

The Rude Mechanicals present William Shakespeare's

THE WINTER'S TALE



January 28, 29, 2011

DeLaski Theatre at Sitar Arts Center

February 4, 5, 11, 12, 2011

**Black Box Theatre at Howard County
Center for the Arts**

cast list

In Order of Appearance:

Leontes	Mike Thompson
Hermione	Melissa Robinson
Mamillius	Dylan Kaufman
Polixenes	Micah Chalmer
Paulina/a Bohemian	Rebecca Proch
Archidamus /a Bohemian	Josh Engel
Camillo	Rachel Duda
Antigonus /Mopsa	Don Cook
Cleomenes/a Bohemian	Joe Roberts
Dion /a Bohemian	Rebecca Hranj
Clown/a Waitress	Caitlin Williams
Emilia /Shepherdess	Lisa Hill-Corley
Gaoler /Dorcas	E. Lynda Bruce-Lewis
Florizel / Officer.....	Evan Ockershausen
Autolycus /Courtier	Calvin Smith
Perdita /Courtier	Leanne Dinverno

director's notes

The Winter's Tale is one of Shakespeare's problem plays. But for all its problems, it is still an exquisite play that captures jealousy, grief, hope, and redemption in a way none of Shakespeare's other plays can match.

The Winter's Tale tells the story of Leontes, a king who is suddenly overcome with irrational paranoia and jealousy. Believing on very little evidence that his queen (Hermione) is having an affair with his best friend (Polixenes), he makes a series of tragic decisions that bring about the death of Hermione and of his son (Mamillius), as well as the abandonment of his newborn daughter (Perdita). Sixteen years later Perdita falls in love with Polixenes' son Florizel, Perdita's true identity is revealed, and Hermione is miraculously resurrected. Everyone lives happily ever after. Except Mamillius, who is still dead, but we try not to think too much about that.



The Rude Mechanicals are proud to offer opportunities for involvement in the arts to our community partners at UCP on the Potomac, an organization supporting people living with physical and intellectual disabilities. If you or your business would like to know how you can help please call (301) 459-0566 to learn more. UCP on the Potomac is always looking for work of volunteer opportunities for the individuals they serve.

production staff

Director:Melissa Schick
Assistant Director:Katie Wanschura
Producer:Joshua Engel
Stage Managers:Katie Wanschura,
Leanne Dinverno
Lighting Designer:Patrick Mullen
Sound Designer:Don Cook
Set Designer:Patrick Mullen
Costumers:Caitlin Williams,
Leanne Dinverno,
Katie Wanschura
Bear Costume by:Joe Roberts and
Katie Wanschura
Website:Sean Eustis
Photography and
Graphic Design:Rachel Duda
Publicity Consultant:Melissa Robinson
Select Set Pieces from:Silver Spring Stage
Rehearsal Space
Provided by:UCP on the Potomac

cast and crew bios

Calvin Smith (Autolycus/A Courtier) is happy to be back from an acting break. He was last seen providing the vital child-abuse vector that made *Romeo and Juliet: Pirates vs. Ninjas* the smash hit it was at Cannes last year. He has been with the Rudes since the days of Jack Wibbe, and has also done professional stage and film in various Baltimore-Washington Corridor locations near you! He'd like to thank God for inspiration, Wendy for patience, and Oscar the Mooch for inspiration in the art of being a rogue and thief. Oh, that ever I was born!

Mike Thompson (Leontes) has done a fairly decent number of plays. How many? Well, more than 10, but certainly less than 57. Would you like to know about them? I bet you would! Oh. No? Really? Well that's okay, he wasn't going to tell you about them anyway. So there. Every time Mike thinks he's out of theater, they keep pulling him back in! Mike wants to thank everyone for making this time such an enjoyable experience; even those damn dirty hippies taking up the second half. Mike owns a cat and a ferret, neither of which were very helpful in assisting him with learning the role. So if he rolls around the stage, meows and steals your purse, you know who to blame. Mike firmly believes that the number one threat to Bohemia is bears.

Katie Wanschura (Assistant Director/Costumes/Stage Manager) is pleased to be making her "debut" in a directorial capacity with the Rude Mechanicals. Previously, she served as the Assistant Director for *Richard III*, Tapestry Theatre, and for *Game Theory*, Silver Spring Stage. In addition, she has earned her keep in a variety of other production and design roles, including stage manager, road manager, assistant technical director, voice interpreter, master electrician, costume designer, and light designer. Also an actor, Katie was last seen onstage with the Rude Mechanicals as Edmund the Bastard in *King Lear*; and Proteus in *No Gentlemen of Verona*, remounted for the 2010 Fringe Festival. Many thanks to Shannon, the wonderful actors and the production team for their commitment and talent, and copious additional thanks to Melissa Schick for thinking of me, even without the bright blue Proteus suit.

Caitlin Williams (Clown/Costumes) is actually allergic to mushrooms.

cast and crew bios

Rebecca Proch (Paulina, Bohemian) is a writer and artist whose mild-mannered secret identity is the education department manager at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Arts. She is delighted to work with the Rudes again, having appeared previously in the mainstage and Fringe productions of both *No Gentlemen of Verona* (Don Antonio, Outlaw) and *The Tempest: A Celtic Musical* (Queen Alonsa). Most recently, she did the visual design for Silver Spring Stage's *Wait Until Dark*. Rebecca studied acting at HB Studios in Greenwich Village and performed in a number of productions in the city and regionally during her time in Manhattan, also working behind the scenes as a stage manager, producer, and director. She would like to thank the cast and crew for a great show and for encouraging her behavior.

Joe Roberts (Cleomenes/A Bohemian/Bear Head Maker) is a traveling gypsy, and a jack of all trades. Having lived all over the country, he now calls this area home. Joe was raised by wolves and wild spirits; he loves zombies, and fluffy bunnies. Interesting fact #42: he's not afraid of the dark, only what he can't see in it.

Melissa B. Robinson (Hermione), a journalist and author, thanks Melissa S. for trusting her with a wonderful role that she counts among her all-time favorites. Special thanks, too, go out to her son, Dylan, for sharing the stage with her. Melissa was last seen in the Rudes' *King Lear*, and as Mosca in Ben Jonson's *Volpone* at Greenbelt Arts Center. One last thanks to all who worked, on and off stage, to bring this challenging, captivating play to life, and to all who came to see us. Watch out for bears everybody.

Melissa Schick (Director) is delighted to be directing her first production with the Rude Mechanicals and blessed to have such a wonderful cast and crew to bring this show to life. She previously served as apprentice director on *Oedipus/Antigone* for the Rude Mechanicals and directed *Ludlow Fair* at Sandy Spring Friends School. Her roles on stage with the Rude Mechanicals have included Valentine in *No Gentlemen of Verona*, Audrey in *As You Like It*, and Cassandra in *Troilus and Cressida*. She would like to thank each and every single person who lent a helping hand to make this show happen. She would also like to thank her friends, family, and everyone that had to deal with her insanely high stress levels while directing this show. She would like to give a special shout-out to UCP on the Potomac (her employer and practically her unofficial place of residence) for providing a great rehearsal space and for working with her to find ways to bring theater to her work life and vice versa.

scene breakdown

act I

- Prologue.....1979, as Hermione and Polixenes discuss their impending nuptials, Hermione envisions her dead son, Mamillius, coming to life and telling her a tale.
- Scene 1.....Mamillius' tale begins. We are transported back to 1963 to a banquet that might have been held if Leontes had not died. Everything is perfect until Leontes is overcome with jealousy. Camillo initially agrees to murder Polixenes for cuckolding Leontes, but then tells Polixenes of the plot and flees with him to Bohemia.
- Scene 2.....1963, Leontes accuses Hermione of being pregnant with Polixenes' child and has her thrown in prison.
- Scene 3.....1963, after Hermione gives birth in prison, Paulina bribes the Gaoler to let her take the baby, planning to show it to Leontes to soften his heart.
- Scene 4.....Paulina tries to give Leontes Hermione's baby. Leontes orders Antigonus to abandon the child in the wilderness of Bohemia to fend for herself.
- Scene 5.....1963, in court. Hermione is arraigned. Leontes offends Apollo's oracle and the proceedings end in tragedy.
- Scene 6.....1963, A hippie named Clown eats some magic mushrooms and sees Antigonus bringing the baby to Bohemia. After a bear eats Antigonus, Clown's mother, a shepherdess, finds the baby and decides to raise her. The baby is named Perdita.

TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

act II

- Scene 1.....1979, Camillo asks Polixenes if she can return to Sicilia. Instead Polixenes convinces Camillo to help him spy on his son Florizel.
- Scene 2.....1979, Shakedown Street; Clown gets robbed.
- Scene 3.....1979, Sheep Shearing; Polixenes chastises Florizel for wanting to marry a shepherdess' daughter.
- Scene 4.....1979, Camillo convinces Florizel and Perdita to flee to Sicilia.
- Scene 5.....1979, Leontes is still in mourning; Perdita and Florizel arrive.
- Scene 6.....1979, The happily reunited family goes to view an extraordinarily lifelike statue of Hermione. Mamillius' tale comes to an end and we are returned to reality.



Trojan Women 2.0