



Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE WINTER'S TALE

BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY GRAHAM ABBEY



MARCH 5-7, 11-14, 7PM
MARCH 8, 2PM
2020

HELEN GARDINER PHELAN
PLAYHOUSE
79 ST. GEORGE ST.

The Winter's Tale

Cast

Taranjot Bamrah - Emilia, Time & Perdita
Nicole Eun-Ju Bell - Antigone & Autolycus
Dante Camarda - Cleomenes & Florizel
Aloisia D'souza - Paulina & Camilla
Uri Livne-Bar - Polixenes & Dion
Eliza Lane - Mamillia
Erin Hunter Whyland - Leontes & Old Shepherdess
Stephanie Zeit - Hermione & Clown

Artistic Team

Graham Abbey – Director
Dylan Trowbridge - Associate Director
Thomas Ryder Payne - Sound Design
Snezana Pesic - Set & Costume Design
Kimberly Purtell - Lighting Design
Nicole Eun-Ju Bell - Projection Design
William Dao - Assistant Director
Margaret Rose - Assistant Director
Robert Motum - Teaching Assistant
Julija Pesic - Teaching Assistant
Siobhan Richardson – Intimacy Coach
William Dao, Margaret Rose – Video Creation
Nicole Eun-Ju Bell - Original Music Composition

Production Team

David Botros, Alessia Colli, Brad Gira, Angelli McGuigan, Saki Nishida, Ashneet Sachdeva, Alison Starkey – Assistant Set Design
Abigail Lewis, Sue-Tanya Parks, Cankurt Perek - Assistant Costume Design
Rida Ahmad – Assistant Lighting Design
Christy Feng, Matt Lalonde - Assistant Sound Design

Christine Luksts – Stage Manager
Abby Esteireiro, Hannah Cheetham, Sue-Tanya Parks – Assistant Stage Managers

Andrew Leeke - CDTPS Technical Director
Linda Phillips - Wardrobe Supervisor & Costume Construction
Matt Lalonde - Assistant Technical Director
Rida Ahmad, Abby Esteireiro, Uri Livne-Bar – Production
Assistants

Giuseppe Condello, Oriana Di Nucci, Lauren Lacey, Christopher
Sutherland, Tiffany Yaw - CDTPS Theatre Technicians

Snezana Pesic - Design Course Instructor
Janice Fraser - Production Course Instructor
Ariel Martin-Smith - Manager of Theatre Operations

Director's Note

As an artist I have always found myself particularly drawn to Shakespeare's late romances. In part, this attraction lies in the larger themes of justice and repentance, and the dramatic devices of improbable disguise and supernatural events, which tweak my interest both as an actor and a director.

The Winter's Tale, however, has always held a special place in my heart as the crowning achievement in this remarkable grouping of plays.

I think on some primal level it speaks to the little boy in me who doesn't want to grow up and face the very real questions of mortality and death and the inevitable march of Time. I want so badly to believe in the tale, where fairy gold makes us rich and bears spare children, where statues can speak and things past care are truly past grief. But life so seldom works that way. Bears must eat and statues are cold. And despite our vehement protestations, loved ones leave us to find our own way home.

Yet each time I have experienced profound loss in my life, I find myself drawn to this play. I think because in the face of all despair, and in the darkest moments, it is the possibility of faith that offers me the greatest hope. And faith isn't fantasy. It is a very real.

I was first introduced to this play as a young actor under the direction of Brian Bedford. Brian would often speak to us about the possibility of miracles in the theatre, railing against our modern propensity to distill things down to reason and logic.

What if someone we knew to be gone could walk back into this room? What would we say? How would we be changed? Is it possible, on those rare occasions when the alchemy is just right, to leave the theatre a different person than when we came in?

The Winter's Tale has always held this magical potential for me. I have witnessed from both sides of the stage the extraordinary transformative power of this play, and its ability to break through the confines of theatrical conventions to reach the hearts and minds of those who stand witness to Shakespeare's remarkable poetry.

With this production, I feel like I have come full circle with this play. It has been a tremendous honour and privilege to pass down the knowledge I gleaned as a young actor to a group of hard working and talented young artists at a similar stage in their careers as I was when I was first introduced to this play.

I am immensely proud of this group of artists and the story they have built together. To tackle *The Winter's Tale* can be intimidating on the best of days. With seven actors and limited time that feat becomes even more daunting.

At the beginning of our year together I offered several plays as options for our class to present. In the end, this class voted unanimously to awake their faith and play in the world of Love.

I hope you enjoy.

Graham Abbey

Description

One of Shakespeare's late romances, *The Winter's Tale* is a classic story of destructive jealousy and the endearing power of faith, set against a fairy tale backdrop of magic, illusion, and true love. In this reimagined production by this year's graduating class, eight actors weave a tale of 16 characters, between two worlds, and across 16 years. Leontes, Queen of Sicilia accuses her wife Hermione of an infidelity with her oldest friend Polixenes. The fallout of this accusation takes us 16 years into the future to the shores of the mythical Bohemia, complete with fairy gold and bears, and launches us on an unimaginable journey of rebirth, redemption and forgiveness.

There will be one 20 minute intermission.

Cast Biographies

Taranjot Bamrah - Emilia, Time & Perdita



Taranjot is a fourth year student pursuing a double major in Performance Studies and Women and Gender Studies at U of T. Taranjot has previously been a part of the CDTPS's *Tales of a City by the Sea* and the award-winning Drama Festival shows *Trust Nobody: A Comedy*, and *The Rhythm Method*. Taranjot wishes that her passion for

performing allows her to create content that challenges social norms and ideologies, and aspires to showcase riveting and necessary stories. Taranjot would like to express her gratitude towards her family and friends for always supporting her endeavors.

Nicole Eun-Ju Bell - Antigone & Autolycus; Projection Design & Original Music Composition



Nicole is a Toronto based mixed-race multidisciplinary theatre artist. She loves performing and projection design. Among other things, she enjoys creating music and writing. She's worked on shows

here at the CDTPS in various production capacities, and is excited to finally perform on the Playhouse stage for the first time. Outside the Centre, Nicole has worked on shows as both an actor and designer at Toronto Fringe, Next Stage, Summerworks and Hart House Theatre. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with this lovely cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!

Dante Camarda - Cleomenes & Florizel



Dante is a multi-instrumentalist and artist in his final year at U of T where he is completing a BA in Visual Studies and Performance at the CDTPS. Working with Graham Abbey, Dylan Trowbridge, and Thomas Ryder Payne has been an absolute dream. From table work to rehearsals to performances, there have been so many lessons learned in the process of working on this piece of theatre. Dante is forever grateful and very proud to be part of this company producing *The Winter's Tale*.

Aloisia D'souza - Paulina & Camilla



Aloisia is in her fourth year at U of T. She is majoring in English and theatre studies. In preparation for this show, she would like to thank the director, production team, assistant directors as well as her family and friends for supporting her to make this

play possible!

Uri Livne-Bar - Polixenes & Dion; Production Assistant



Uri is a performer, playwright, and sound designer completing his 4th year at U of T. He is currently a production assistant at the Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse. Uri is interested in experimental multidisciplinary theatre, and in

politically charged stories that motivate audiences to action.

Outside of theatre, he can be found writing music on a piano or computer.

This production has been Uri's most in-depth exploration of a Shakespeare play yet, and he is extremely fortunate to delve into

this emotionally fraught story with such a talented and supportive team. Uri is most excited about the specific way this production explores loss and redemption.

Performance credits: *Encounters at the Edge of the Woods* (Hart House Theatre 2019), *Overminded* (CDTPS 2017), *Puppet Macbeth* (Crowded Puppet Theatre 2017-18).

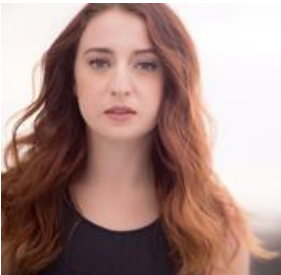
Eliza Lane – Mamillia



Eliza is a Grade 4 student at Denlow Public School. She is a devoted Harry Potter fan, an animal lover, a vegetarian, and the proud pet-parent of her enormous fluffy cats, Jetta and Marshmallow. She has studied

acting at the Bravo Academy and YPT, and is currently learning improv at the Second City Training Centre. Last year, Eliza was featured in the Outside the March production of *The Tape Escape* by Vanessa Smythe, directed by Mitchell Cushman. She's very excited and proud to be making her Shakespearean debut in *The Winter's Tale* with this fabulous group of young performers.

Erin Hunter Whyland - Leontes & Old Shepherdess



Erin could not be more grateful to be part of a production that has come to mean so much to her. She wants to emphasize the importance of continuing to challenge the traditional telling of stories such as *The Winter's Tale*, and is proud to be doing so with a group she deeply admires. Erin is currently finishing her undergraduate

degree at the CDTPS, and is looking forward to continuing to train and act in her postgraduate pursuits. Thank you to Graham and Dylan for their generosity, Christine for her patience, the entire cast for their support, Will and Margaret for their specificity, and

the design and production teams for their dedication. Love to the Whyland bunch.

Stephanie Zeit - Hermione & Clown



Stephanie is a recent graduate of the CDTPS. She is thrilled and grateful to be working with Graham Abbey for the first time. Stephanie's recent credits include *Eurydice* (Orpheus), *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* (Peter), *The Boy Who Cried* (Sarah), and *Middletown* (Mary Swanson). You can see Stephanie playing Haimon in the UC Follies' upcoming production of *Antigonick* (UofT).

Stephanie hopes you enjoy this telling of *The Winter's Tale* and can't wait to bring both Hermione and the clown to life!

Creative Team Biographies

Graham Abbey, Director



Graham has been an actor and director at the Stratford Festival for the past 22 seasons. Selected roles include Romeo, Macbeth, Henry V, Henry VIII, Iago, Berowne, Jaques, Aufidius and Petruchio. His adaptation of Shakespeare's history cycle entitled *Breath of Kings* made its debut at Stratford in which Graham served as Associate Director and Creator while playing the title role of Henry IV in the two-

part adaptation. This season Graham will appear as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Claudius in *Hamlet*.

Graham has appeared in theatres across North America including two seasons at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre with Brian Bedford in *The Moliere Comedies* and *School for Scandal*.

In film and TV, Graham spent three seasons starring on the CBC series *The Border* as Detective Gray Jackson and has appeared in several feature films including *Casino Jack*, *Take this Waltz* and *Defendor*.

Last year, Graham adapted and directed *The Front Page* at The Stratford Festival. He is a graduate of the Michael Langham Conservatory for Classical direction and has served as an associate director for four seasons under Tim Carroll, Antoni Cimolino, Martha Henry and Weyni Mengesha.

Graham is the founder and Artistic Director of the *Groundling Theatre Company* based in Toronto. Past productions include *The Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure* and *Lear*. This past winter Groundling presented *Julius Caesar* in co-production with Crow's Theatre.

Graham is also going into his fourth season as the Artistic Director of *The Festival Players of Prince Edward County*.

He holds an honours degree in Politics from Queen's University.

Dylan Trowbridge, Associate Director



Dylan is an award-winning actor, director and teacher. Select acting credits include *Julius Caesar*, *Tribes* (Canadian Stage), *Mary Stuart* (Stratford Festival), *Dirty Dancing* (London's West End), *Peter Pan*, *Widowers' Houses*, *Rutherford and Son* and *The Coronation Voyage* (The Shaw Festival). Most recently he directed *Herringbone* and *The Yalta Game* (Talk is Free Theatre) and *Every Brilliant Thing* (Festival Players). For Eldritch Theatre, Dylan directed the Dora Award winning Sci-Fi tragedy *Space Opera Zero!* and *The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy*. Select Film and TV credits include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *V-Wars*, *Impulse*, *American Hangman*, *Dark Matter*, *Private Eyes*, *Orphan Black*, and *Alias Grace*. Dylan is the founding Artistic Associate of Theatrefront and the Associate Artistic Director of Festival Players.

Thomas Ryder Payne, Sound Design



Thomas Ryder Payne is a composer and sound designer for theatre, dance and film. Selected past work includes designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Nightwood,

Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others. Thomas has received three Dora awards and 22 nominations.

Snezana Pesic, Set & Costume Design; Design Course Instructor



Snezana is a Serbian Canadian scenographer and design educator.

Her work has been seen across Canada with companies such as The Banff Centre, The Confederation Centre of the Arts, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, Against the Grain Theatre, Ghost River Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, Native Earth and Cahoots Theatre, among others.

Pesic is the recipient of the Betty Mitchell Award, as well as the Prix Rideau Award, and is a Pauline McGibbon Award nominee. With her work, she participated in numerous international exhibitions including the Prague Quadrennial (2007, 2015) and the World Stage Design (Seoul 2009, Cardiff 2013). Snezana curated and designed the Canadian National Exhibition, *Individuality and Interconnection*, at the Prague Quadrennial 2019 (PQ2019). Under her leadership, the Canadian National Exhibition was honoured with the PQ2019 Award for Excellence in Performance Design, recognizing the work of exhibiting designer Michael Levine.

Kimberly Purtell, Lighting Design



Kimberly is a Toronto based lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance. Most recently she designed *Barber of Seville* (Vancouver Opera). *Caroline or Change* (Musical Stage Co. & Obsidian), *Sweat* (Canadian Stage & Studio 180), *Mother's Daughter* (Soulpepper), *Lil Red Robin Hood* (Ross Petty Productions), *Newsies* (Arena Stage, DC), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Soulpepper), *Private Lives*, *The Front Page*, *Mother's Daughter* (Stratford Festival), *Cyrano* (Shaw Festival). Upcoming: *The Events* (Necessary Angel), *Frankenstein*, *Here's What It Takes*, *Hamlet* (Stratford Festival), *Indecent* (Mirvish & Studio 180).

Christine Luksts, Stage Manager



Christine is a Toronto based stage manager who has been involved in arts for her entire life. She loves watching art grow and working with the wonderful people in this industry. Past credits include: Assistant Stage Manager, *Figaro's Wedding*, Against the Grain Theatre; App. Stage Manager, *Don Giovanni*, Opera Atelier; Stage Manager, *Anne*, Guild Festival Theatre; App. Stage Manager, *Idomeneo*, Opera Atelier; App. Stage Manager, *The Scavengers Daughter*, Paradigm Productions; App. Stage Manager, *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, Harold Green Jewish Theatre Compay; Stage Manager, TDSB Arts Co-op 2018, Young People's Theatre; App. Stage Manager, *Acha Bacha*, Theatre Passe Muraille.

Janice Fraser, Production Course Instructor



Janice is a proud alumnus of the CDTPS. Over her career, Janice has had the pleasure of working on a myriad of shows at world-class venues such as the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation's Toronto television studios, and as the Head Electrician at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. She was excited to

spend last summer in Montreal, helping to build a brand new arena tour for Cirque du Soleil called *Messi10*, as the Interim Head of Lighting and Video. She is also a proud member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (Local 58). In addition to her technical work and teaching, Janice enjoys reading, cycling and hiking, and is currently mentoring select female IATSE workers who are starting their careers in the technical production industry. Janice is very proud of all the hard work the CDTPS students have put into this year's production of *The Winter's Tale*.

William Dao, Assistant Director & Video Creation



William is a fourth year student at the CDTPS. Most recently, William directed *The Boy Who Cried*, written by Brad Gira, at the U of T Drama Festival. *The Boy Who Cried* garnered many awards and marks the third time that William and company won the President's Award for Best Production (*Lone Island Lovers* in 2019, and *The Rhythm Method* in 2018, both written by Mick Robertson). William won the Robert Gill Award for Best Direction twice

for his work on *The Boy Who Cried* and *Lone Island Lovers*. Off campus, William completed the Artistic Accomplice Program with Outside the March under the mentorship of Mitchell Cushman. As a program participant, he assisted on OTM's most recent productions, *The Flick* by Annie Baker, and *The Tape Escape*. William's additional directing credits include *Marjorie Prime* (Apprentice Director, Coal Mine Theatre); *Eurydice* (CDTPS);

Pacamambo (SMC Troubadours - Winner of the Drama Coalition Award for Best Production Design, Nominated for Best Direction and Best Play); *Spring Awakening: The Musical* (UC Follies - Nominated for Best Direction and Best Musical at the Drama Coalition.)

Margaret Rose, Assistant Director & Video Creation



Margaret is a fourth year student at U of T double majoring in Equity Studies and Drama Theatre and Performance Studies. The main focus of her theatre major has been acting, but over the last two years she has also become interested in directing. Margaret made her directorial debut last year for the UC Follies multidisciplinary art event *Honeymoon! An Arts Spree*, with Heiner Muller's short play *Heartpiece*. Her most recent acting credits

include: *Eurydice* (CDTPS, Directors Showcase), *The Boy Who Cried* (U of T Drama Fest), *House on Fire* (CDTPS, MainStage), *East of Berlin* (CDTPS, Directors Showcase), *Lone Island Lovers* (U of T Drama Fest) and *The Rhythm Method* (U of T Drama Fest). Last year Margaret was able to take this course as an actor, and she feels truly grateful to return to expand her directorial eye. She is very appreciative to have been given the opportunity to assistant direct and is excited to share this show with everyone!

Rida Ahmad, Assistant Lighting Design & Production Assistant

Rida is a fourth year student pursuing a double major in drama and fundamental genetics at U of T. In the past she worked as an assistant stage manager for *Eurydice* (2019) and *Little One* (2018), as a stage manager for *Statistics* (2019) and *Our Town* (2016), and as a lighting designer for *Love's Labour's Lost* (2017). She loves spending her time watching theatre around the city and is slowly working on instilling that fondness within her friends and family. With her passion for creative technology in theatre, she aspires to expand her skill set to aid her in becoming a director. Rida would like to sincerely thank both Janice Fraser and

Kimberly Purtell for being amazing mentors throughout this wonderful experience.

David Botros, Assistant Set Design

David is a third year architecture student at U of T, with a background in drama and technology. He is passionate about the arts and is involved in writing, filmmaking, and music. His academics include directing, production design, as well as a minor in cinema. This is his first credit on a staged production.

Hannah Cheetham, Assistant Stage Manager

Hannah Cheetham is a third year student studying drama, literature, and critical theory. This is her first time working as an assistant stage manager, and she is happy to be helping with such a great performance! Previous U of T acting credits include Agatha in *Guys & Dolls* (SMCT 2020). She also performs on campus with Vic Dance and OHDC.

Alessia Collia, Assistant Set Design

Alessia is a third year architecture student at the Daniels Faculty. She is specializing in design and is extremely excited to pursue a studio course outside of her faculty. Alessia has had a passion for musical theatre since childhood and has performed in over a dozen productions throughout her youth. She is extremely excited to merge her passions for architecture and theatre at U of T, and to explore design with her professor, Snezana, and her talented classmates.

Christy Feng, Assistant Sound Design

Christy is in her final year at U of T majoring in Drama with minors in sociology and English. She has enjoyed working with the team and is amazed by how all the design elements have come together as a whole. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Brad Gira, Assistant Set Design

Brad is in his fourth year studying history and drama. Recently, he wrote *The Boy Who Cried* (UC Follies) which won the Robertson Davies Playwriting Award at the U of T Drama Festival, set designed *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl (CDTPS), and directed *All Our Happy Days Are Stupid* by Sheila Heti (SMC Troubadours).

Abigail Lewis, Assistant Costume Design

Abigail is a second year drama and French literature student, focusing on performance, design, and directing. As assistant costume designer, Abigail has had the chance to work with a wonderful team under the guidance of Snezana Pesic. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

Abigail's past costume related credits include: Dresser (*Oh What a Lovely War*, Hart House), Assistant Stage Manager (*Legally Blonde*, Hart House), Costume Designer (*Tropical Depression*, TCDS), Dresser (*The Rocky Horror Show*, Hart House), and Dresser (*Heathers*, Hart House). Other credits: Flight Attendant (*Connections*, TCDS) and Cass (*Tropical Depression*, TCDS).

Angelli McGuigan, Assistant Set Design

Angelli is a second year studying Drama, Theatre, & Performance Studies and Environmental Studies at Victoria College. She has been involved in campus productions as a director and actor with the drama societies at Trinity College, St. Mike's College, and Victoria College, and is so excited to be working on her first CDTPS show with such a hardworking and talented class! In addition to production and design classes, Angelli has taken a directing class at the Centre. She congratulates everyone who has worked on *The Winter's Tale* and thanks the audience for supporting student theatre!

Saki Nishida, Assistant Set Design

Saki was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She currently studies at U of T, majoring in music education at the Faculty of Music. She was involved in theatre as an ensemble cast member for nine

years in Japan. This is her first time working as part of a theatrical design crew. Her major interest is musical theatre.

Sue-Tanya Parks, Assistant Stage Manager & Assistant Costume Design

Sue-Tanya is a second year undergraduate student studying Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and Studio Art Studies. This is the first CDTPS show she has worked on, and she is looking forward to expanding her theatre credits. She aspires to pursue theatre through writing, producing and directing shows. She is grateful for the support she has received in her program from her professors, and would like to thank all the cast and crew members involved in *The Winter's Tale* for making this a rewarding experience.

Cankurt Perek, Assistant Costume Design

Cankurt is a third year drama student who specializes in the performance, but is deeply interested in, and takes courses relating to, all things theatre. He contributed to the creation and the putting together of some of the show's costumes, and is excited to see how exactly the show, and the very talented cast, will make them come alive.

Ashneet Sachdeva, Assistant Set Design

Ashneet is a final year undergraduate student pursuing Architectural Studies and Cinema Studies at U of T. During the course of her degree, she has explored architectural practice, film making and theory. She aspires to actively combine her artistic and storytelling interests by pursuing stage and production design.

As an Assistant Set Designer on the show, she has enjoyed the opportunity to translate written work into display and has especially enjoyed creating the ambiance of seasonality. In addition to her theatrical aspirations, she is interested in installation design, travelling and photography.

Alison Starkey, Assistant Set Design

Alison is in their third year of a drama and art history double major (with a minor in English). You can find them working on productions across campus as a sound designer, set designer, and on the UC Follies executive team as an assistant technical director. Recent credits include sound design for CDTPS's *Uncle Falling* and VCDS's *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and set design for VCDS's *The Bakunawa*.

Special Thanks

Tamara Trojanowska, Francesco Gagliardi, Antje Budde, Suzanne Micallef, Peter Freund, Colleen Osborn, Tara Maher, Ian Albright, Beka Morrison, Moyukh Syeed, Joanne O'Sullivan, Cyrus Lane, The Canadian Opera Company, Soulpepper



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