

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to *The Comedy of Errors*! This famous comedy by William Shakespeare is known for the two sets of identical twins that are reunited after being separated as infants. The confusion and mistaken identities ultimately leads to the comedy we know and love. But make no mistake, this play begins as a tragedy. Egeon, an old man separated from his wife, his twin sons, and their twin servants, is sentenced to die simply because of where he is from! If he were rich, he could pay the fee and save his life. Unfortunately, Egeon doesn't have anything of monetary value. But he does have his story which he reluctantly tells. And with that one story, Egeon delays his sentence. Not only that, but unknown to him, today is the day he finally arrives in the same city as his sons! *The Comedy of Errors* is an epic, miraculous homecoming! Where, almost magically, this tragic old man comes to find his family all together. No longer an outsider but instead, being welcomed in as an equal.

I could not be more proud or excited to direct this educational tour for the same company that inspired me to become an artist. The Utah Shakespeare Festival sent out a tour when I was in high school. It was an incredible performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. It was the first time I saw working actors. Not only were they being paid to act, they were cool! Actor Lillian Castillo played the nurse, and till that point, I had never seen a Puerto Rican person represented in Shakespeare. It helped open my eyes to the possibilities that were available to me. "I can do that," I thought. This 400 year old text can still work its magic. It can still prompt new thoughts, new interpretations, it can still inspire new audiences. I hope to uphold that legacy of sharing Shakespeare in the Schools.

Theatre creates space for exponential empathy. Shakespeare's language creates space for the expression and articulation of thoughts that sometimes feel too complicated. And within that space there is potential for an education on a profound intimate and social level. It has been my privilege to witness it, to work alongside these incredible artists at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and to share this all with you. Enjoy the show!

—Marco Antonio Vega

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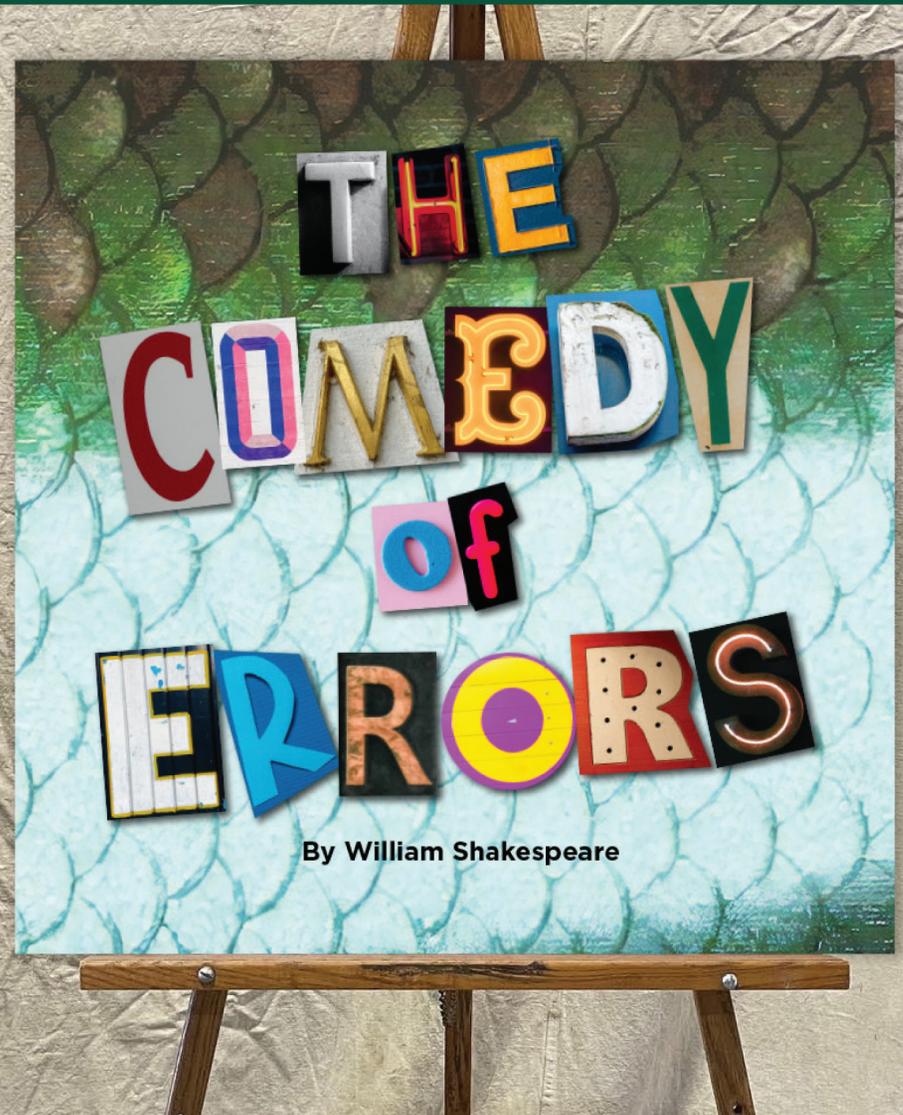
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

**THE COMEDY
of ERRORS**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Marco Antonio Vega
Scenic Designer	Benjamin Hohman
Props Designer	Marielle Boneau
Costume Designer	Diana Girtain
Costume Technicians	Amanda Castanon, Perris Stachlewitz
Voice and Text Coach	Evelyn Carol Case

FESTIVAL STAFF

Artistic Director	John DiAntonio
Executive Managing Director	Michael Bahr
Education Director	Stewart Shelley
Education Programs Manager	Sophia Gryzwacz Bulloch
Lead Teaching Artist	Marian Esplin Peterson
Teacher Tool Kit/Study Guide	Elyna Mellen and Marian Esplin Peterson
Booking Manager	Mallory Blue
Festival Production Manager	Richard Girtain
Properties Director	Benjamin Hohman
Assistant Properties Director	Marielle Boneau
Electrics Director	Scott Palfreyman
Associate Electrics Director	Danielle Davis
Costume Director	Jeffrey Lieder
Festival Stage Manager/Artistic Associate	Tanya J. Searle

TOURING COMPANY

Tour Manager	Alyssa Peters
Stage Manager	Fiona Misiura

Cast

Duke Solinus/First Merchant/Angelo/Courtesan	Giuseppe Michael Picicella
Antipholus of Syracuse/Egeon/Pinch	Zay Williams
Dromio of Syracuse/Gaoler/Officer	Jeric Gutierrez
Dromio of Ephesus/Servant	Mikki Pagdonsolan
Luciana/Balthazar	Gianna Porfano
Adriana/Second Merchant	Emily Michelle Walton
Antipholus of Ephesus/Emilia	Christian Watts

ABOUT THE COMPANY

MARCO ANTONIO VEGA • DIRECTOR

Vega has a long performance history with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, his favorite roles being Puck/himself in 2017's *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)* and Antipholus of Ephesus in 2021's *The Comedy of Errors*. He earned his MFA from the University of San Diego and has taught at SUU and Utah Tech University. @marcoantoniovega

ALYSSA PETERS • TOUR MANAGER

Originally from Texas, Peters received her BA and MA from Oklahoma City University, with focuses on theatre/performance and nonprofit leadership/arts administration. Her favorite roles have been Pamela in *Head Over Heels*, Claudia in *The Bluest Eye*, and Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*. She's also been a teaching artist at Creede Repertory Theatre, Amphibian Stage, and Oklahoma Children's Theatre. @alyp8888

FIONA MISIURA • STAGE MANAGER

Misiura returns for her third tour as stage manager. She was also assistant stage manager for mainstage productions during the Festival's 2024 and 2025 seasons. Other credits include *Awake in the Dark* with The Flea NYC and *Eleanor and Alice* with Urban Stages. She attended Ramapo College of New Jersey where she earned a BA in Theatre and History.

JERIC GUTIERREZ • DROMIO OF SYRACUSE/GAOLER/OFFICER

A drama graduate of University of California, Irvine, Gutierrez's favorite past roles include Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*, Winston Smith in *1984*, Jean in *Julie: After Strindberg*, and The Hobo in *The Polar Express*. @jericdgutierrez

MIKKI PAGDONSOLAN • DROMIO OF EPHEBUS/SERVANT

Returning to the Festival, Pagdonsolan was seen in last season's Festival productions of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *The Greenshow*. She has also performed at Shakespeare Orange County, Laguna Playhouse, Stage Door Repertory Theatre, and The Hollywood Bowl. She has degrees in vocal performance and business administration from CSU Fullerton. @mikipags

GIUSEPPE MICHAEL PIPICELLA • DUKE SOLINUS/FIRST MERCHANT/ANGELO/COURTESAN

Originally from Florence, Italy, Picicella has an MFA in Acting from University of Central Florida, where he also taught stage combat as an adjunct professor. He has performed at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival, and REV Theatre Co, among others. @gmpipicella

GIANNA PORFANO • LUCIANA/BALTHAZAR

Porfano returns for her second Shakespeare in the School tour, having performed Ophelia/Others in the 2024 *Hamlet* tour. Some of her other favorite roles include Lilli Vanessi/Kate in *Kiss Me, Kate* at Texas Shakespeare Festival and Patsy Cline in *Always... Patsy Cline* at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. She has a BFA in Theatre from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and also studied at London's RADA. @giannaporfano

EMILY MICHELLE WALTON • ADRIANA/SECOND MERCHANT

A graduate of University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music, Walton has performed at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and Know Theatre of Cincinnati. Her favorite roles have been Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale*, and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

CHRISTIAN WATTS • ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS/EMILIA

Originally from Alabama, Watts studied at Jacksonville State University where he earned a BA in Acting. Some of roles he's enjoyed most include Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Patrick Star in *SpongeBob: The Musical*, and Theseus/Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

ZAY WILLIAMS • ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE/EGEON/PINCH

Williams is a graduate of Dobbins Conservatory at Southeast Missouri State University and has performed with Nashville Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, and Pegasus Theatre Chicago. He was also in the film *Cycles: A Modern Love Story*. @thezaywilliams