

About the Club

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company: Notre Dame's only Student- Run Shakespeare club has been putting the B.A. in Bard since 1997.



Officers Fall 2018

Executive Producer.....Lydia Costello  
 Producers.....Ellis Sargeant, Anne Horcher, Scout Gregory  
 Assistant Producer.....Isobel Grogan  
 Advertising Team.....Meredith Soward  
 Treasurer.....Laura McKernan  
 Technical Director.....Nicholas Taylor

Special Thanks  
 Shakespeare at ND  
 Scott Jackson  
 Grant Mudge  
 Casey St. Aubin  
 Peter Holland  
 Christy Burgess

The Robinson Community Learning Center  
 Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre  
 The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
 Kat Van Vleet and the Washington Hall Staff

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company Presents

# Cymbeline

DIRECTED BY MARY ELSA HENRICHS



Washington Hall Lab Theater

November 15th-17th 2018



## Director's Note

While approaching this production, I have been struck again and again by *Cymbeline's* defiance of genre. Categorized as a tragedy when it was first included in the folio, today often considered a romance, *Cymbeline* falls best into a category Polonius describes as comical - tragical - historical - pastoral. While taking a leaf from almost every genre, *Cymbeline* also takes leaves from most of Shakespeare's other works, recapitulating elements from his previous plays. Thus, in *Cymbeline* one can find hidden pieces of all his other works.

When an audience enters a theatre, normally they are asked to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. While of course we hope you will enjoy the show, the way to do so in this case is not by sitting back and relaxing. Strap in for a wild ride. Lean forward and engage with the work. In *Cymbeline*, if you blink, you might miss a crucial plot element! Shakespeare is here to keep you on your toes.

My heartfelt thanks to the delightful cast and crew of this show for the dedication and hard work they have poured into this play! You have created something true, chaotic, and beautiful. Thanks also belong to the teachers who have driven and inspired me, to my parents and all my family for their support and encouragement, to Morgan Swan and Zion Lee, and, of course, thanks to Jupiter!

With gratitude,

Mary Elsa Henrichs

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

## Synopsis

Once upon a time in ancient Briton, Innogen, princess and daughter of King Cymbeline, secretly marries Posthumus Leonatus, a young man who was orphaned at birth. Banished from Briton and separated from his wife, Posthumus seeks refuge in Rome, where he encounters Jachimo, a smooth-talking Italian who challenges him to a wager. If Jachimo can win the love of Innogen, Posthumus will give him his wedding ring. If he is unsuccessful, Posthumus can challenge Jachimo to a duel. What Jachimo finds in Briton isn't exactly what he expected - but he isn't afraid to break the rules to win the game.

P.S. Innogen's older brothers were kidnapped as very young children.

P.P.S. "Mollis aer" is latin for "tender air."

P.P.P.S. "Mulier" is latin for "woman" or "wife."



**Lulu Phifer** (*Queen*) is a freshman from Granger, IN majoring in FTT and PLS. Her past Shakespeare experience includes the illustrious role of “fairy” in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, performed on the main stage of Washington Hall. She is happy and excited to have graduated to the lab theater for her first college performance - one with lines!

**Pascal Phoa** (*Cymbeline*): A sophomore Computer Science major from Jakarta, Indonesia, Pascal grew up loving acting but he didn’t have the chance to be more involved in the theater/drama scene throughout school because he’d always been more of a science guy. Currently he is trying his best to balance his love for acting and his love for computer science. Pascal has no past theater experience at Notre Dame, but he participated in a one-month intensive summer acting in New York this past summer.

**Ballard Powell** (*Cloten*) is a sophomore from Pittsburgh currently studying English and Political Science. As a child, he never saw himself acting on the big stage, which is probably good, since NSR’s stage is pretty dang small. In high school he performed as Max Smart in *Get Smart*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and Texan in *Stage Door*. Last year he performed as Duncan in *Macbeth* with NSR. Ballard looks forward to many more fantastic productions with this wonderful company, and thanks all of his friends for forgoing their Thursday/ Friday/ Saturday nights to watch him.

**Jenna Rame** (*Caius Lucius*): Jenna is a freshman Architecture major who has done drama once every year since the sixth grade as well as summer children’s theatre programs. This is her first year in NSR (of course) and also her first time seriously involved in a Shakespeare play of any sort!

**Connor Reilly** (*Lights*) accidentally wandered into the tech booth about an hour before the show thinking it was the bathroom. He has been trapped inside pressing buttons since. If you’re reading this, please help him escape. He’s getting hungry.

**Ellis Sargeant** (*Posthumus Leonatus*) is excited to be in his first Shakespeare play since awakening from a 1000 year sleep after his climactic final battle against the evil dragon Malchior. Verily, he smote the beast with righteous fury. Before then he’d already been in 27 Shakespeare plays though, including 5 with NSR. So yeah. He’s pretty cool. He’s also a junior PLS major from Philadelphia.

**Nick Taylor** (*Stage Manager*): Anger. Beard. Props.

## Cast

Cymbeline, <i>King of Britain</i> .....	Pascal Phoa
Innogen, <i>his daughter</i> .....	Isobel Grogan
Queen, <i>his second wife</i> .....	Lulu Phifer
Cloten, <i>the Queen’s son</i> .....	Ballard Powell
Posthumus Leonatus, <i>Innogen’s husband</i> .....	Ellis Sargeant
Pisanio, <i>Posthumus’ servant</i> .....	Alex Ford
Cornelius, <i>a doctor</i> .....	Matt Bendisz
Caius Lucius, <i>ambassador from Rome</i> .....	Jenna Rame
<i>his</i> Soothsayer.....	Aryan Gupta
Jachimo, <i>an Italian lord</i> .....	Joseph Blakey
Belaria, <i>a banished Briton</i> .....	Divine Abizera
Guiderius, <i>older brother</i> .....	Mary Biese
Arviragus, <i>younger brother</i> .....	Joe Crowley
Ensemble: Matt Bendisz, Mary Biese, Joe Crowley, Aryan Gupta, Lulu Phifer, Ballard Powell, Jenna Rame	

## Crew

Director.....	Mary Elsa Henrichs
Stage Manager.....	Nick Taylor
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Meredith McElroy
Light Designer/Songwriter.....	Joseph Crowley
Light Operator.....	Connor Reilly
Sound.....	Hye Sim Chung
Sound Assistant.....	Laura McKernan
Props.....	Hye Sim Chung and Nick Taylor
Costume Designer.....	Mary Elsa Henrichs
Costumes Assistant.....	Timothy Bentley



# About the Cast and Crew

**Divine Abizera** (*Belaria*) was in *The 34th Christmas*, a musical production for two consecutive years. . .when she was 14. She was in a one-act play about animals. . .she was a crow. And now she's in *Cymbeline*! She's a townie who grew up in South Bend, IN. In other words, she knows where all the best thrift shops are.

**Matt Bendisz** (*Cornelius*) is making his NSR debut in *Cymbeline*. Matt, a senior Economics and FTT major from Phoenix, has acted in numerous productions at Notre Dame, playing roles such as The Creature in FTT's *Frankenstein* and Botard in ND Theatre Now's *Rhinoceros*. He is grateful to his family, friends, and fans for their love and support, and would like to thank all those involved in *Cymbeline* for a rewarding initiation into the world of acting Shakespeare.

**Timothy "The Hammer" Bentley** (*Costumes Assistant*) gained fame as the prima ballerina of the Moscow Ballet, for his perfect pirouette and violent temper. After a catastrophic performance of "The Black Swan" which resulted in the death of six swans, he was forced to flee to America, where he assists with NSR shows to make ends meet. He lives in Hoboken, and enjoys baked goods.

**Mary Biese** (*Guiderius*) has performed in 10 shows total over the last 8 years, this being her 2nd Shakespeare show and her 1st NSR show. She is a Minnesota-born-and-raised freshman who hails from Southern California. Mary is undecided on her major but decided on her dislike of GenChem.

**Joseph Blakey** (*Jachimo*) is a senior Film, Television & Theatre student hailing from Oak Park, IL. He is immensely excited to be playing Jachimo in NSR's production of *Cymbeline* for his final year at Notre Dame. He has previously played Benedick and Duke Orsino in NSR's *Shakespeare Stripped* and has also directed NSR's production of *The Merchant of Venice*. He has previously worked with Show Some Skin and has also appeared in multiple FTT productions including *Spring Awakening*, *Rhinoceros*, *Christ's Passion*, *Frankenstein* and *Wildflower*.

**Hye Sim Chung** (*Sound*): A class of 2019 Psychology and German major and TESOL minor from San Diego, California, Hye Sim dazzled as Pirate 2 or 3 (can't remember) in NSR's *Pericles*. She then was light board operator for *Hamlet*, *Merchant of Venice*, and the *Witch of Edmonton* directed reading. She is now the lord of the sound board.

**Joe Crowley** (*Arviragus*) is a senior Political Science and English major, hailing from the booming metropolis of Lansing, Michigan. *Cymbeline* is his fourth acting experience with NSR: after playing Bassanio, Ferdinand, and Murderer #3, he has attained Roman god level, reaching the apex of his theatrical aspirations. When he's not acting, Joe can be found composing music or drawing up light plots, both of which he's done for this production.

**Alex Ford** (*Pisanio*) is a freshman English major from St. Louis, MO. She has been enthusiastically involved in theater since she was seven, and this is her first show with NSR. She has a special place in her heart for Shakespeare after playing the Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet* last fall and directing and producing a small Shakespeare Review this past spring.

**Isobel Grogan** (*Innogen*) is a sophomore English and PLS major who is only too delighted to be participating in her third NSR production. Her previous roles with NSR include Lady MacDuff in *Macbeth* and Quality 2 (the QUALITY Quality) in *The Tempest*. She would like to thank her friends for coming to cheer her on and all those who value and support Shakespeare on campus.

**Aryan Gupta** (*Soothsayer*) is a freshman at Notre Dame and is from Mumbai, India. He lives in Dillon Hall and is an intended Finance major. His prior theatre experiences include high school productions of *Orpheus & Eurydice* and *Factory Children* along with a Trinity Distinction in Speech & Drama.

**Mary Elsa Henrichs** (*Director*): After having performed in 15 Shakespearean productions, Mary Elsa is beyond beyond to have been given this opportunity work from the directorial perspective, and with such a brilliant cast and crew! From Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she studies English, German, and Education, Schooling, and Society. Past productions with NSR: *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Tempest*.

**Meredith McElroy** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be returning to NSR as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Cymbeline*. Her strengths include being a Gemini, majoring in English, and ignoring Ellis's directions about how to write a bio. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Laura McKernan** (*Sound assistant*) is a junior from Baltimore studying Neuroscience and English. She enjoys finding strange sounds for NSR and is currently stage managing *The Imaginary Invalid*, performing this weekend!