

## Synopsis

The citizens of Rome are demonstrating about the price of corn. Sicinius and Brutus are appointed tribunes to represent their interests. The patrician Menenius nearly calms the citizens when Caius Marcius arrives to quash them. The general Cominius delivers news that the Volscians are once again attacking, and he and Caius go to defend Rome. The general of the Volscians, Tullus Aufidius, having learned Rome knows of his plans, intends to capture what cities he can before the Romans mobilize. Caius' mother, Volumnia, informs Caius' wife, Virgilia, of the Roman plan to first assault the Volscian capital, Corioli, before dealing with their army. This is successful, with Caius single handedly taking Corioli before repulsing Tullus. For these deeds Caius Marcius is given the victory title "Coriolanus".

The executive head of Rome, Consul, is selected by both the Senate and the people. Flush with victory and having approval of the Senate, Coriolanus expects the position. Having no trust in the people, he requests, but is denied, that he be exempted from popular election. He manages to win the people's support, but they change their minds again with the tribunes' warnings that Coriolanus will become a tyrant. Their refusal raises Coriolanus wrath such that he is brought up on charges. Thus instead of becoming Consul, he ends up being banished from Rome.

"Coriolanus" is not one of Shakespeare's most performed works. So rather than spoil the ending for those who aren't familiar with this play, suffice to say that it is resolved after intermission.

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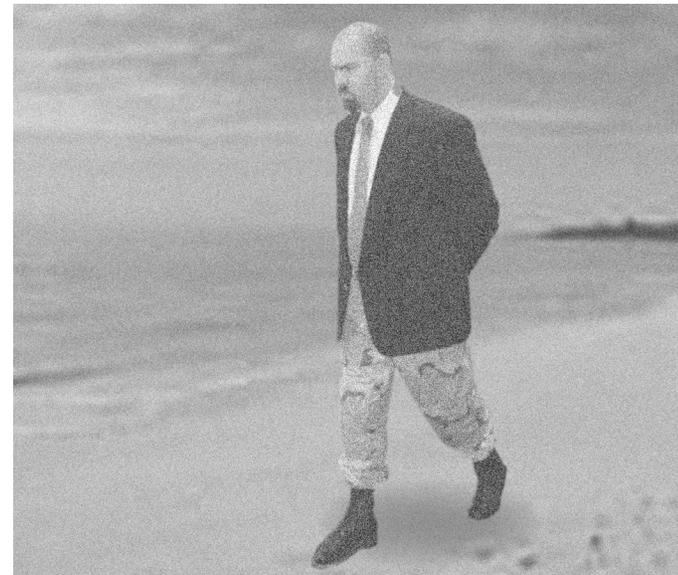
Silver - **Tom and Connie Berg, Nell Codner, Gordon Hagen, Robert and Susan Henry, Tamon Honda, Stephanie Zirkin, Stanley Zirkin**

Bronze - **Don Juran, Robert Perkins, Anita and Richard Stoll,**

**Michelle Trout, Charisma Weaver**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S WARNING:  
Failure to sponsor the Rudes may result  
in idle actors squatting in *your* basement.

## The Rude Mechanicals Present William Shakespeare's **CORIOLANUS** Directed by Alan Duda



[www.rudemmechanicals.com](http://www.rudemmechanicals.com)

7, 8, 14, 15 September 2007  
Sellers Theater  
Laurel, Maryland

27, 28, 29 September 2007  
Warehouse Theater  
Washington D.C.

## Coriolanus

Director	Alan Duda
Producer / Apprentice Director	Jon Clark
Asst Dir. / Tech Dir. / Sound Design	Jeff Poretsky
Stage Manager	Melanie Jester
Technical Designer	Liana Olear
Publicity Manager	Morrigan Condo
Fight Choreographer	Arthur Rowan
Fight Captain / Light Operator	Erin MacDonald
Sound Operator	Shawn McNeal
Stage Hand	Heather McNeal
Photographer	Rachel Duda
Set Reconstruction	Baker's Dozen
Director's Conscience Collective	Sean Eustis Joshua Engel

### Director's Notes

Caius Marcius Coriolanus is often portrayed as having a class disdain for the plebeians and even his peers – “You aren’t as good as I am.” I instead see his motivation as coming from his mother teaching him to strive for excellence in himself and others – “Why can’t you even try to be better?” He is frustrated by the people’s unwillingness to do so. His mother realizes too late that she failed to also teach him compassion for the faults and weaknesses of others. This uncompromising character, a virtue in a soldier, becomes a liability in the political realm that eventually leads to his downfall.

In *Coriolanus*, I satirize the fickle nature of public opinion, its manipulation by the media, and its arrogant dismissal by those in power. The weakness of satire is that it points out faults without providing a solution. Based on that, it would be hypocritical to use this play to try to change your views. I instead hope you consider the consequences to society of each faction individually believing in the infallibility of their varied opinions. But more likely, you’ll walk out with what you walked in with, having liked the parts you agreed with and disliking the rest. At least you should have been entertained.

**Jeff Poretsky (Assistant Director / Technical Director / Sound Design)** would like to thank LHS for expanding the vocabulary of his profanity such that now it is merely permutations.

**Amy Rauch (Brutus – The Idealistic Tribune)** has three favorite words, and none of them begin with G, W, or B. She doesn't have very many words to say in this show, but the eternal question remains - will she say them all, in the right place, at the right time, in the right order? Stay tuned!

**Arthur Rowan (Fight Choreographer)** joined a Medieval Boy Band and was last seen under a pile of women at PennRenn.

**Jonny Simmons (Sicinius)** Dear Menenius, your time has run out with my patience. Expect to hear from my lawyer as I never want to talk to you again because I hate you. Call me?

**Torberg M. Tonnessen (Cominius)** is wrapping up his tenth year involved with theater. The first show was as an ancient Greek. Now it's as a modern American's vision of an Elizabethan Englishman's take on an ancient Roman. In between these (in no particular order) he has been a know-it-all, a know-very-little, a bastard, a schemer, a bellhop, a legate, Mr. Martin, and a kindergartener.

**Holly Trout (Assistant to Tribunes)** was born into poverty in 1930, raised in Bismark until she married at fifteen, moved to L.A. and made her film debut in “Sweet Country Girl” at seventeen. Between 1948 and 1960, she starred in twenty-eight films, won an Oscar and a Globe, and made 100 best-dressed lists. But after an alleged love affair with John F. Kennedy in 1961, she lost her respectability in movies and finally any work. She committed suicide by drug overdose in 1967.

**Michelle Trout (Volumnia)** is delighted to play such a nurturing mother role. Her previous forays into stage mother/wifehood have not proved as gentle: As Stevie in Edward Albee’s *The Goat*, or *Who Is Sylvia?*, she slaughtered the rival for her husband’s affections, and as Margrethe Bohr in Michael Frayn’s *Copenhagen*, she was dead to begin with. Film roles are even less tender – death by machete to the head in the films “Women’s Studies” and “Fear of Clowns 2”, death by clubbing in “Exodus 20:13”, and as Vida in “Livelihood” ([www.livelihoodmovie.com](http://www.livelihoodmovie.com)), death by poison, electrocution, stabbing, gutting, and finally machete in the head. ([www.MichelleTrout.biz](http://www.MichelleTrout.biz))

## Bios (whether submitted or not)

**Bakers Dozen (Set Reconstruction)** also play music. Don't build your temple this way.

**Mikki Barry (Citizen / Soldier)** has been a DJ in Oman, a TV news anchor in NH, a kickboxing judge, a dive instructor in the Caribbean, and has testified before Congress, but her lifelong goal has been to shoot at Coriolanus. The Rudes have provided her the opportunity and now she can die happy. She has ten dogs, three parrots, two cats, a teenager, and one husband. This is her first Rudes performance.

**Elise Berg (Virgilia)** has been a Rude Mechanical since early 2001. In place of a bio, she's decided to list five shows in which she's appeared, and one in which she hasn't: *Romeo & Juliet* (Juliet), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Harry and Snape Visit South Beach: A Musical in 5 Acts* (Hungarian Horntail), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio), *Othello* (Desdemona). She'd like to thank Jay, Heather, Jay, Alan, and... Jay.

**Kevin Brotzman (Citizen / Soldier)** pants?!

**Eldridge E. Brown II (Coriolanus)** vented his creativity in such notable roles as Tiny Tim, Tinkerbell, and Cordelia, before he was big enough to realize some parts are indeed too small.

**Jon Clark (Producer / Apprentice Director / Soldier)** is doing his 3rd production with the Rudes and the first behind the scenes as well as on the stage. Many thanks go to Alan for teaching him so much about how much it really takes to put a production together and for helping him remember his briefcase. Most importantly he thanks his Beautiful Bride for putting up with him for the last few months. You put up with way too much from him. As always love to the Duck and Ketchup.

**Trent Clark (Marcius)** This is Trent's first time on stage for the Rude Mechanicals. He has had so much fun. He wants to thank Mr. Alan for letting him do this and to Ms. Mo, Ms. Elise, Ms. Lea, Ms. Holly, and Mr. Eldridge for helping him get rid of his extra energy during practice.

**Morrigan Condo (Sicinius / Publicity Manager)** Dear Menenius, I have been extremely patient up to this point, but your refusal to return my phone calls has forced me to demand in writing the return of my furry pink leopard print shackles and matching gag ball. They are one-of-a-kind items and as you know, they hold a sentimental value as well. If I don't get them back within 72 hours of receipt of this letter, I will be forced to take legal action. I plan to seek financial compensation for the loss as well. Please call me ASAP so we can work this out.

Sincerely, Sicinius

**Alan Duda (Director)** would like to thank the indulgences of his wife, cast, crew, and son.

**Rachel Duda (Photographer)** has taken photos for several Rudes productions and thinks it is almost as much fun as acting in them.

**Stephen Duda (Poster Boy)** still does not appear in this production.

**Joshua Engel (Tullus Aufidius)** is pleased to be once again standing on stage at the end of the play, among the dead bodies. Boy, this sucks.

**Sean Eustis (Director's Conscience Collective)** reminded his ghostwriter that the difference between reformed "pedagog" and reformed "pedophile" is that one is accurate, the other is actionable slander. He did not, however, specify which applied.

**Mike Galizia (Menenius)** thanks Alan for the challenge and his patience. His other Rudes outings were, Falstaff in *Merry Wives* and Mephistopheles in *Faustus*. This is the first Rudes show where he has not had to cross dress. Michael has performed with; VLOC, Washington Savoyards, RLT, Annapolis Opera, Forgotten Opera and Opera Theater of Southern Maryland. He also likes to dabble in: test piloting, space exploration, surgery, inventing new languages, subverting uptight conservatives, defending the rights of aquatic flora and fauna, breeding tropical fish, cooking, and growing flowers. He might have lied about a couple of those. Nonetheless, he is a world-class procrastinator and junk food connoisseur. More than likely, he's moving out of state after this show. Aloha to all the Rudes, and other friends – missing you already.

**Lea Gallagher (Assistant to Tribunes)** appeared in the director's *King John* as assistant stage manager moving sets about. Little did she know he was training her for an acting role.

**Lisa Hill-Corley (Menenius)** last appeared in *Much Ado* as the patriarchal man in the suit. She's glad for the change. No, wait...

**Himself (Special Guest)** is found by image googling "Richard Nixon".

**Melanie Jester (Stage Manager)** appeared in the director's *King John* as the raving lunatic cackling backstage. Little did she know he was training her for stage manager.

**Bill Jones (Citizen)** played the Father in *Into The Woods* for Laurel Mills, Agrippa in *Antony And Cleopatra* for the Rude Mechanicals, the Doctor in O2B2's *Company of Wayward Saints*, the Duke in *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* at GAC, the Father in O2B2's *Six Characters In Search Of An Author*, and Frank in *Over The River*, also at GAC. He directed O2B2's *Volpone* in July 2007. He thanks his wife profusely for her fabulous support of his theatrical endeavors.

**Joe Kubinski (Soldier / Colbertus)** auditioned for this show by telling the director over beers "I don't want any lines. I just want to hit people." This is his third show with the Rudes. Lord knows why.

**Heather Martin (Citizen)** appeared in the Rudes' first show. She wears a boys size 6 better now than then. Photo available upon request.

**Erin MacDonald (Fight Captain / Light Operator)** likes puppies, kitties, and other cute, fuzzy, baby animals. She's up to three a day.

**Heather McNeal (Stage Hand)** had to change her name to get it spelled right in the program. You will probably see her hand closing the curtain as some of her actors are untrainable.

**Sean McNeal (Sound Operator)** is happy the director got his wife's name right in the program this time.

**Liana Olear (Technical Designer)** would like to thank her cat for getting between her and the keyboard every time she tries to write this bio. It's like he can tell. Fine, furface, it's all about you. Happy? She would also like to thank her husband for putting up with yet another project, and the assorted directors for random acts of awesomeness and for letting her play with their shiny objects.

## Cast



Caius Marcius  
Coriolanus  
Eldridge E. Brown II



Volumnia  
mother to Coriolanus  
Michelle Trout



Virgilia  
wife to Coriolanus  
Elise Berg



Marcus  
son to Coriolanus  
Trent Clark



Menenius Agrippa  
Patrician  
Mike Galizia



Sicinius Velutus  
Tribune of the People  
Morrigan Condo



Junius Brutus  
Tribune of the People  
Amy Rauch



Cominius  
Roman General  
Torberg M. Tennesen



Alternate Menenius  
Lisa Hill-Corley



Alternate Sicinius  
Jonny Simmons



Tullus Aufidius  
Volscian General  
Joshua Engel



Special Guest  
Himself

## Ensemble



Mikki Barry



Kevin Brotzman



Jon Clark



Lea Gallagher



Bill Jones



Joe Kubinski



Heather Martin



Holly Trout