

THE BOISE BARD PLAYERS
PRESENT



December 8th 17th



Mad Swede on Cole

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Sam Murphy

Made possible by



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WELCOME!

It is with great pleasure that The Boise Bard Players welcomes you to our production of William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.

Theatre is a collaborative art form, and we are grateful for your presence here tonight. Your support sustains our passion for the stage, and it is your laughter, applause, and shared experience that make the theatre truly magical.

Thank you for joining us on this theatrical journey in an unlikely place, and we hope you have a wonderful time.

Sincerely,

The Boise Bard Players

CAST

Ben Kemper Duke Vincentio
Madeline Keckler Isabella
Jake Atkinson Angelo
Dana Whitesell Lucio
Jimmy Bowman Claudio/Elbow
Ab Jungen Escalus/Barnardine
Kat Lizarraga Pompey/Mariana
Aneshia Morishita Provost/Friar Thomas
Talia Martinez Juliet/Fransisca/Gentleman/Messenger
Tris Berg Mistress Overdone/Abhorsen/Friar Peter

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director & Intimacy Choreographer: Sam Murphy

Stage Manager: Elena Maddy

Sound Designer: Chris Canfield

Fight Choreographer: Tris Berg

Poster Designer: Hayden Pedersen

Marketing & Graphics: Tiffany Eller



ABOUT THE PLAY

Runtime: 2 hours with a 15 minute intermission

Content Warning: Sexual assault, domestic abuse, smoking

In Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," Vienna is plagued by moral decay. The Duke, Vincentio, leaves the city under the strict rule of his deputy, Angelo, while disguising himself as a friar to observe. Angelo enforces an old law against fornication, leading to Claudio's imprisonment for impregnating Juliet. Isabella, Claudio's sister and a novice nun, pleads for her brother. Angelo hypocritically propositions her, offering Claudio's freedom in exchange for her virtue.

Isabella's refusal to submit to Angelo's demands sets off a chain of events filled with deceit and manipulation. The Duke, disguised, watches as characters grapple with these moral complexities and attempts to influence them using his priestly facade.

Ultimately, all secrets are revealed, motivations laid bare, and every character has their own reckoning. But does everything play out fairly in the end, measure for measure?



MEET THE CAST



Ben Kemper

Duke Vincentio

Ben is so very grateful to Boise Bard for a year of acting in wonderful productions, including Dr. Chasuble in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and Polonius in "Hamlet" at the Old Pen. Frequent theatergoers may also remember him as Dr. Caius in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and Frances Flute in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Ben is a local storyteller, performing folk and fairy tales as well as personal, historical and environmental stories all across Idaho. He is also the author of the TYA swashbuckler, *Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been A Pirate?*, and the upcoming 2024 Idaho Theater for Youth touring production of "The Legend of Finn McCoy."

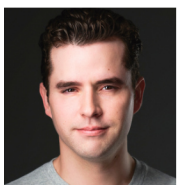
Ben Kemper is over the moon to step into the shoes of Duke Vincentio, a man with the best plans in the world, who instigates at least 80% of his own problems.



Madeline Keckler

Isabella

Madeline is thrilled to be back with The Boise Bard Players! Originally from Boise, Madeline holds a BA in Theatre Arts and Journalism from Gonzaga University (go Zags). She has previously been involved with BBP as the stage manager for "Hamlet" at the Old Penitentiary, Helena in "All's Well that Ends Well," and Ensemble in "Antony & Cleopatra." She is deeply grateful to work with this rockstar team.



Jake Atkinson

Angelo

Jake is excited to be making his Boise Bard debut with "Measure for Measure." He is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Most recently, Jake performed in Alley Rep's "The Normal Heart," and Idaho Shakespeare's education tour of "Much Ado About Nothing," as well as their mainstage show "Dracula: The Bloody Truth." He would like to give a big thanks to Mandy Peterson and all his friends and family for their unwavering support.



Dana Whitesell

Lucio

Dana Whitesell (she/her/hers) is an actor and director currently based in Boise, Idaho. She cannot wait for everybody to experience this crazy, fun, and exciting show! Her latest work includes directing "Snow Angel" by David Lindsay-Abaire, and working on multiple, locally produced, short films in the Boise area. Dana has plans on moving to Washington in the near future with her fiancé and two cats to continue pursuing her acting and directing career.



Jimmy Bowman

Claudio/Elbow

Jimmy is excited to make his Boise Bard Players debut. He received a degree in theater from Chapman University and then spent a decade in Los Angeles where he co-founded Murmur Theater, directing and acting in "Macbeth," "Hamlet," "A Doll's House," and "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," among others. He is also a veteran of the LA improv scene where he trained and performed with Upright Citizens Brigade, Improv Olympic, and, honestly, just gobs of other comedy theaters. He would like to dedicate 96% of his performance to his wife and the remainder of his performance to their cat.



Ab Jungen

Escalus/Barnardine

Ab Jungen is a graduate of Boise State's theater program, and Shakespeare's biggest fan. Ab has previously worked with BBP in "Hamlet," and is delighted to be gesticulating wildly and playing pretend for another round. Hugs and kisses to Lilly and Cedric, the two people who make it possible to have so much fun.



Kat Lizarraga

Pompey/Mariana

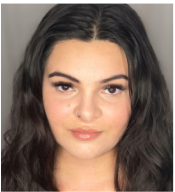
Kat Lizarraga is a Boise-based, dog-loving, blazer-owning, confident disaster. Masquerading as an adult who knows what she's doing, Kat finds comfort hitting the stage again playing with friends in this version of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." This is Kat's second time performing with The Boise Bard Players, having played Hermia in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."



Aneshia Morishita

Provost/Friar Thomas

Aneshia Morishita is currently graduating from BSU with her Theatre Arts degree. Some past projects that she has done were "Spongebob The Musical" at Boise State in 2022, "Hot Asian Doctor Husband" with Alley Repertory Theatre in 2022, and her most recent role in "Lost Girl" at Boise State in 2023. Her goal once she graduates is to head off to Chicago, and she hopes to start applying to graduate programs for Theatre and Musical Theatre within a few years.



Talia Martinez

Juliet/Fransisca/Gentleman/Messenger

Talia Martinez is a Boise based actor with a BA in Theater Arts at Boise State University. Past roles include; Mistress Quickly in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" with BBP, Helena in "The River Bride" at Boise State University, Alice in "Alice in Neverland" with Idaho Theater for Youth, and Veronica in "Hot Asian Doctor Husband" with Alley Repertory Theater.



Tris Berg

Mistress Overdone/Abhorsen/Friar Peter

Tris Berg (She/They) is a professional actor, teaching artist, and amateur fight choreographer based out of Boise, ID. She holds a BA in Theater from Idaho State University, where she focused in performance, education, and stage combat. Her career has taken her all over the states, including touring "Much Ado About Nothing" with Idaho Shakespeare Festival's Education Department last spring! She is absolutely STOKED to be back with BBP after working on both "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and "All's Well That Ends Well" last season! When not on stage, Tris loves to cook, do all things nerdy, and adventure through this beautiful life with her spouse, Sam, and her partner, Iris.

MEET THE OTHER PLAYERS



Sam Murphy

Director

Sam Murphy (they/them/theirs) is excited to be returning to BBP once again, this time as a director and intimacy choreographer! These people really make this story shine and every rehearsal brings joy to their heart. Sam has worked with BBP as an actor on "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "All's Well That Ends Well." Sam graduated from Idaho State University with a Bachelor's in Theatre, Film, and Video. Their favorite directing credits are "Gruesome Playground Injuries," "Shakespeare in Love," and now this! Sam wants to thank this phenomenal cast for their collaborative spirit, Elena for being Sam's hero, Chris and Tiffany for all their support, Tris and Iris for being understanding, and everyone who put up with their busy schedule.



Elena Maddy

Stage Manager

Elena Maddy (she/her/hers) - Stage Manager - is thrilled to be joining The Boise Bard Players for Measure for Measure! Previous local credits include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers with The Huckleberry Star Theater (Stage Manager) and The Mad Ones at Boise Little Theater (Samantha Brown). She would like to thank her Treasure Valley family for keeping her fed, watered, and well-tended, as well as Sam for inviting her into this project and inspiring her with their vision and heart.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Vienna, a city in moral panic, where the stakes are life and death. "Measure for Measure" is a story that uses sex as its vessel to discuss themes of power dynamics, consent, judgement, and religious morality in a world without separation of church and state. It is also considered a "problem play," being that it doesn't fall neatly into the boxes of comedy, tragedy, nor history, and that it doesn't end in a nicely wrapped bow. Instead, the story of "Measure for Measure" exists in the gray area that is life, which also gives us as artists the freedom to treat this like the comedic tragedy it is.

There's this amazing crossover of punk rock and Shakespeare presented to us in "Measure for Measure." Punk rock is all about fighting against power systems that don't help support the people they govern, staying true to yourself, and fighting for what is right and for the rights of ALL.

Everything in Measure for Measure functions in threes, just like the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We have the Justice System, the Morality of the Church, and the Desires of the Public. The director within the story, Duke Vincentio, his lead actor, Angelo, and his ingenue, Isabella. Mercy, Moral Degradation, and Judgment. Lawmakers, religious figures, and sex workers.

The reason this story is still being told, the same reason we continue to watch and produce Shakespeare, is because these are persistent problems in our modern society.

***"Do not judge, or you too will be judged.
For in the same way you judge others, you will be
judged, and with the measure you use, it will be
measured to you."***

Matthew 7:1-2

***"We're just puppets in the darkest little comedy
you've ever seen. It's funny and it's tragic,
disgusting and somehow beautiful."***

From Bloody Money by Mel Bryant & the Mercy Makers

Thank you to everyone who helped make my dreams come true, it has been an absolute blast to work on such a complex story.

Sam Murphy
Director

SPECIAL THANKS

*This production was made possible
by generous grants from:*



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Dr. Rick Capezza

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The cast and crew would also like to thank...

Mad Swede Brewing
The Huckleberry Star Theater
Iris Murphy
Lynzee Baker
Chris Canfield
Tiffany Eller
Susie Larson
Dalton Mace
Sia Costello
The Canfield Family
The Berg/Hopson Family

Diane Clayton
GOCK

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Nova Calverley-Chase



WHO WE ARE

The Boise Bard Players is a mobile, nonprofit theatre company making Shakespeare and other classics economically and emotionally accessible to the Treasure Valley and beyond. We bring these classic plays to unconventional locations like historical locations, breweries, and parks.

Every production we do serves both the theatre aficionados and the ones who have never understood Shakespeare before. As we like to say, our artists embody the text so well, you don't have to understand every word to understand the play.

With messages that stand the test of time, it's our commitment to give everyone a chance to enjoy the theater, eliminating emotional and economic barriers.

WE BELIEVE IN...

**NO MORE
STARVING
ARTISTS**



Support what you love, where you live.

Become part of the **#NoMoreStarvingArtists** movement to get Boise artists paid so we can **keep local talent local!**

Every day, local performing artists and behind-the-scenes masters are leaving Boise for larger cities with better opportunities. Many of the artists we employ are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, fitting in their craft when they have the bandwidth. Our vision is to provide well-paying, big-city opportunities so they can thrive right here at home.

But we need your help!

We cannot cover the cost of artist pay on ticket sales alone. Every donation, sponsorship, and Patreon pledge are the backbone of The Boise Bard Players. As a minimalist, nonprofit company, the majority of donations go toward artist and staff pay.

Without you, we would have to close our doors. If you are in a place to give, visit **www.boisebardplayers.org/donate**.



Love what you see here today? **Become a sponsor!**

The Boise Bard Players believes in the power of the arts to inspire, entertain, and unite communities. By becoming a sponsor, you can play a vital role in supporting our mission to bring exceptional theatrical experiences to our audience. Your partnership ensures the growth of the arts in our community and beyond.

Why sponsor BBP?

Visibility

Gain exposure to a diverse, engaged audience.

Community Engagement

Show your commitment to enriching the arts in our community.

Brand Affiliation

Align your brand with the arts and innovation

Exclusive Benefits

Enjoy VIP tickets, sit in on rehearsals, and more!

Join us in creating unforgettable experiences and enriching our community through the arts. We look forward to partnering with you. Email Managing Director Tiffany Eller at info@boisebardplayers.org to get started.

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start at \$10/mo.*

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SAVE THE DATE



Annual Gala

April 27, 2024

Join us for a night of Shakespearean entertainment
while we raise money for our 2024 season!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
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Announcing our

2024 SEASON



MACBETH

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NOVEMBER 2024



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JAN. 19 & 20

MACBETH • CYMBELINE • THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS



Email a headshot and resume to admin@boisebardplayers.org
to schedule your audition.

Please prepare one Shakespeare monologue, in verse.
If interested in *The Servant of Two Masters*, be prepared to improvise.

Thank you for coming!



For more Shakespeare edu-tainment and event announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram

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www.boisebardplayers.org