



PITTSBURGH SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS
15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

William Shakespeare's

JULIUS CAESAR

Directed by Elena Alexandratos
Production Designer Lisa Leiberling

September 7-29, 2019

Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm

9/7-8 & 9/28-29 Frick Park, Squirrel Hill

9/14-15 Reservoir Drive, Highland Park

9/21-22 Arsenal Park, Lawrenceville

PSiP
Pittsburgh
Shakespeare
in the Parks

PITTSBURGH SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS

Founded in 2005

Welcome from the Founding Artistic Director

Thank you for joining us for our 15th season of free Shakespeare in our city parks! JULIUS CAESAR marks a milestone for PSIP—as our first all-female production. In Shakespeare’s time, men played all of the roles. Four hundred years later, it is not uncommon for theatre companies to reverse gender roles or cast without regard to age, race, or physical ability. But women still lag behind men in the areas of wages, equality, and executive power. In casting only females, we are doing our small part to level the playing field in the arts by providing more roles and decision-making, onstage and backstage, to women. Thematically, *Julius Caesar* deals with the themes of power and ambition (how many different scansions can you hear of the word “ambitious”?!)—and examines the consequences of deposing and supplanting an allegedly tyrannical ruler. We ask ourselves to think deeply about what makes an effective leader as well as a stable, peaceful society. And as always, PSIP is committed to telling this timeless story in our signature fashion—close to the audience and in an energetic, understandable manner.

Similar to another of my favorite plays, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* begins almost immediately with an unstoppable forward-pushing energy when Cassius plants the seed in Brutus’ mind that he could, and should, wear the crown. And from there the action builds with terrifying speed toward the inevitable ending.

When I once I played the role of Cassius, I found the character’s unrelenting determination that Caesar must be supplanted by Brutus almost intoxicating. What are the costs of blind ambition? And what are the personal sacrifices we must make, whether politicians, plebeians, or patricians, for the larger good of society? As always, our hope is that by bringing our community together in the park to experience this great play, we are entertained and educated together, and take what we have experienced back into the “real world” to make it a stronger, more resilient, and peaceful place. Enjoy the show.

—Jennifer Tober, AEA SAG-AFTRA, Artistic Director

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PSIP has a working board. We are actors, teachers, scholars, fundraisers, and fans. We are growing the board, seeking hard-working, forward-thinking individuals who want to be part of bringing accessible, high-quality, free Shakespeare to our neighbors in our Pittsburgh parks. Interested applicants may meet us at PSIP events. Submit resume and cover letter or send inquiries to info@pittsburghshakespeare.com.

Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks’ Mission

To bring accessible, high-quality, free Shakespeare to Pittsburgh citizens, and to encourage the enjoyment and preservation of our natural public places and parks.

Please contact 412.404.8531 or info@pittsburghshakespeare.com
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Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Directed by Elena Alexandratos

The Cast

JULIUS CAESAR/STRATO	Irene Alby
BRUTUS	Shammen McCune*
CASSIUS	Lisa Ann Goldsmith*
MARC ANTONY	Harper York
CALPHURNIA/OCTAVIUS/TITINIUS/POPLILIUS LENA/ENSEMBLE	Sarah Carleton
CINNA/LEPIDAS/LUCILIUS/DECIUS BRUTUS/ENSEMBLE	Kalee George
SOOTHSAYER/CICERO/METELLUS/VOLUMNIUS/YOUNG CATO/ TREBONIUS/ENSEMBLE	Melissa Franklin
LUCIUS/LIGARIUS/CLITUS/ENSEMBLE	Gretchen Breslawski
CASCA/MESSALA/ENSEMBLE	Kristin Conrad
PORTIA/ARTEMIDORUS/VARRUS/PINDARUS/ENSEMBLE	Jessica Pierson-Turner

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers, appearing under a special agreement with Actors' Equity Association.

Run time is under 90 minutes with no intermission.
No recording is permitted during PSIP performances.

Pre-Show Schedule

9/7 at 1:50pm	A special tribute for PSIP's 15th season
9/14-15, 21-22, 28-29 at 1pm	Acting Workshop, Tonya Lynn & Sarah Carleton
9/8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 at 1:50pm	Alan Irvine Storytelling

Artistic

Artistic Director	Jennifer Tober
Stage Director	Elena Alexandratos
Production Designer	Lisa Leiberling
Properties Assistant	Annabelle Leiberling
Fight Director	Tonya Lynn
Fight Captain	Gretchen Breslawski
Pre-show Storyteller	Alan Irvine
Pre-show Acting Workshop	Tonya Lynn, Sarah Carleton

Production

Production Manager	Alan Irvine
Stage Manager	Megan Mercer
Assistant Stage Manager	Emily Gallagher

Media Sponsor



Director's Notes

Welcome. In recent interviews, I have been asked two questions:

1. Why Julius Caesar?
2. Why only women?

So here is the reason.

Julius Caesar is a play about many different facets of power: how one obtains power and how one uses power. We see in Shakespeare's play that Julius Caesar is a dictator, tyrannical at times, fearful of omens and flawed. History provides us with a more bloodthirsty and calculating figure who would stop at nothing to rise to the top.

This story is timeless and timely all in the same moment.

We see past and present leaders and how they use and abuse power and learn that (in the immortal words of Sting) "history will teach us nothing."

Almost 500 hundred years ago women were not permitted onstage. Shakespeare's women were portrayed by young boys and the comedic women by older men. In the present day, I want to show that actors (the generic term) that are female can play all the aspects of the human condition—that we are courageous and tender all in the same blink of an eye.

My desire is that the audience at some moment forgets about the gender of the actor and is swept into the storytelling of the play, which today is *Julius Caesar*.

Gramercy.

—Elena Alexandratos, AEA, Director

The Story

Caesar's assassination is just the halfway point of *Julius Caesar*. The first part of the play leads to his death; the second portrays the consequences. As the action begins, Rome prepares for Caesar's triumphal entrance. Brutus, Caesar's friend and ally, fears that Caesar will become king, destroying the republic.

On his way to the arena, Caesar is stopped by a stranger who warns him that he should 'Beware the Ides [15th] of March.' Cassius and others convince Brutus to join a conspiracy to kill Caesar. Brutus is troubled but refuses to confide in his devoted wife, Portia.

On the day of the assassination, Caesar plans to stay home at the urging of his wife, Calphurnia. A conspirator, Decius Brutus, persuades him to go to the Senate with the other conspirators and his friend, Marc Antony. At the Senate, the conspirators stab Caesar to death. After Brutus addresses the crowd, Antony uses his own funeral oration to turn the citizens of Rome against the assassins. Brutus and Cassius escape as Antony joins forces with Caesar's grand-nephew Octavius Caesar.

Encamped with their armies, Brutus and Cassius quarrel, then agree to march on Antony and Octavius. In the battle that follows, Cassius, misled by erroneous reports of loss, persuades a slave to kill him; Brutus's army is defeated. Brutus commits suicide, praised by Antony as "the noblest Roman of them all."

BRITSBURGH



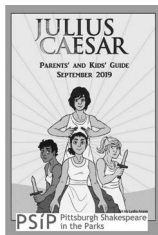
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Britsburgh.com

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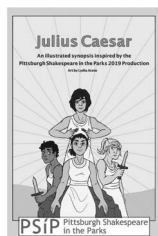
Parents' and Kids' Guide

Our Parents' and Kids' Guide is a downloadable pdf containing information about our show, activities, links to further educational materials, and an abridged freeze/ action script.

We encourage children to send their completed activities to PghShakespeareParksEdu@gmail.com for inclusion in a future web gallery.



Parents and Kid's
Guide QR Code



Illustrated Synopsis

The Illustrated Synopsis is a 44-page comic, prepared for us by local artist Lydia Aceto, and licensed under Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND. It may be viewed as a flipbook (mobile), flipbook (computer) or downloaded as a pdf.



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The Company



IRENE ALBY (Julius Caesar/Strato) A director/actor, Irene was a member of Montreal's The Other Theatre performing in *Kaspar*, *Year Zero* and *Human Collision/Atomic Reaction* which was presented at the 1999 International Festival de Théâtre des Amériques and won the Montreal English Critics Circle Award for "Best Direction" and "Best Production." New York credits include: *Peer Gynt* directed by Andrei Serban, *The Dancing Fox* (Mettawee River Theatre) and Serban's *Benvenuto Cellini* (NY Metropolitan Opera). For WVPT she directed *A Christmas Carol* in 2016 and 2017. She is a founding artist of Toledo's Glaciy Theatre Collective, directing Jenny Schwartz's *God's Ear*, and performing in Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Laura Wade's *Breathing Corpses*, George F. Walker's *Problem Child*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in collaboration with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. She has an MFA in Acting from Columbia University School of the Arts.



GRETCHEN BRESLAWSKI (Lucius/Ligarius/Clitus/Ensemble/Fight Captain) After taking a few years off to pursue becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy, it seems fitting that Gretchen return to the stage with PSIP, the company that first to cast her when she moved from New York to Pittsburgh. From Luisa in *The Fantasticks* to a Witch in *Macbeth*, Gretchen is used to portraying a wide variety of characters. Pittsburgh credits include *Nunsense* (Sr. Amnesia), *Chicago* (Go-to-Hell Kitty), *Twelfth Night* (Antonio), and *Romeo and Juliet*. She earned a BFA in Musical Theater from Youngstown State University and completed a professional apprenticeship with the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. Gretchen has been training since 2008 as a certified Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and assists coordinating The Allegheny Alley Fight, a regional stage combat workshop in Pittsburgh, with *Julius Caesar* choreographer, Tonya Lynn ([facebook.com/alleghenyalleyfight](https://www.facebook.com/alleghenyalleyfight)).



SARAH CARLETON (Calphurnia/Octavius/Titinius/Popilius Lena/Ensemble) is an actress and creator living in Western Pennsylvania with an MFA from University of Louisville. Some of her original work has been created in collaboration with soprano Lara Lynn McGill for their performance company Amiche, including *The Heart of Shahrazad*, an original performance piece written by Sarah. Her film work has included award-winning short films with independent filmmakers in Ohio. Sarah's local theater work in Pittsburgh has included the role of MC in Jumping Jack Theater's production of *Cityscape*, an original performance piece, created for audiences who would benefit from sensory friendly performances, and *All the Fights!* directed and choreographed by José Pérez IV, and an ensemble member in PSIP's *Henry V*. Upcoming projects include an opera entitled *In Our Own Voices* exploring stories of transracial adoptees with libretto by Sarah and music composed by Eliane Aberdam to be performed in Rhode Island in Nov. 2019. sarahcarleton.com



KRISTIN CONRAD (Casca/Messala/Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Pittsburgh debut after recently completing her MFA from Ohio University's Professional Actor Training Program. An artist and an educator, Kristin believes in the power of collaborative storytelling to cultivate compassion, empathy, dignity, and love within the human spirit. She teaches acting at Seton Hill University and is also a freelance teaching artist. Professional and regional experience includes three seasons with Nebraska Theatre Caravan's *A Christmas Carol*, Hope Summer Repertory Theater, Summer Repertory Theatre Festival, Commonweal Theater, Great Plains Theatre, Prather Entertainment Group, and Amish Acres' Round Barn Theater. Kristin also holds a BM in Musical Theatre Performance from the University of Miami Frost School of Music. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and their incredible rescue pup, Dorothy. For more information: www.kristinconrad.com



MELISSA FRANKLIN (Soothsayer/Cicero/Metellus/Volumnius/Young Cato/Trebonius/Ensemble) is very excited to be with PSIP's *Julius Caesar*. Having this be the 15th season and the first time for an all-female cast, this show means a great deal to her. Melissa received her BFA in Acting from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Born and raised in the Steel City (Pittsburgh, PA), she started her acting career and passion for performing at age 11 at Frick International Studies Academy. Some recent productions are: *Light's Out* (Anita- Pittsburgh Playwright's Theatre); *Hairspray* (Motormouth Maybelle-SATC), *Sister Act* (Nun) and *Saturday Night Fever* (Shirley Charles) at Pittsburgh Musical Theatre. A proud member of the Equity Membership Candidate Program, Melissa thanks her amazing director Elena Alexandratos for this incredible opportunity and her loving family and friends for their constant support and encouragement. As always "Beware the Ides of March!" Time to witness history. Who runs the world? GIRLS!



KALEE GEORGE (Cinna/Lepidas/Lucilius/Decius Brutus/Ensemble) is a local actress, director, and fight choreographer. She holds a BFA from Niagara University and an Actor Combatant Certification through Fight Directors Canada. She is elated to be performing with PSIP. She currently works with Saltworks Theatre Co. as a Tour Actor. Some of her favorite roles include (Porto/Susanna) *Porto Domi*: New Hazlett CSA, (Nurse) *Romeo and Juliet*: Fluidity Theatre Company, (Don Pedro/ Ursula) *Much Ado About Nothing*: Live Literature Company UK, and (Bernie) *The House of Bernarda Alba*: Niagara University. She wants to thank PSIP for the opportunity and her friends and family for their support. KaleeGeorge.com



LISA ANN GOLDSMITH (Cassius) is thrilled to be back, having directed PSIP's *As You Like It*. New York and regional credits include: Arkansas Rep (world premiere of *Windfall* directed by Seinfeld's Jason Alexander), Primary Stages, Theatre by the Sea, Human Race Theatre Company, Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, Tulsa Shakespeare in the Park, Studio Theatre, Ivoryton Playhouse, and others. Pittsburgh credits include: Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical, Quantum Theatre, Kinetic Theatre, Bricolage, Pittsburgh CLO, and Unseam'd Shakespeare. Films include the 2013 Sundance nominee *The Lifeguard*, *The Next Three Days*, *Love and Other Drugs*, *One for the Money*, *The Umbrella Man*, *Progression*, and *Mombies*. Next up: playing Mary Travers (of Peter Paul & Mary) in the upcoming feature film *116 MacDougal*. Lisa Ann is a lead teaching artist for the Pittsburgh Public Theater and for Bricolage, board member for Ohio-Pittsburgh SAG-AFTRA, a proud member of Actor's Equity. MFA in Acting, *summa cum laude*, Point Park Conservatory 2008.



SHAMMEN McCUNE (Brutus) is making her PSIP debut. In January, Shammen had the sheer joy of playing Caliban in Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski's all-female production of *The Tempest* for the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Elsewhere around the 'burgh, you may have seen her in: *Inside Passage*, *Yerma*, *36 Views*, and *The Task* for Quantum Theater; *Romeo and Juliet* and *Oedipus Rex* for PICT Classic Theatre; *B.U.S.* for Bricolage Production Company, or in *Mercy & The Firefly* and *Lost Boy in the Whole Foods* for Pittsburgh Playhouse Rep. Regionally, Shammen's worked with: Barter Theater, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, First-Stage Milwaukee, Phoenix Theater, Stage One, New Harmony Theater, American Players Theater, Native Voices at the Autry, Academy for New Musical Theater, Theater Neo, and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, where she is a co-founding company member. Finally, a smattering of television/film credits: "*Arrested Development*", "*The Last Witch Hunter*", "*Downward Dog*", and the board game, *SpyQuest*.



JESSICA PIERSON-TURNER (Portia/Artemidorus/Varrus/Pindaus/Ensemble) is an artist and actor living in Pittsburgh. She has a degree in Art History from Allegheny College, where she participated in several theater productions, appearing in the roles of Wendla Bergmann in *Spring Awakening* and Anya in *The Cherry Orchard*, among others. She has recently collaborated on several local short and feature films, and continues to experiment with new forms of expression. Jessica also enjoys her work as an artist, illustrator, and graphic designer.



HARPER YORK (Marc Antony) MFA Directing, MFA Acting, MLitt. In Spring 2013, Harper and some intrepid friends moved from Virginia to Pittsburgh with the goal of starting their own theatre company. Pittsburgh Classic Players is the labor of that endeavour. Harper has previously appeared in PCP's productions as Hamlet, Catherine in *Proof*, and Hecate in *Macbeth*, among others. Some highlights of Harper's career are Benedick for Portland Actors Ensemble, Romeo at the Blackfriars' Playhouse, and Pandarus in the world premier of *Cressida*. After taking on Marc Antony, Harper jumps back into the director's chair to helm PCP's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Harper is so blessed to have a supportive partner that encourages her everyday to make bold choices and to tell stories that resonate with the human spirit. Thank you, Katie; couldn't do any of it without you.



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Artistic and Production Team



ELENA ALEXANDRATOS (Director) is an actor, singer and director who has staged productions including *Fool of the World* for Looking Glass Theater, *Into the Woods* for Duquesne University's Spotlight Productions, and Duquesne University Opera Workshop *Little Women*, Mark Adamo. For her company Pandora's Box Theatre, she co-directed *Titus Andronicus*, *Amphitryon* and *Chantecler*. Having graced nearly every theater stage in Pittsburgh, Elena was most recently seen as Mrs. Bennet in Pittsburgh Public Theater's 44th season opener *Pride and Prejudice*. Happy to join PSIP for the first time, she is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

LISA LEIBERIG (Production and Costume Designer) is a professional theatrical designer, puppeteer, teaching artist, and member of Local 787 Wardrobe Union. She has served as production designer for PSIP for the past six years. Her local, recent artistic credits include: designing and building Parker the chipmunk mascot for the Allegheny Parks Service, serving as costume designer for Hiawatha Project's *My Travelling Song*, and designing the set for Dreams of Hope's *Chasing Elevation*. Outside of Pittsburgh, some of her notable credits include, designing and building Weber State University's touring production *Peter Rabbit*, designing and creating the original mascot for the NFL's Carolina Panthers, and serving as resident costume designer and costume shop manager for the Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Lisa is also the manager of School and Community Programs for the Education Department of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. She holds a BFA in Puppetry/Children's Theatre from West Virginia University, an MA in Theatre for Youth from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MA in Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh.



JENNIFER TOBER (Artistic Director) Jennifer is the Founding Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks and has overseen the company's growth since 2005 as well as producing, directing and performing for the company. Under her leadership, PSIP has expanded annually in terms of funding and Board growth, and has established partnerships with organizations such as the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Weinberg Terrace, Franktuary, and others. Jennifer is a professional actress, director, and teacher who has made Pittsburgh her home since 2005. In Pittsburgh, Jennifer has performed with Quantum Theatre, Playhouse REP, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, UnSeam'd Shakespeare, and Pittsburgh Playwrights, Poets' Corner, and the Steinway Piano Series. Regional/New York theatre includes appearances at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, NY Classical Theatre, Mill Mountain Playhouse, A Crew of Patches (a company of which Jennifer was one of the founders), New York Street Theatre Caravan/ Marketa Kimbrell, and her award-winning one-woman show at the Belt Theater. Jennifer also started the organization "Shakespeare Inside," which taught Shakespeare, acting, and writing to convicted Bronx juveniles. Film and TV includes *Sex & the City*, *Rescue Me*, *Ed*, *SNL*, *Progression*, *Hollidaysburg*, and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*, commercials and voiceovers. Jennifer holds a BA from Temple University and an MFA from West Virginia University and is a member of the Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors' Guild, and American Federation of TV and Radio Artists. A vibrant member of the Pittsburgh arts community, Jennifer also teaches at Duquesne University, coaches for the Public Theatre's annual Shakespeare monologue contest, and enjoys teaching yoga. Special thanks to the wonderful cast and crew, PSIP Board, and especially JM, MM and JD.



TONYA LYNN (Fight Director) *Julius Caesar* marks Tonya’s 15th production with PSIP, and her 14th year with the company. As a fight director, her credits include the world premiere of *Storming Heaven* at West Virginia Public Theatre, the original production *Sword Play* at Colonial Williamsburg, VA, the Pittsburgh premiere of *She Kills Monsters* at the University of Pittsburgh (including a sold-out encore performance at the August Wilson Cultural Center) and over 100 productions at Pittsburgh area theaters and universities, including the Young Playwrights’ Festival at City Theatre, PICT Classic Theatre, Prime Stage Theater, Poor Yorick’s Players, Robert Morris University, Seton Hill University, Westminster College, and Marietta College. Tonya is a co-founder of Brawling Bard Theater (a five-time award winner at the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival), and a company member with New Renaissance Theatre Company. She has studied with the United Stuntmens’ Association and for over 15 years has been an active member of the Society of American Fight Directors, with whom she is nationally recognized as a Certified Teacher of Stage Combat.



ALAN IRVINE (Production Manager) directed *Henry V* for PSIP in 2017 and *The Tempest* in 2008. He is the host for PSIP’s Bring Your Own Bard monthly reading series. Alan is also the co-founder of Brawling Bard Theater, which won the “Audience Choice” award at the 2019 Pittsburgh Fringe for “*King John: Abridged.*” Alan is also a professional storyteller and serves as PSIP’s resident storyteller, regularly performing short, comic tales based on each season’s play before select shows.



MEGAN MERCER (Stage Manager) is a local stage manager, designer, and musician, and she is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this all-female production. Selected previous credits include *Love, Love, Love* and *The Father* (Kinetic Theatre); *Twelfth Night*, *Of Mice and Men*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Prime Stage Theatre); *SKiNFoLK* (Pittsburgh CLO: Spark); *Fun Home*, *Spamalot*, *Seussical*, and *Life Could Be a Dream* (Millbrook Playhouse). She thanks her family (and theatre family) for unending support! meganmercercsm.com



EMILY GALLAGHER (Assistant Stage Manager) holds stage management credits with Carnegie Mellon University and Pittsburgh Festival Opera, and is excited to be working with Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks for the first time this year. When not behind the scenes, Emily has been seen in the roles Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Carolina in *Il matrimonio segreto* at Carnegie Mellon University, and as Nada in the Belgrade Tour of *Svadba*. Emily has also been a part of several new music festivals around Pittsburgh and has performed in multiple world premieres of operas. She is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and holds a BFA in Vocal Performance.

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Tuesday, December 3

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TUESDAY

