

CAESAR

"For always I am..."

Caesar

Oct. 29-31

Thursday/Friday 7 PM

Saturday 4 PM

Washington Hall

Mainstage

Tickets available online
through Student Shop ND

A Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Co. Production



About the Club

Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company: Notre Dame's only student-run Shakespeare club has been putting the B.A. back in the Bard since 1997!



Fall 2020 Officers:

Meredith McElroy, Executive Producer
Isobel Grogan and Cate Cappelmann, Producers
Alex Ford and Savannah Miracle, Marketing
Emily Hannon, Assistant Producer
Aryan Gupta, Treasurer

Special Thanks:

Shakespeare at ND
Scott Jackson
Grant Mudge
Peter Holland
The Robinson Community Learning Center
Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
Kat Van Vleet and the Washington Hall Staff

Synopsis

Concerned with Julius Caesar's rise to power and popularity among the Roman citizens, a group of Senators led by Cassius and Brutus conspire to assassinate Caesar. The assassination is met with outrage by the citizenry as General Marc Antony leads the Roman soldiers in a war against the conspirators.



NOTE: This production has been put together following

Notre Dame's COVID guidelines.

Please continue to socially distance,

wear your mask throughout the performance,

and enjoy the show!

Director's Note

As you watch this show, you should first understand that for our club this show has largely been an experiment—an experiment as to whether we can survive and adapt during COVID-19, and whether actors can themselves create a play of great beauty while doing so in a safe and responsible manner. In this, I believe we have been highly successful. *Julius Caesar* lends itself to a socially-distant format better than almost any other Shakespeare play. It is ageless, adaptable, and highly public. It lends itself just as well to the world of 2020 as any other. The Rome of our production may seem eerily familiar to you all: it is a city torn with plague and fierce civil strife. Tyranny looms like spectre on the horizon, and though the efforts to keep it at bay may seem valiant and goodhearted, their results are worse than fruitless.

Please, do not expect a happy ending. Some productions of *Julius Caesar* try to separate characters off as heroes and villains. Not us. They are all villains. They are all oppressors. Their little game ends as it begins, and their circle is rounded in nothing but a bloody whimper.

My heartfelt thanks to the cast and crew of this show. You have made this pandemic bearable—strike that, more than bearable—for me and for each other you have made this semester truly delightful! You have poured your hearts and souls (and often your sweat) into this show and boy, oh *boy* has it paid dividends! Whatever happens, please know that you have forged a thing of grim joy and terrible beauty whose memory I will forever cherish. My one and only regret is that none of you can see this show in its entirety as I have. Special thanks to my friends, to my family, and to Portia, the love of my life.

I give you my best,

Ballard Powell

“A thing of beauty is a joy for ever: Its loveliness increases; it will never Pass into nothingness.”

-John Keats, *Endymion*.

Assistant Director's Note

One of my favorite fun facts about the play *Julius Caesar* is actually about *Hamlet*. It has been speculated that the actor who played Caesar would have also played Polonius, and the actor who played Brutus would have played Hamlet. References to this are found in some dialogue between the two characters:

LORD POLONIUS

I did enact Julius Caesar: I was killed i' the/Capitol; Brutus killed me.

HAMLET

It was a brute part of him to kill so capital a calf there.

This exchange is delightful; I mean, who doesn't love an inside joke? But, this seemingly frivolous piece of trivia got me thinking about what are the real connections between these two plays. *Julius Caesar*, as much as *Hamlet*, is about what is done versus what is *not* done: "the native hue of resolution" versus "the pale cast of thought."

It is easy to focus on just the actions in this play. Brutus and the conspirators murder Caesar, and they manage to do it relatively quickly. Yet, Brutus demands that Antony and others remain alive. This failure to properly address the Antony problem is a crucial inaction that will eventually cost Brutus dearly. Both Portia and Calpurnia wisely advised against the doomed actions of their spouses, yet their advice is ignored. Also, it is never *proved* that Caesar was ambitious; there is no action that warrants these feelings. There is speculation about her arrogant personality and the corrupting nature of power, but the audience's opinions of Caesar's ambition is always filtered through the opinions of other characters. This doubt about Caesar's true intentions is precisely what Antony so tactfully exploits to stem the tide.

Brutus manages to act decisively and permanently. Hamlet, a mirror of Brutus, has difficulty acting. Often this is considered a fault, but, one can argue that Hamlet has learned from Brutus' mistakes. We all have. We can admire Brutus, but, like Hamlet, we ought to strive not to replicate his errors. It is important to recognize that action and thought can never be truly separated, in drama nor in life. Especially when the limits of our knowledge and the misgivings of our reason inevitably obstruct "enterprises of great pith and moment." This conflict is the crux of some of Shakespeare's best work. Being the master of his art, he knew it was wiser to simply propose the question, and not dare to answer it.

Cate Cappelmann

Cast

Julius Caesar	Mariko Jurcsak
Marc Antony.....	Savannah Miracle
Brutus.....	Jenna Rame
Cassius.....	Christina Randazzo
Casca/Crowd Member.....	Nandini Sadagopan
Trebonius/Crowd Member.....	Aryan Gupta
Ligarius/Crowd Member.....	Grace Gasper
Decius Brutus/Crowd Member.....	Alex Ford
Metellus Cimber/Crowd Member.....	Emily Hannon
Cinna/Crowd Member.....	Pascal Phoa
Flavius/Soldier 1/Popilius Lena.....	Delaney Schroeder
Marullus/Soldier 2/Antony's Servant/Publius.....	Corinne Niezgodzki
Portia/Volumnius/Crowd Member.....	Mary Biese
Calpurnia/Clitus/Crowd Member.....	John Donaruma
Cinna the Poet/Lucius.....	Isabel Olesinski
Lepidus/Soothsayer/Cicero/Soldier 3.....	Ryan Mantey
Octavius/Soldier 4.....	Dominic Keene

Crew

Director.....	Ballard Powell
Assistant Director.....	Cate Cappelmann
Stage Manager.....	Hayden Adams
Assistant Stage Manager/Props.....	Clare Barloon
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kay Wani
Light Director.....	Connor Reilly
Light Board Operator.....	Kathryn Heyser
Sound Director.....	Paul LeVan
Sound Apprentice.....	Caroline Melancon
Set Design.....	Emily Hannon
Costume Design.....	Grace Gasper, Alex Ford
Audio Design.....	Emmet Husmann

About the Cast and Crew

Hayden Adams (*Stage Manager*) is a senior hailing from Lexington, KY and double majoring in physics and film, television and theatre with a minor in journalism, ethics and democracy. He acted in two plays as a senior in high school: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *The Lady in Question*. He served as an assistant stage manager in the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company's spring 2020 production of *King Lear*.

Clare Barloon (*Assistant Stage Manager/Props*) is a freshman from Washington, DC! This is her first show at Notre Dame, but she has a history with theater, as she worked on all of the productions at her high school and is a big fan of Shakespeare. She is currently majoring in English and Global Affairs though that is extremely subject to change.

Mary Biese (*Portia/Volumnius/Crowd Member*) is a junior PLS major from Minnesota (and California... it's complicated) who loves reading poetry and ranting about theology. If she's not in PE, the library, or O'Shag, she's probably in an NSR or Magnificat Choir rehearsal. Her previous roles include Guiderius/Helen/Messenger/Ghost/Right-Eagle's-Wing (*Cymbeline*, Fall 2018), Lady Capulet (*Romeo and Juliet*, Fall 2019), Servant 1/Messenger (*King Lear*, cancelled Spring 2020), and an assortment of characters in NSR Zoom readings and Unrehearsed! performances. Some of her favorite NSR moments have been eating funnel cakes in LaFun after the 2019 USC game, going on her first library date with the love of her life, and reenacting "exit, pursued by a bear" over zoom with her extremely ferocious 2nd-grade brother. :)

Cate Cappelmann (*Assistant Director*) has spent the past couple months trying to talk about something other than the fact that she is the assistant director of NSR's *Julius Caesar*. Alas, she has failed. Cate is a junior PLS and American Studies double major from Smithtown, NY. This is her second year with NSR, and some previous acting credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Lord Montague, Friar John), *As You Like It*, *Unrehearsed!* (Phebe), and *New Jerusalem* (Rabbi Saul Mortera). She is so grateful for this cast for tolerating her pedantic ramblings, for the crew for doing all the hard work, for Ballard for his trust and encouragement, and for the whole club for being her favorite people at Notre Dame.

John Donaruma (*Calpurnia/Clitus/Crowd Member*) is a first-year here at Notre Dame. He did theater in high school for about three years, and to continue pursuing theater as a skill, he decided to

join NSR and their production of *Julius Caesar*. He always wanted to perform in *Julius Caesar*, but has never done a full Shakespeare production before, so there has been a lot to learn. Although he is an Environmental Engineering major, he is looking into finding some way to minor in, or at least keep involvement in the theatre community. It's been a fulfilling experience to be with everyone. He is very honored to be able to be a part of NSR!

Alex Ford (*Decius Brutus/Crowd Member/Costumes*) is junior majoring in English and Theology with a minor in Russian (which she still hasn't bothered to declare officially yet). This is her seventh show with NSR, the other six of which include: *New Jerusalem* (Director), *Compassion Cries the Moon King* (Duchess Sophie), *The Lost King Lear* (Assistant Director), *Romeo & Juliet* (Paris, Costumes), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysandra), and *Cymbeline* (Pisanio). She's grateful to her castmates, directors, crew, and fellow board members for making this show possible, and for letting her bring so many knives to a gunfight. She would like to thank the NSR for being her home here at ND, and the wonderful people in it for being her family.

Grace Gasper (*Ligarius/Crowd Member*) is thrilled to be... wait who am I playing? Ligarius? Ok. Grace is excited to be forgetting what she's doing during this production of... wait what play are we doing? *Julius Caesar*? Ok. Grace is very happy to be a part of... what is this again? NSR? Ok. What was I talking about? Just forget it.

(Grace is a sophomore theology major and is thrilled to be playing Ligarius and costume designing in *Julius Caesar*! This is Grace's second production with NSR. Offstage, one might find Grace being a Compass leader, talking about how much she loves the gateway program, or cheering on the Irish at football or hockey games, even though she has no idea how either of those sports work)

Who is **Aryan Gupta (*Trebonius/Crowd Member*)**? A junior from Mumbai majoring in Business and minoring in Real Estate? The NSR dreamboat? An absolute madman who uses all his Flex Points at once with the reckless abandon of a child who found a winning million-dollar lottery ticket on the floor of Toys R Us? In his time with NSR, he's beatboxed (*Cymbeline*), been asked out by every male member of the club (NSR formal 2019), officiated gay weddings (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), been a conniving bastard man (the redacted *King Lear*), found a dead bird in his salad (Tuesday at SDH), and been a bird himself (also *Cymbeline*). He's our Romeo, both in the actual 2019 *Romeo & Juliet* and in the adoring hearts of all his fellow club members.

Emily Hannon (*Metellus Cimber/Crowd Member*) is a sophomore from North Carolina studying history with a minor in PPE (politics, philosophy, and economics). When asked, she will happily ramble about historical events that had no real significance but that she thinks are funny. This is

Emily's second show with NSR, and she has had a lot of fun screaming about traitors in various places around Notre Dame (including outside). She is excited to be on the more active side of murder instead of being the intended victim as she was at the Starbucks in LaFun, an Applebee's in Virginia, and once by her grandma who still feels bad for accidentally giving her dairy.

Kathryn Heyser (*Light Board Operator*) is a junior from the Chicago area. She's currently majoring in aerospace engineering as well as history, and is co-chair of the Notre Dame International Security Undergraduate Fellows Program. For *Julius Caesar*, Kat will be reprising her role as light board operator from *Midsummer Night's Dream* in the NSR production spring 2019. Her other past theatre credits include various roles in a radio theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland* as well as four years of puppetry in various roles. Outside of theatre, Kat is also involved in various band ensembles playing flute, piccolo, and percussion, and enjoys teaching flute and horseback riding. Per usual, she has begun to ramble, so she'll just trail off here...

Mariko Jurcsak (*Caesar*) is a sophomore from Hawaii studying Classics with minors in the Hesburgh Program and Japanese! Last year, she performed in *Romeo and Juliet*, and she is so honored to be part of another amazing NSR cast! She can't wait to go to the Senate with her best buddies.

Dominic Keene (*Octavius/Soldier 4*) is a freshman from Walla Walla, Washington (the town so nice they named it twice), and he's playing Octavius in his first production with NSR. He lives in Duncan Hall and plans to major in electrical engineering and is considering a dual degree in FTT. This is his first show at Notre Dame, but in high school he played Johnny in *The Outsiders*, Tom Sawyer in *Tom Sawyer*, Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*. When he's not hard at work studying or at rehearsal, Dominic is also on the Men's Rowing team and Rocketry Team. In his nonexistent free time, Dominic also enjoys books, board games, golf, and playing the guitar. Fun fact: Dominic used to be a professional magician at a wine tasting room back home and he loves performing magic for pretty much anyone who's willing to watch. Seriously. Ask him to show you a trick, he'll immediately pull out one of the sixty decks of cards he brought to Notre Dame with him and attempt to amaze you. Dominic maintains that he is not a playing card hoarder and needs all of his decks for "work." He hopes you enjoy the show!

Paul LeVan (*Sound Director*) *Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Valley Girl. Rumble Fish. Racing with the Moon. The Cotton Club. Birdy. The Boy in Blue. Peggy Sue Got Married. Raising Arizona. Moonstruck. Vampire's Kiss. Never on Tuesday. Time to Kill. Fire Birds. Wild at Heart. Zandalee. Honeymoon in Vegas. Amos & Andrew. Deadfall. Red Rock West. Guarding Tess. It Could Happen to You. Trapped in Paradise. A Century of Cinema. Kiss of Death. Leaving Las Vegas. The Rock. Con Air.*

Face/Off. City of Angels. Snake Eyes. 8mm. Bringing Out the Dead. Gone in 60 Seconds. The Family Man. Captain Corelli's Mandolin. Christmas Carol: The Movie. Windtalkers. Adaptation. Sonny. Matchstick Men. National Treasure. Lord of War. The Weather Man. The Ant Bully. World Trade Center. The Wicker Man. Ghost Rider. Grindhouse. Next. National Treasure: Book of Secrets. Bangkok Dangerous. Knowing. G-Force. Astro Boy. Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans. Kick-Ass. The Sorcerer's Apprentice. Season of the Witch. Drive Angry. Trespass. Seeking Justice. Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance. Stolen. The Croods. The Frozen Ground. Joe. Rage. Left Behind. Dying of the Light. Outcast. The Runner. Pay the Ghost. The Trust. Snowden. USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage. Dog Eat Dog. Army of One. Arsenal. Mom and Dad. Vengeance: A Love Story. Inconceivable. Looking Glass. The Humanity Bureau. 211. Teen Titans Go! To the Movies. Mandy. Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. Between Worlds. Love, Antosha. A Score to Settle. Running with the Devil. Kill Chain. Color Out of Space. Primal. Grand Isle.

Ryan Mantey (*Lepidus/Soothsayer/Cicero/Soldier 3*) Χαυρε. Ryan is a freshman of the class of 2024, living in Stanford Hall, planning to major in PLS and Philosophy, with a possible minor in Classics or Acting, and hailing from the (currently burning) state of Colorado—Boulder specifically, if anyone wants to know. His only other theatre experience HERE with NSR has been *New Jerusalem*, in which he was Simon de Vries, but in high school, he was in such shows as *And Then There Were None*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Our Town*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, as well as *The Mikado*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Guys and Dolls*. However, though he has been in musicals, he is not musical. He can sing, but as Caesar says, “I will not.” In his spare time (hah! What spare time?) he enjoys playing chess, reading, or discussing philosophy or literature.

Caroline Melancon (*Sound Apprentice*) is helping with sound for the show. This is her first NSR show, and she's super excited! She did tech for her high school theater. She's a junior Physics and English double major from Memphis.

Savannah Miracle (*Marc Antony*) is honored to be appearing as Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*. This is her third show with NSR, having performed as Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and almost appearing as Goneril in the ill-fated March 2020 production of *King Lear*. She has maintained a 3/3 record of wearing her hair in a low bun for shows performed on the Wash Hall mainstage, following *The Addams Family* and *Guys and Dolls*. A junior from Mequon, WI, Savannah is studying Neuroscience and Behavior and Constitutional Studies, and is hoping to figure out what she's doing with her life soon. In the meantime, she serves on the NSR officer board, is an ambassador for McWell, frequently mumbles song lyrics behind her mask, drinks way too much coffee, and enjoys watching ducks with her roommate. She sends the cast and crew her love!

Corinne Niezgodzki (*Marullus/Soldier 2/Antony's Servant*) is a Sophomore from Phoenix, AZ studying Computer Science. This is her first performance with NSR, but she participated in many plays and musicals prior to college, her favorite being *Charlotte's Web the Musical* (not a lie, it was pretty cool).

Isabel Olesinski (*Cinna the Poet/Lucius*) is so excited to be part of her first NSRSCO production as Lucius/Cinna the Poet. She is from Chicago and is a first-year at Notre Dame, double majoring in English with a Creative Writing Concentration and Political Science. Isabel's main theatre credits are Penelope Pennywise (*Urinetown: The Musical*), Katalin Hunyak (*Chicago*), Young Republicanette (*Heathers: The Musical*), and Lucy (*The Good Times Are Killing Me*). She has also competed in numerous Shakespeare competitions for the last three years, with her favorite past roles being Lavinia (*Titus Andronicus*) and Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*). Isabel has been doing theatre since improv class in fifth grade (she then vowed to never do improv again) and is very proud to be part of such a wonderful group as NSRSCO so early in her college life. Isabel would like to thank her family and friends for the constant support and for keeping up with her crazy passions; she loves you all very much. Enjoy the show!

Pascal Phoa (*Cinna/Publius/Crowd Member*) is a senior Computer Science major from Jakarta, Indonesia. He has been involved with NSR productions over the years as Cymbeline in *Cymbeline* (2018) and an ensemble member in *King Lear* (2020). He was also involved in Show Some Skin's 2020 production with the FTT department. Outside NSR and theater, Pascal fantasizes about being an FTT major while fixing bugs in his code at 3:47 am. He has only been partially involved in theater and the performing arts throughout his life because he needs to impress his parents by working "a real job."

☹

Ballard Powell (*Director*) is a Junior from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania studying Political Science, with minors in Business Economics, and Accountancy. Since a young age he has been fascinated with two things: (1) stars and (2) the assassination of major political figures. It was only inevitable that one day he would end up directing a production of *Julius Caesar*. Ballard has been in NSR since his freshman year. He has played several roles, including Duncan in *Macbeth*, Cloten in *Cymbeline*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Cornwall in *King Lear*. He wants to thank the cast for putting up with his rambling for eight long weeks, the crew for filling in for his technical illiteracy, and Cate for keeping him sane and knowing when to tell him he's an idiot.

Jenna Rame (*Brutus*) is a third year architecture student from Le Sueur, Minnesota. She has been heavily involved in theater for many years, and her stage involvement with NSR includes *Cymbeline*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, going for walks, and advocating for democracy and justice (without the murder and conspiracy though, that's a little bit much).

Christina Randazzo (*Cassius*) is so ecstatic to be playing Cassius in this modern production of *Julius Caesar*! She is a sophomore Psychology major living in Welsh Family Hall, originally from Cleveland, Ohio. You may recognize her from her previous ND performances as Princess Ludovica in *Compassion Cries The Moon King* by Joe Larson, and when she sang "Santa Fe" in PEMCo's production of *Gettin' Out of Town*! When Christina's not on stage corrupting noble Romans so they'll join her coup or plotting to overthrow the entire Roman Empire, she can probably be found plotting a coup with the clarinet section in the ND Marching Band or belting out some showtunes at South Quad Karaoke night! If not there, you can bet she's at Welsh Fam psycho-analyzing the cinematic masterpiece that is *Cars 2* with her roommate, Grace (who plays Ligarius in this show)! She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support! Special thanks to Christina's mom for being the absolute best and helping her memorize all of her lines!

Connor Reilly (*Light Director*) is a washed-up alumnus who doesn't know when to move on with his life. Despite now serving through AmeriCorps with a far cooler Shakespeare company, the Robinson Shakespeare Company, he has returned to once more rain his literal and metaphorical brilliance upon NSR. This is his sixth show designing lights for NSR, and he hopes to better his current 20% light explosion per show rate. He would like to thank the actors, the real lights of the show.

Nandini Sadagopan (*Casca/Crowd Member*) is a method actor who, after mastering the role of Notre Dame Student, has taken on the role of Casca. If you're not scared... you should be.

While you were busy wasting your quarantine, **Delaney Schroeder (*Flavius/Soldier 1/Popilius Lena*)** studied the blade (stick). Pete Buttigieg, if you get this far, thanks for coming to the show.

Kay Wani (*Assistant Stage Manager*) was once called Komal in another lifetime where everyone she knew also spoke more than one language, in a faraway land called Mumbai. Please do not confuse this with Dubai, which is also far away but in a different kingdom. A wise old witch told her to get majors in English and Sociology, and also said something about bubbles & troubles but she wasn't paying attention. She asked this witch for a spell to delete memories of her middle school play where

she rapped "Get happy with the Happy Club!" in neon jeans, but instead, the witch put her backstage where she actually got kinda happy. In the Sophomore Era, she was ASM/Props for *Romeo & Juliet*, but tragedy struck the production of *King Lear* in the form of the plague before she could fulfil her destiny as Stage Manager. Now she is considering stabbing Hayden to take over his throne and his radio. She really wants a radio.