
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Dawn Allee-Hemphill		
<i>Violence Coordinator</i>	Jennifer Fielding		
<i>Set Dresser</i>	Laura Trezise		
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jimmie Bragdon		
<i>Stage Hand</i>	Paul Odom		
<i>Stitchers</i>	Dawn Allee-Hemphill, Jimmie Bragdon, Stephanie Crugnola, Hector Rae Fox, Shannon Gibson, Jacquelyn Lies, Aaron Niemuth, Michael Osborn, Renee Osborn, Mikey Pratt, Audrey Renkenberger, Rylee Ross		
<i>Builders</i>	Josh Kavanaugh, Lindsay M. Palinsky, Mikey Pratt, Rylee Ross		

This show uses fog effects and intermittent flashing light effects about 1 hour in

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

Dawn Allee-Hemphill



Dawn Allee-Hemphill (she/her) is a founding member of The Baron's Men and has trod the boards in several TBM productions but prefers to ply a needle or wear black and work in the dark. She is excited to be back in a designing role for TBM's first production of *King Lear*. She currently serves as TBM's President. Recent designs for TBM are *The Curate Shakespeare's As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *The Lark*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Dawn is a 3-time B. Iden Payne nominee with one BIP award. She is married to TBM founding member Steve Hemphill.

Andy Bond



Andy Bond (he/him) is grateful that TBM has once again opened their arms to him. During his oft-interrupted run with the company he has played Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Dogberry in *Much Ado*, Richard in *Richard III*, and Don Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Now he faces his most challenging role to date, Lear himself, and he is truly humbled and thankful for the opportunity. When reached for comment, Andy said "Sometimes you know you are unequal to a task, but if you are brave in the attempt, and surrounded by the right people, the result may surprise you." As always, Andy wishes to thank his loving wife Echo and his three delightful sons, Bennett, Griffin, and William. They inspire him, they fill him with pride, and they keep his feet on the ground.

Jimmie Bragdon



Jimmie Bragdon (he/him) has been acting on stage with The Baron's Men since 2009 in roles from Tybalt to Touchstone, playing captains, fools, nobles, ghosts, holy men and even Lucifer himself! Off stage he's worked with props, sets, producing, and lighting design for the troupe. He is also a regular actor at Scare for a Cure and a GameMaster at Quest Night, and produces a weekly livestream for a local game company. He is excited to return to the stage for this tragedy, and hopes to survive the show. (Act 5s can be brutal in Shakespeare!)

Stephanie Crugnola



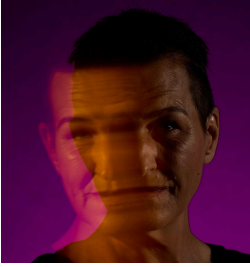
Stephanie Crugnola (she/her) is so excited to be back on The Curtain stage again with The Baron's Men! Past roles with TBM include Olivia (*Twelfth Night*), Puck (*Midsummer*), Prince Hal (*Henry 4 part 1*), and Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*)! Outside of TBM, she is the Artistic Director of Walking Shadow Shakespeare Project (@wsshakes - instagram) - up next is Hamlet, Jan 2025 and auditions for our next one rehearsal show (Henry VI.i)! Thank you to the cast and crew for making this show such a joy, thank you to Jacki and Melissa for giving me 30+ years of middle sister experience to take into this play, and thank you Mike for being my constant.

Robert Deike



Robert Deike (he/him) has been performing with The Baron's Men since 2013. He's played a wide variety of roles with them, including a vengeful money lender, a Duke disguised as a Friar, an Earl dispensing judgment, a melancholic forest Lord, the best air-conditioner repairman in Scotland, a drunk butler, a rude bellows mender, a sheriff of small village near a forest, and a royal murderer. He also has helped them occasionally with their dramaturgy, when needed. The Earl of Kent is his 10th role, and he is thankful to The Baron's Men for giving him the opportunity to get to 10!

Jennifer Fielding



Jennifer Fielding (she/her) is pleased to be back on The Curtain stage. Her previous roles include: Queen Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Crone in *Macbeth*, and Wrath in *Dr. Faustus*. This is Jen's first time as the Violence Coordinator, and with collaboration with a veteran choreographer, this production of *King Lear* is full of brutality and death.

Hector Rae Fox



Hector Rae Fox (they/them) is an Austin native who has been involved in the theater community and reading Shakespeare since middle school. They have been working with The Baron's Men as a volunteer on and off for 12 years, stage managing *The Winter's Tale* and *Romeo & Juliet* ('24), and was an understudy in *Hamlet*. When not trying to create magic onstage with their theater buddies you can find Rae curled up with a book, painting, or wrangling their menagerie at home.

Mac Gibson



Mac Gibson (he/him) received his B.F.A. in Acting and B.A. in English at Oakland University in Michigan. This is his first performance with The Baron's Men. He was most recently seen as Edgar/Bat Boy in *Bat Boy The Musical* at ACC. He would like to thank his friends, family, and most importantly his wife Shannon (and their three cats: Ignatius, Dolly, and Waylon).

Shannon Gibson



Shannon Gibson (she/her) has been acting and dancing since she was 11 years old. Most recently, she was seen in Georgetown Palace Theatre's *Cats* (Rumpleteazer). Repeat TBM patrons may have seen her in *Romeo & Juliet* ('24) as Juliet, *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cobweb), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth). As always, thank you to the Gurls! She can't wait to go home and get in bed with her husband (Mac) and the cats (Ignatius, Dolly, and Waylon).

Todd Jeffrey



Todd Jeffrey (he/him) is an actor, teacher, musician, and athlete. Theater: *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Romeo & Juliet* ('24), *Henry 4 Part I* (TBM), *Dear Brutus*, *Death By Natural Causes*, *Night Watch* (Sam Bass Theater), *Dearly Departed* (Georgetown Palace Theater). Film: *The Red Night* (UCLA). He thanks his amazing family, Amy, Kate, Layne, and Jack for their love and support.

Jacquelyn Lies



Jacquelyn Lies (she/her) "I know his heart." -Goneril. Do we indeed know one another's hearts? This play is a roller coaster to play and challenges any actor. I am greatly honored to bring this character to life. Some of the best characters are those that are multi-faceted and that keeps one finding nuances long after the play is done. Goneril is all that. Past TBM roles; Feste, Dr. Pinch/Nun, Gertrude, Bottom, Ariel, Jane, Cecilia. Many, many thanks to Lindsay, my fellow actors, Dawn for this amazing costume, just everyone involved! Much love to my mom who I hope is watching. Love you dad, I am so happy I get to spend time with you.

Aaron Niemuth



Aaron Niemuth (he/him) has been with The Baron's Men since their first full-length production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2002. In the 22 years since, he has done *nearly* everything in the troupe: acting, writing, directing, producing, stage managing, and serving on the Board of Directors. Oh and he is also very, very accomplished at being a pain in the patootie...which quite frankly is a very undervalued contribution! A lovable, engaging fellow who loves people, hugs and talking about feelings...he is not. Aaron was recently referred to as being "kind", but of course that kind of talk is how feuds get started so the comment was downgraded to acknowledge that sometimes he can be somewhere in the ballpark of considerate. But that's ok, he's good at other things...the law of averages says he must be, right?

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 was most recently seen on The Curtain Stage as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet* ('24). Come and say hi to the cast after the show, we enjoy meeting our patrons!

Renee Osborn



Renee Osborn (she/her) is excited to be back on stage, this time playing the baddie Cornwall! Other shows with The Baron's Men include *Love's Labour's Lost* (Maria), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus), 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 M. Palinsky (she/her) joined The Baron's Men in 2011 and has been active ever since, including 7 years as a Board member and 3 as Co-Artistic Director. Some favorite roles: Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet* '14), Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Lucifer (*Doctor Faustus*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Olivia (*Twelfth Night*) with TBM; Brodysseus in *The Trojan War* at FronteraFest 2019, Imogen (*Cymbeline*) with the Walking Shadow Shakespeare Project, and Suzanne (*Twilight of the Gods*) with City Theatre. Lindsay has served many roles backstage including directing *Lysistrata*, *The Tempest*, and *Romeo & Juliet* ('24), as well as 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 was so honored to direct both shows for TBM's 25th Season this year! Vivat Triumviratus, thanks to the Girls and Jax, and so much love to Josh.

Mikey Pratt



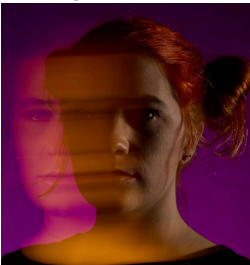
Mikey Pratt (he/him) returns for his eighth show with The Baron's Men, taking strange physicality to a new dimension as Edgar, in a madman's rags. He's very tired from running and jumping all over the stage, so please, enjoy the show!

Audrey Renkenberger



Audrey Renkenberger (she/her) loves being on stage and has been performing since she was 5 years old. Audrey enjoys acting because it allows her to pretend to be someone who is not as shy as her. When she isn't acting, she is dancing or singing. This is Audrey's third production with The Baron's Men. She appeared in *The Winter's Tale* as Mamillius and *Twelfth Night* as Valentine. She would like to thank her parents and her sister for encouraging her to do whatever makes her happy and for putting up with her unhinged schedule. She would also like to thank her fine arts teachers Mrs. Bower, Miss Co, Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Kumengi, and Mrs. Vaughn for inspiring her to do great things. And she sends a special thank you to Ms. Lindsay for being the best teacher in the world and selecting her to play Cordelia.

Rylee Ross



Rylee Ross (she/her) is returning to The Baron's Men for her sixth production. Previously seen as Sampson in *Romeo & Juliet* ('24), Fabian in *Twelfth Night*, and Clown in *The Winter's Tale*. Happily working behind the scenes as stage manager, Rylee is ready to push everyone's buttons and cause storms. When not volunteering at The Curtain she can be found being used as a cat bed and scratching post by 4 viciously loving housecats.

Laura Trezise



Laura (she/her) has been with The Baron's Men for over 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 Hoode* (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.

Director's Note

I bought my first Shakespeare book in 5th grade. It was an anthology of the three great tragedies: Macbeth, Hamlet, and King Lear. I immediately devoured Macbeth, a couple of years later I pushed through Hamlet, and then I tried King Lear...and tried, and tried...every year or so from ages 15-22, and I never made it all the way through. After I graduated college, I enrolled in a Shakespeare course at my local community college, and King Lear was on that curriculum. I spent the entire two-week subsection of that course obsessed with two elements of the show: Lear's "madness" and the storm.

Lear is often treated simply as a man past his prime, angry that he is getting older, and the actor just yells all of his lines. But that's not human enough. Lear has dementia, which is something modern audiences understand about this character that Elizabethans might not have had a word for. He feels himself getting stuck in his own mind, unable to control himself and his surroundings, and it destroys him and those around him. If you have ever lived with a person with dementia, you know how painful it can be. When I cast Andy, that was the first thing that we talked about, and it was ever-present in our editing of the text and in the character work that the entire cast did.

The Storm sequence that you are seeing tonight has been 15 years in the making for me. Due to technical constraints of our space, some elements have been slightly modified, but the core idea of Lear imagining that he is being manipulated and driven mad by those around him remains. Additionally, the storm in the unedited text is split into three different scenes, with indoor scenes in between. While that provides nice breaks for the actors, the flow of the storytelling is interrupted and it takes away from the emotional intensity of the sequence. I want you, the audience, to feel how unrelenting it is to be Lear out on the open plain, battling the elements and his own mind.

I would also ask you to take a moment to 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 cast members who just show 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 have been supporting us for 25 years!

Very Special Thanks

Steven Behnke
Dale Flatt

The Garriott Estate
Steve Hemphill

Bryant Hill
All of our volunteers

Thank you to our 2024 Resident Artists

Andy Bond
Jimmie Bragdon
Chris Casey
Stephanie
Crugnola

Robert Deike
Kendall Duffina
Jennifer Fielding
Annelise Friend
Mac Gibson

Todd Jeffrey
Josh Kavanaugh
Zach Lenton
Jacquelyn Lies
Julio Mella

Pablo
Muñoz-Evers
Aaron Niemuth
Rae Odom
Michael Pratt

Audrey
Renkenberger
Rylee Ross
Gene Storie
Jared Walls

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Dawn Allee-Hemphill
Shannon Gibson
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Liegh Toland

Co-Artistic Directors

Michael Osborn
Lindsay M. Palinsky
Laura Trezise

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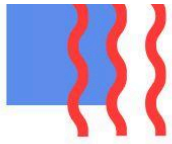
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