

SEASON CAST

As this show has run over several months, the cast has evolved and changed, and performances have been affected by illness. Although not seen on stage today, the cast members below have very much been a part of this production.

LIZ ZITO - ROBIN, THESEUS, TAMORA



Liz has directed various musicals, plays and music tribute shows over 35 plus years and is a life member of Shepparton Theatre Arts Group (STAG). For YAPPERS, Liz directed Regina Bell's *The Dusty Dog* and co-directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* with Alison. Liz received Georgy Awards for roles as Sylvia in *Sylvia*, and Sandy in *Minefields and Miniskirts*. Liz admits to being a Shakespeare virgin with this her first attempt at his work. Liz has loved Alison's passion for The Bard and enjoyed the challenge of delving into the persona of the villain Tamora, and being drafted to fill Ric's shoes as Robin Goodfellow and Theseus.

OLIVIA KING - NARRATOR



Olivia has an extensive background in local musical theatre in North Eastern Victoria and rarely sits still. With a soft spot for YAPPERS, Olivia has eagerly embraced roles as Lucy Van Pelt in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and Patty in *Ladies in Black*. She also made her directorial debut with SPW's *Legally Blonde* and followed that up as assistant director and musical director for *Avenue Q* this year.

YVONNE LIEVENSE - WITCH, GONERIL



Yvonne hails from Marysville. She is very keen to get involved in drama, acting, plays and entertainment, to meet and make new friends and do something entirely out of her comfort zone and different! Yvonne started this journey knowing zilch about Shakespeare but was intrigued, so she really jumped into to pursuing another chapter of fun in her life with her enthused teachers and cast.

NICOLE KELLY - WITCH, HELENA

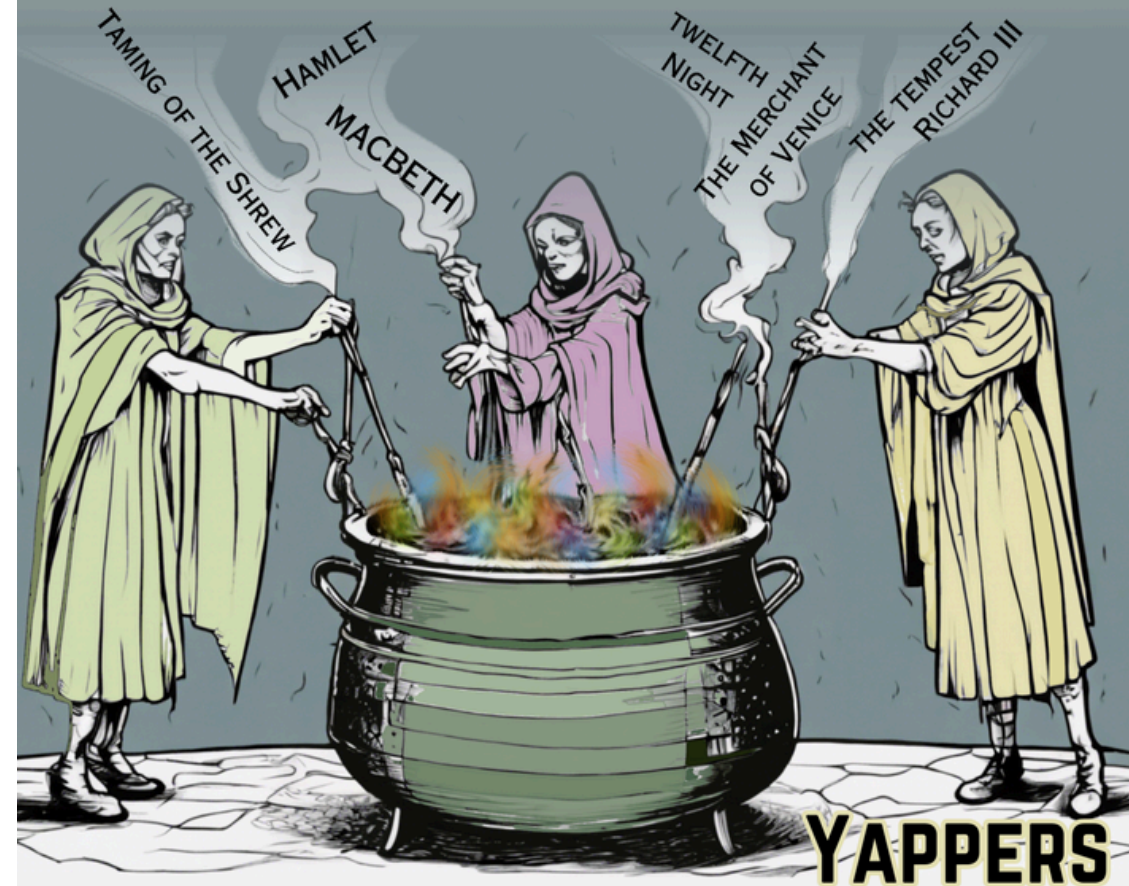


Nicole is a storyteller. Wearing a magical rainbow coat Nicole takes little people on marvellous singsong adventures. She believes much learning can be shared by the telling of stories: it is a highly engaging way to acquire knowledge. Everything is made better with a dose of fun and play, even for grown-ups. Now Nicole has entered the realm of Shakespeare, one of the best storytellers of all time!

Visit YeaArtsInc.org to stay up to date with our shows and activities.
Consider supporting us by joining up online as a member and getting involved!
You'll find the link on the website!

Yea Arts Inc acknowledges the Taungurung, traditional owners
and custodians of the land that inspires us,
on which we live and create.

WOOING, WARRING & WANTON WORDS



CAREFUL WHAT YOU WITCH FOR!

7pm Sat 4 May
2:30pm Sat 11 May
4pm Sun 7 July
2pm Sun 11 August

Yea Butter Factory
MiRA Marysville
Yarck Hall
Ruffy Hall

With support from



CAST

JANINE ARENSEN - KATE, LADY PERCY



Janine has been a vital part of YAPPERS since 2013. She is fondly remembered for her portrayal of Sister Robert-Ann, the naughty nun in *Nonsense*, as the butter-wouldn't-melt-in-her-mouth Patty in *Husband Murderers' Club*, and for her charming performance as Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. As a first-time director in 2022, Janine enjoyed bringing her creative vision to life with Deb Robinson's *Medium*. In the early 2000s Janine honed her skills in the craft at the Melbourne School of Acting in Richmond.

REGINA BELL - LADY MACBETH, ARIEL



Regi ventured into acting when she made Yea her home nine years ago. She has played both male and female roles, from teenager to a senior, danced and sung (well outside of her comfort zone!) and written a short play which was performed by YAPPERS. Why Shakespeare? Why not?! Having read *Macbeth* 50 years ago in school, she has enjoyed revisiting this and other plays, and realised that whatever was wrong with Shakespeare was no small thing! She now has a greater appreciation for Shakespeare's works which have been added to her book list.

TINA BRUNT - WITCH, OPHELIA, VIOLA



Tina has performed in YAPPERS' productions of *Quaff*, *Arrivals and Departures*, *Three Storeys*, *Ladies in Black*, and *Love, Death and Plumbing*. Tina enjoys the creativity of acting, searching for and styling costumes (especially vintage!!!), creating props and styling sets. She also loves history and Shakespeare's clever use of words! His observations and storytelling of people's behaviour and relationships still relate to today.

JO CLAYTON - WITCH, PAULINA



As a young girl and into her teens Jo was interested and involved in all theatre at school and took up drama lessons. When she moved down to the Mornington Peninsula she joined a local theatrical production team and after a while she then applied and was accepted into the National Theatre of Victoria studying a four year course which she never completed. Life and raising children got into the way of any theatrical aspirations, and since that time she has dabbled here and there in different areas of the Arts. Jo is looking forward to many years of involvement with YAPPERS - such a wonderful local enterprise.

ADAM DENNIS - PETRUCHIO, SHYLOCK, RICHARD III



Adam is a founding member of YAPPERS, playing the lead in our very first production. Since then he has appeared in a number of plays; most recently as Bill in *Medium*. Adam has also written two plays that were presented by YAPPERS including our infamous pandemic production, *The Living Wireless*, which he also directed. When not acting, Adam can be found writing, playing and performing music.

TINA BRUNT - VIOLA

Twelfth Night - Act II Scene II

Shipwrecked and alone as a woman, Viola dresses as a man (Cesario) and serves as faithful go-between to Duke Orsino and Olivia, whom the Duke is in love with. Viola, analysing the whole situation, realises she is loved by Olivia who is disinterested in the Duke's approaches.

ADAM DENNIS - SHYLOCK AND JONATHAN FISHER - SALARINO

Merchant of Venice, Act III Scene I

Shylock is in court demanding justice - the pound of flesh in payment for Antonio being unable to pay his bond.

JENNY PRICE - PORTIA

The Merchant of Venice, Act IV Scene I

Portia, dressed as a notable and out-of-town lawyer, tries to persuade Shylock to exchange the justice he seeks for the mercy that is a more noble and powerful act closer to God.

PHOEBE TUCKER - GONERIL

King Lear - Act I Scene III

Goneril, Lear's eldest daughter, bemoans the fact that, in spite of inheriting half of Lear's kingdom, she is still capable of senior abuse.

JANINE ARENSEN - LADY PERCY

Henry IV, Act II Scene III

Lady Percy, blaming the death of her husband, Hotspur, on her father-in-law, pleads for him not to return to war.

ADAM DENNIS - RICHARD III

Richard III, Act I Scene I

One of the most devilish of Shakespeare's characters outlines his route to the throne.

ALISON WUTH - TAMORA

Titus Andronicus, Act II Scene III

Queen Tamora, of the recently conquered Goths, incites her sons to do terrible violence to Lavinia (daughter of Titus, the titular army general) who has discovered the Queen with her lover and servant, Aaron.

REGINA BELL - ARIEL

The Tempest, Act I Scene II

After being trapped by a witch in a tree and released by Prospero, sorcerer and usurped brother of the King of Milan, the spirit Ariel describes how she has fulfilled Prospero's desire for a tempest to devastate the ship carrying the son of his deposing brother.

RIC STUBBINGS - ROBIN GOODFELLOW

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act V Scene I

Robin Goodfellow's thanks to the audience

JENNY PRICE – GERTRUDE, PORTIA



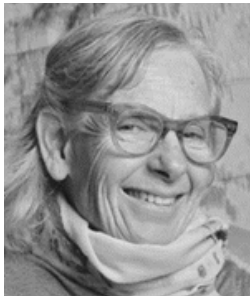
Jenny was first tempted to dabble in performance in 2021 via the Kiwi accent required for the YAPPERS' production *The Living Wireless*, and she has continued to dip her toe in the theatrical water. With limited prior exposure to Shakespeare she jumped at the chance to broaden her knowledge with *Wooing Warring and Wanton Words by Will*, and to experience his genius from a performer's viewpoint as Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*.

RIC STUBBINGS – ROBIN, THESEUS



Ric has been a YAPPERS player now since his debut as Mr Miles in the YAPPERS' performance of *Ladies in Black* in 2019. Back then acting was not even on his radar. Acting now is part of his persona. Over the last 6 years, he has been a plumber dabbling in family counselling, an old bushy in an outback pub, a grocer, a politician and now a rascal of a pixie. And it has all been great fun. Ric says "I hope youse all enjoy this one. May the merriment continue forever and a day."

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



WILLingly or unWILLingly some time in our lives, education felt a taste of Shakespeare was essential. Whether you were cursed with *Macbeth*, fell in love with *Romeo and Juliet*, felt it was *Much Ado about Nothing* or it wasn't *As You Like It*, one cannot help but accept that we were exposed to a man with a passion for life and storytelling all done in iambic pentameter, rhyming couplets and prose! It was a time of war between kingdoms, families and countries, and religious upheaval, (bit like today really!)

Our actors today have chosen to have a (crack) at it either for the first time or 'once more with feeling'. Initially each cast member understood it was to be a 'rehearsed reading', as they say 'on' book (with script in hand) or 'off' book (without script). Many subsequently felt that to portray their character the piece needed to be 'off book' (delivered without script)

Tonight we have cast who have made their decision to be 'on' or 'off' book. Regardless, we trust their portrayal for you the audience. We hope that you WILLingly and supportively enjoy today's bite-sized performances of The Bard as much as we have enjoyed exploring his genius!

Alison Huth - Director

CREDITS

Director, Concept & Set Design

Alison Huth

Costumes & Props

Cast

Poster Design, Marketing & Ticketing

Adam Dennis

Front of House Coordination

Allan Thatcher

Program and dogsbody

Liz Zito

THANKS

Vikki Menhennitt and Ron Litjens at the Yea Butter Factory for the amazing support and enthusiasm as we rehearsed

Alister Huth

Yea Arts Inc. core committee

Sal Phillips, first aid and celebrity medical transport

All the partners and family that now know at least one Shakespeare monologue intimately/ off by heart, having heard it so many times mistakenly assuming they were being spoken to

The trusting and supporting venue committees of Yarck (Sharon), Ruffy (Donna) and Marysville (Sharon / Bronwyn)

Hard to be the Bard (from the musical *Something Rotten*) approved for use by APRA / One Music Australia

Our thanks to the many websites that have made Shakespeare accessible to all, especially Andrew Hearle and his team at "Stagemilk" www.stagemilk.com, Sparks Notes, No Sweat Shakespeare, RSC Learning and many more we all discovered and shared on our journey here.

THE WORKS

CAST

It's Hard to Be the Bard

REGINA BELL

Introduction

RIC STUBBINGS - THESEUS

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act V Scene I

Theseus introduces a night's entertainment.

JO CLAYTON, TINA BRUNT, PHOEBE TUCKER - WITCHES

Macbeth, Act I Scene I & Act IV Scene I

Witches cooking and summoning up apparitions before Macbeth's arrival.

REGINA BELL - LADY MACBETH

Macbeth, Act I Scene V

Lady Macbeth, calls on the spirits to 'unsex' her that she can be the driving force behind Macbeth in his quest to be king of Scotland.

PHOEBE TUCKER - HELENA

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act III Scene II

Helena mourns the loss of a lifelong friendship by being betrayed by Hermia.

ALISON HUTH - HERMIONE

The Winter's Tale, Act III Scene II

Hermione's defence at an open court as she is tried for false accusations owing to King Leontes' jealous obsessions.

JO CLAYTON - PAULINA

The Winter's Tale - Act III Scene II

Paulina noble member of Leontes' court and close confidant of Hermione, scourges Leontes for allowing his jealousies to rule his mind.

JONATHAN FISHER - HAMLET, AND TINA BRUNT - OPHELIA

Hamlet - Act III Scene I - The break up

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, unhinged by the actions of his uncle murdering his father and then marrying his mother, spurns his former girlfriend, Ophelia.

JENNY PRICE - GERTRUDE

Hamlet - Act IV Scene VII

Shortly following, Hamlet's mother, Gertrude describes Ophelia's demise by drowning to Ophelia's brother, Laertes.

JANINE ARENDSSEN - KATE, AND ADAM DENNIS - PETRUCHIO

The Taming of the Shrew, Act II Scene I

Signor Brabantio is keen to marry off his younger daughter Bianca, however not before someone takes his shrewish outspoken older daughter Kate to wife.

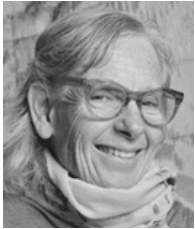
JONATHAN FISHER - HAMLET, SALARINO

Jonathan's journey with William Shakespeare began during his English Literature studies at ANU, where he developed a deep appreciation for The Bard's timeless themes and beautiful, though complex, language. Although this performance marks his debut in a Shakespearean role, he is no stranger to the stage, having delighted audiences over the last decade in YAPPERS' productions like *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Ladies in Black*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.



ALISON HUTH - DIRECTOR, HERMIONE, TAMORA

Alison has lived, breathed and worked in theatre from early secondary school. She has loved Shakespeare for almost that long too; she was a Royal Shakespeare Company 'groupie' with her bestie of that era. Reigniting her passion in later life to inspire her to do this project has been like immersion therapy. Bringing along some who haven't previously supped on Will's words, much less performed them, has led her to realise that, whilst his beautiful language and poetry is foreign to some, his themes and topics are universal in so many ways. She hopes you can float, sup, war, woo and Globe trot memories in hand with us.



PHOEBE TUCKER - WITCH, HELENA, GONERIL

Phoebe has always enjoyed participating in community acting, dancing and musical theatre. Although new to Shakespeare, she's enjoying the challenge. Phoebe has also experienced the world of film and television, working behind the scenes. She's taken quite a long break from the stage but has recently been building her strength quite literally as a bodybuilder, and now she's ready to return to the stage with her first love, theatre!

