

Shakespeare Does Bollywood

William Shakespeare's
**The Two Gentlemen
of Verona**

Directed by
Virginia Monte



Wall
Byrd
Theatre Co.



Rochester Community Players and WallByrd Theatre Co. present

July 6–21, 2018

FREE Shakespeare at Highland Bowl



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INSIGHT BY DESIGN

www.RochesterCommunityPlayers.org • www.wallbyrd.com



The Rochester Community Players have been continuously producing theatre in Rochester since 1924. RCP launched the Shakespeare Players program with a production of *Twelfth Night* in 1994. We inaugurated free Shakespeare at Highland Bowl with *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1997, making this our 22nd year! In 2019 RCP will present two shows at MuCCC: *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* presented by the Irish Players in April and *The Comedy of Errors* presented by the Shakespeare Players in the fall, in addition to our 23rd year of free Shakespeare.

WallByrd Theatre Company is centered in classical theatrical works. Based in Rochester, each show is a visual adventure. Every story's timeless truth is brought forth. Working with local actors from the Rochester community, the WallByrd experience is as enriching for performers as it is for audiences.



During Fringe this fall, WallByrd will unveil its new resident performance space in Village Gate: the Avyarium. After Fringe, the WallByrd season will feature the modern classics *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Greater Tuna*, and *The 39 Steps*.

Coming in 2019 from Rochester Community Players



The Comedy of Errors
By William Shakespeare
Directed by John Gaehring
Nov. 2019 at MuCCC



Win Julia's jewelry! Enter the raffle for the pearl necklace and earrings created and donated by local artist Lisa Hoffman. Raffle tickets are \$1. All proceeds support FREE Shakespeare at Highland Bowl. Submit your raffle ticket at the refreshment tent. Drawing: July 21

Rochester Community Players' Shakespeare Players program and
WallByrd Theatre Co. present:

William Shakespeare's
**The Two
Gentlemen
of Verona**

Director and Designer
Virginia Monte

Production Manager
Diana Louise Carter

Stage Manager
Adam Urbanic

Dance Choreographer
Anne Harris Wilcox

Fight Choreographer
Alec Barbour

Tech Director
Brian Kenyon

Vocal Director
Megan Barbour

Sound Designer
David Porter

Prop Designer
Nicole LaClair

Lighting Designer
Todd Kelmar

Associate Producers: Linda Monte, Thomas M. Bohrer

Assistant Stage Managers: Anne Boatman

Assistant to the Director: Evelyn Newman

Dramaturg: Aishwarya Krishnamoorthy

Costumer: Linda Monte

Original Music: Vincent Salvadge

Fight Captains: Cassie Busecemi, Katie Lou Thomas

Tech Crew: Yoamny Feliz, Rachel Pazda, Frances Pewitte, Audrey Thompson

Set Construction: The cast and crew, with Brian Carter, Jim Carter, Kevin Cole,
Ken Dauer, Jim Drake, Andy Head, Ezra Lyons, Brodie McPherson.

Publicity:
Diana Louise Carter, Kevin Sean Sweeney

Poster Design: Amanda Rickstins
Program Design: Jamie Tyrrell

Corporate Sponsor: KJT Group, Inc.

Special Thanks: Monroe County Parks Department, Canandaigua National Bank, Wegmans, India Community Center, Kalidas Indo-American community theater group, Bharata School of Dance and Music, University of Rochester, McCann's Local Meats, Casa Larga Winery, Lisa Hoffman, Michael Krickmire, Annette Dragon, Kyle Meyers, Noah Morris, and our volunteers.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona Cast

Proteus	Ben Ranalli
Valentine	Jesse Singleton
Julia	Jennie Gilardoni
Silvia	Yashashree Jadhav
Duke	Abhas Kumar, Shiva Ramaswamy
Antonia	Stephanie Bancroft
Thurio	Azmeer Sharipol
Eglamour	Bijal Thakkar
Host	Anil Menon
Speed	Husein Lokhandwala
Lance	Ged Owen
Panthino	Don Sheffrin
Lucetta	Lauren MacDonough
Outlaws	Emily Bantelman, Cassie Buscemi, Jaz Koft
Dance Ensemble	Jaimi Miller, Brook Mordenga, Claire Terilli, Katie Lou Thomas

Featuring dancers from Bharata School of Dance and Music
Introducing Doodles as Crab

The show runs approximately 2.5 hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

WARNING: Act Two ends with mature content that may not be suitable for all audiences.
Please consult the concessions tent for details about the subject matter and timing.

The July 20 performance will be ASL interpreted,
sponsored by Canandaigua National Bank.



The Two Gentlemen of Verona: the story

Valentine is leaving Verona—and his friend Proteus—to take up residence at the Duke’s court in Milan (in our version, Mumbai). Proteus is staying home to be near his love, Julia. In Milan, Valentine falls in love with Silvia, the Duke’s daughter, who is being courted by Thurio. Proteus’ mother, Antonia, decides to send Proteus to the Duke’s court. At his departure, Proteus and Julia exchange rings and vows of love. Julia decides to follow Proteus to Milan and then to disguise herself as a man, “Sebastian,” to get close to him.

When the friends are reunited in Milan, Valentine asks Proteus to help him elope with Silvia, but Proteus falls in love with her himself. Proteus informs the Duke of Valentine’s plan; the Duke then tricks Valentine into revealing the plans and promptly banishes him. In the wilderness, Valentine is captured by outlaws, who make him their leader.

Julia arrives in Milan to witness Proteus wooing—and being rejected by—Silvia, who is hatching her own plan to escape Milan to reunite with Valentine. Proteus and “Sebastian” (and then the Duke and Thurio), follow Silvia into the wilderness. The ensuing confrontations and reconciliations will not be spoiled here. You can find the more-detailed summary from which this was adapted at playshakespeare.com (with spoilers!).



Ben Ranalli



Jesse Singleton



Jennie Gilardoni



Yashashree Jadhav



Abhas Kumar



Shiva Ramaswamy



Lauren MacDonough



Ged Owen



Husein Lokhandwala



Stephanie Bancroft



Anil Menon



Azmeer Sharipol



Don Sheffrin



Bijal Thakkar



Emily Bantelman



Cassie Buscemi



Jaz Koft



Jaimi Miller



Brook Mordenga



Claire Terilli



Katie Lou Thomas



Doodles

Understudies: Brook Mordenga (Julia), Jonathan Lowery (Speed)

If you like free Shakespeare at Highland Bowl, please make a tax-deductible donation to Rochester Community Players. We are happy to accept donations at our refreshment stand throughout the performance or at staffed buckets during intermission and after the show. Donate online via PayPal:



Wall Byrd Theatre Co.

*...Has a New Home for
our New Season.*

What's Next...



*Rochester's New Home for
Great Theatre*

The
AVYARIUM

Located in the Village Gate.
avyarium.com

Audition info available at WallByrd.com

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Who's Who in the Cast:

Stephanie Bancroft (*Antonia*) is making her RCP debut. She recently played the Hon. Gwendolyn Fairfax in WallByrd's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Additional credits: Alice in *Closer* and Helena and Hippolyta in two different productions of *A Midsummer Night Dream*.

Emily Bantelman (*Outlaw*) is happy to be a part of her second RCP production. She previously performed the role of Touchstone in *As You Like It*. Emily will be leaving Rochester in the fall to pursue a master's degree in early childhood research in Leipzig, Germany.

Cassie Buscemi (*Outlaw*) is in her fourth WallByrd show and her second show with RCP at the Highland Bowl. Favorite past credits include *Taming of the Shrew* (Grumio), *Macbeth* (ensemble/fight core), *Maid Julie* (Cairistiona), *Romeo & Juliet* (Balthasar/ensemble), and *The Merchant of Venice* (Nerissa).

Jennie Gilardoni (*Julia*) is making her debut with WallByrd and RCP. She was last seen as Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors* with Dangerous Signs. Jennie has also performed for Blackfriars Theatre, Rochester Children's Theatre, Webster Theatre Guild, Niagara University, and Great Lakes Productions.

Yashashree Jadhav (*Silvia*) is doing her first show with WallByrd/RCP and her second Shakespeare production. She appeared as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at RIT and has been in several College of Liberal Arts plays including *Supid F*\$king Bird* (Nina), *Girls Can Tell* (Michelle), *The Love of Three Oranges* (Ninetta), and *Love's Fire* (Rengin). She is trained in the Indian classical dance form Bharatnatyam.

Jaz Koft (*Outlaw*) is entering 11th grade at Brighton High School. Credits include Bobby's Tap Double (*Crazy For You*), Kiki (*Legally Blonde*), and Simba (*Lion King, Jr.*) at Brighton, as well as Don Lockwood (*Singin' In the Rain, Jr.*) at MJT Stages. He was in the ensemble for *Sweeney Todd* and *Les Miserables*.

Abhas Kumar (*Duke*) is making his RCP/WallByrd debut in his first Shakespeare play. Abhas shared a lead in *Till Death Do Us Part* by Meera Jain, performed at the ICC and Geva in 2009, and played the lead in *Flemming* by Sam Bobrick in 2017, both produced by the India Community center. He is also on the board of Kalidas, the Indo-American community theater group of Rochester.

Husein Lokhandwala (*Speed*) is from the city of Pune, India. He has participated in theater since he first played Captain Planet in 1st grade in India. His most recent productions include *The Love of Three Oranges* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* at RIT. This is his RCP and WallByrd debut.

Jonathan Lowery (*u/s Speed*) played Hortensio in WallByrd's *The Taming of the Shrew* and Lennox in WallByrd's *Macbeth*. For RCP he played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Caliban in *The Tempest*. A recent alum of PUSH Physical Theatre, he is an instructor at Rochester Parkour.

Lauren MacDonough (*Lucetta*) is marking her 3rd show with WallByrd, having appeared as the Prince in *Romeo & Juliet* (2016) and Menteith/Shaman in *Macbeth* (2017). You can catch her next playing Eunice in Screen Plays' *A Streetcar Named Desire* this October.

Anil Menon (*Host*) is making his debut with WallByrd and RCP.

Jaimi Miller (*Ensemble*) is appearing in her 5th WallByrd production & 2nd show in the Highland Bowl. Credits include Little Red in *Into the Woods* & various roles at the JCC & TYKES. jaimichristine.com

Brook Mordenga (*Ensemble, u/s Julia*) currently attends Nazareth College for Acting. Last summer, she was part of WallByrd's production of *Macbeth*.

Ged Owen (*Launce*) graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance from Nazareth College. Most recent credits include Petruccio in WallByrd's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Ian in Grey Noise Theater's *Maid Julie*, Shabby in *Dashboard Dramas IV* and Actor 1 in Page to Stage's *Lebensraum* in the 2017 Fringe, Banquo in WallByrd's *Macbeth*, Jack in Out of Pocket's *Incorruptible*, and Public Gar in RCP's *Philadelphia, Here I Come*.

Shiva Ramaswamy (*Duke*) made his debut on Indian stage as a British colonial officer. He has studied poetic drama at The University of Toledo. Recently, he has acted out scenes from Othello while lecturing to a gathering of English teachers on the dramatic instincts of a teacher.

Ben Ranalli (*Proteus*) is making his WallByrd and RCP debut. He recently performed in the Rochester JCC's production of *Survivors* as Henry Silberstern and Arthur Hertz.

Azmeer Sharipol (*Thurio*) is making his WallByrd debut. He was last seen at Highland Bowl as Snout/Fairy in the ASL-English production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He frequently performs with Dangerous Signs, where he recently appeared as Orin in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Don Sheffrin (*Panathino*) is appearing in his first play in Rochester. Hailing from NJ, where he worked at Paper Mill Playhouse, Whole Theatre Company, and 12 Miles West Rep. His experience with the Bard includes, *Merchant of Venice* (Aragon), *Comedy of Errors* (Dromio), *Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio), and *As You Like It* (Touchstone).

Jesse Singleton (*Valentine*) is making his WallByrd and RCP debut. He recently graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. He most recently appeared as Malcolm in an HWS production of *Macbeth*. He also was a part of the world premiere of Johnny Drago's play *Duchess*. Other productions include *Almost, Maine* (Dave and Randy) and *I'm Spinning* (boy).

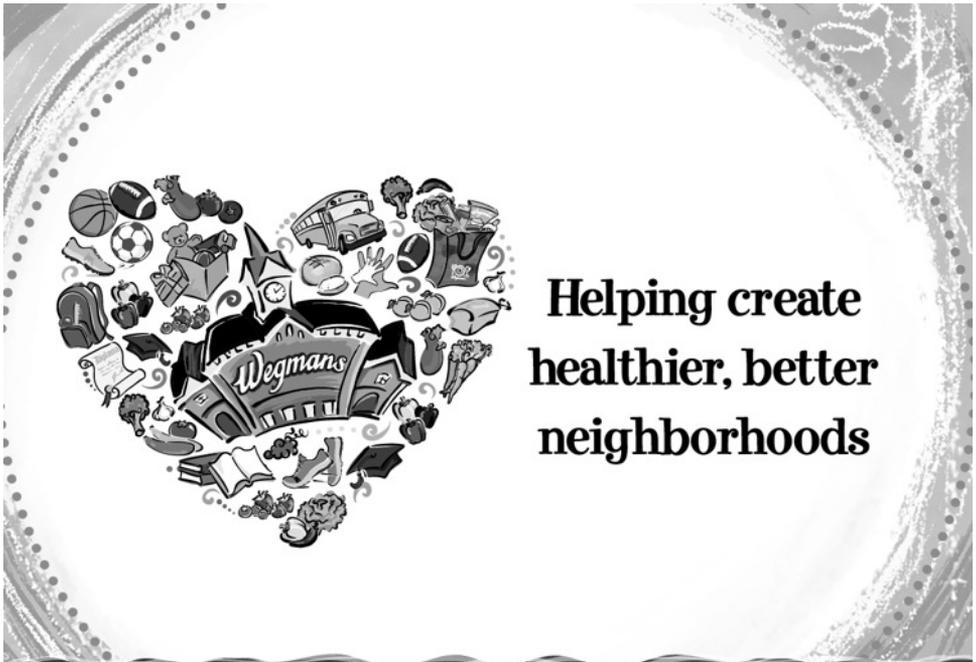
Claire Terilli (*Ensemble*) is making her second appearance in a WallByrd/RCP production: she performed in *Romeo & Juliet*. She also danced in WallByrd's *The Sea Maiden* at Fringe.

Bijal Thakkar (*Eglamour*) made her acting debut last year by playing a role of Mrs. Julia Peterson Perry in *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody* by Kalidas community theater group. She is a transplant to Rochester from Austin, TX. She has also performances in dances for events for the Indian community in Rochester.

Katie Lou Thomas (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back with WallByrd after appearing in their productions of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Dracula*. A recent graduate of Nazareth College, past credits include *Jacks and the Fourth Wall*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hiccup in a Teacup*, and *Gardenias*.

Doodles (*Crab*) is making his stage debut. When not onstage or learning new tricks, this one-year-old golden-doodle enjoys taking walks, eating treats, and meeting new people—especially his new person, Ged.

Read the cast and crew's full bios online: www.rochestercommunityplayers.org



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Who's Who in the Crew:

Virginia Monte (*Director*) is the founding Artistic Director of WallByrd Theatre Co., where she has directed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*. A master's graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, her past directing highlights include *The Winter's Tale* (RCP), *Buddy Boys* (Manhattan Theater Source, NYC), *Mr. 80%* (Cheeky Monkey Productions, NYC). virginiamonte.com

Alec Barbour (*Fight Director*) is an actor, fight director, and playwright. Fight direction for WallByrd: *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Dracula*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Additional credits include: *The Liar*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. He is a member of The Society of American Fight Directors, SAG/AFTRA, and Actors' Equity.

Megan Barbour (*Voice*) previously worked with WallByrd as the vocal director for *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Romeo & Juliet*, and played Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Lucy in *Dracula*. Megan holds an MFA in Acting from Wayne State University in Detroit, where she was a member of the Hilberry Repertory Company, and a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University. She serves as the Theatre Director at Aquinas.

Diana Louise Carter (*Production Manager*) has worked for nearly four decades as a professional journalist in Massachusetts and Rochester. She volunteers for RCP, WallByrd, and Asbury First United Methodist Church, where she is chairwoman of its Dining and Caring Center.

Todd Kelmar (*Lighting Designer*) has designed four WallByrd productions: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Kiss*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Additional credits include *Buried Child* at URITP.

Brian Kenyon (*Technical Director*) is working with WallByrd for the second time and RCP for the first.

Aishwarya Krishnamoorthy (*Dramaturg*) got involved with theatre in college, where she directed *Buried Child* for the University of Rochester International Theatre Program. She assisted in creating props for WallByrd's *Macbeth*. Aishwarya holds a BA from the University of Rochester in Film and Media Studies & Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

David Porter (*Sound Designer/Music Editor*) is a freelance sound designer and audio engineer. He has recorded and mixed music for local artists, mixed live bands for music venues, and helped build props for WallByrd's *Macbeth*. He earned a BS in audio and music engineering from the University of Rochester.

Adam Urbanic (*Stage Manager*) is a Rochester-based actor and stage manager. Recent credits include Biondello in WallByrd's *The Taming of the Shrew* and Gravedigger in *A Christmas Carol* at Geva.

Anne Harris Wilcox (*Choreographer*) is a Senior Lecturer in the Program of Dance and Movement the at the University of Rochester. Anne has choreographed, performed, taught, and advocated for dance education for the past 30 years at the local, state, national and international level. This is her fourth collaboration with WallByrd Theater Co, including choreographing for *Romeo & Juliet* at Highland Bowl.



**GENESEE
VALLEY
ARTS
GRANTS**

This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts at the Livingston Arts Center, a member supported organization.

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*With best wishes
to the cast & crew –
delighted to help bring
Bollywood to
Shakespeare in the Bowl!*

• Adya, Cheta & Abhas •

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The PAGE for STAGE

**NOW
PLAYING**



A Chorus Line
July 6-15
Blackfriars Theatre



The Frog Prince
July 14-29
RAPA



**The Two Gentlemen
of Verona**
July 6-21
Rochester Community Players



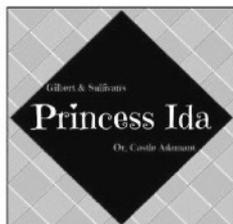
Spider's Web
July 12-22
Bristol Valley Theater



**John Denver's
Rocky Mountain High**
July 23-24
Downstairs Cabaret Theatre



Dogfight, the Musical
July 21-29
CenterStage at the JCC



**Gilbert & Sullivan's
Princess Ida**
July 20-22
Gatesinger Company, Ltd.



The Drowsy Chaperone
July 26 - Aug 5
Bristol Valley Theater



Robin Hood
July 28
Penfield Players

COMING UP...

Charlotte's Web
July 29 - Aug 19
RAPA

Montgomery
Aug 9-19
Bristol Valley Theater

Fully Committed
Aug 23 - Sep 2
Bristol Valley Theater

WHO IS THEATREROCs?

Blackfriars Theatre
Bristol Valley Theater
CenterStage at the JCC
Downstairs Cabaret Theatre
Gatesinger Company, Ltd.
Geva Theatre Center
Hourglass Play Reading Series

hummingbird theatre co.
Kalidas
Method Machine
Out of Pocket
Penfield Players
PUSH Physical Theatre
RAPA
Rochester Community Players

Rochester Latino
Theatre Company
Screen Plays: Hollywood's
Golden Age on Stage
TYKES at the JCC
(Theatre Young Kids Enjoy)
Unleashed! IMPROV
Webster Theatre Guild

Shakespeare and Bollywood, by Aishwarya Krishnamoorthy

At first blush, Shakespeare and “Bollywood” don’t seem like they’d fit in the same universe. Sixteenth-century English theatre and contemporary Indian cinema sound like two entirely different animals to most of us. However, this production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* fuses the look of classic American movies with the often stylized and exaggerated feel of Indian cinema to create a world that draws out—and relies upon—the similarities between these seemingly disparate traditions.

Two Gentlemen can be distilled, in a phrase, to “young people fall in love quickly and behave rashly.” Indian cinema, which bloomed five centuries after Shakespeare, often has romantic storylines in the same fashion. It is traditionally a machine for elaborate and outrageous scripts, musical sequences, and intense drama. Growing up, I loved watching the bright outfits, frequent costume (and location) changes, and highly choreographed dances in Bollywood movies. The family dramas and romantic entanglements had me experiencing all sorts of emotions. Like Bollywood heroes, the young people in this play—Valentine, Proteus, Julia, and Silvia—are in a very tumultuous stage of their lives. Their rapid infatuations and declarations of love fit in perfectly with our Bollywood heroes and heroines.

While “Bollywood” is often the term used to refer to Indian film, it’s actually a specific reference to the Hindi-language film industry, the heart of which is in Mumbai, India. Different regions of India also have their own, smaller, film industries, which are not to be overlooked. In *Two Gentlemen*, we focused on the imagery and style of Bollywood, but we make references to other regional industries. India is a vast nation with countless languages, traditions, and cultures, and any endeavor to represent every aspect of it is doomed from the start. However, we hope this production at least gives you a taste of the rich variety of experiences available in modern India.

Plenty of Hollywood movies, of course, also explore teenagers learning about themselves and how to become independent: *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*, *Grease*, and *10 Things I Hate About You* (itself an adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*) come to mind. Every feeling is intense for a teenager—love, heartbreak, and betrayal—and thus provides rich fodder for drama. Bollywood, Hollywood, and Shakespeare all show the natural, universal similarities of teenagers of all cultures, and we built upon those universal truths to create the world you see in this production today.

It has been a rewarding experience to collaborate with the Indian community in Rochester to create this intercultural production. If you are interested in learning more about the Indian theatre community in Rochester, please reach out to the India Community Center.



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Insight by Design

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