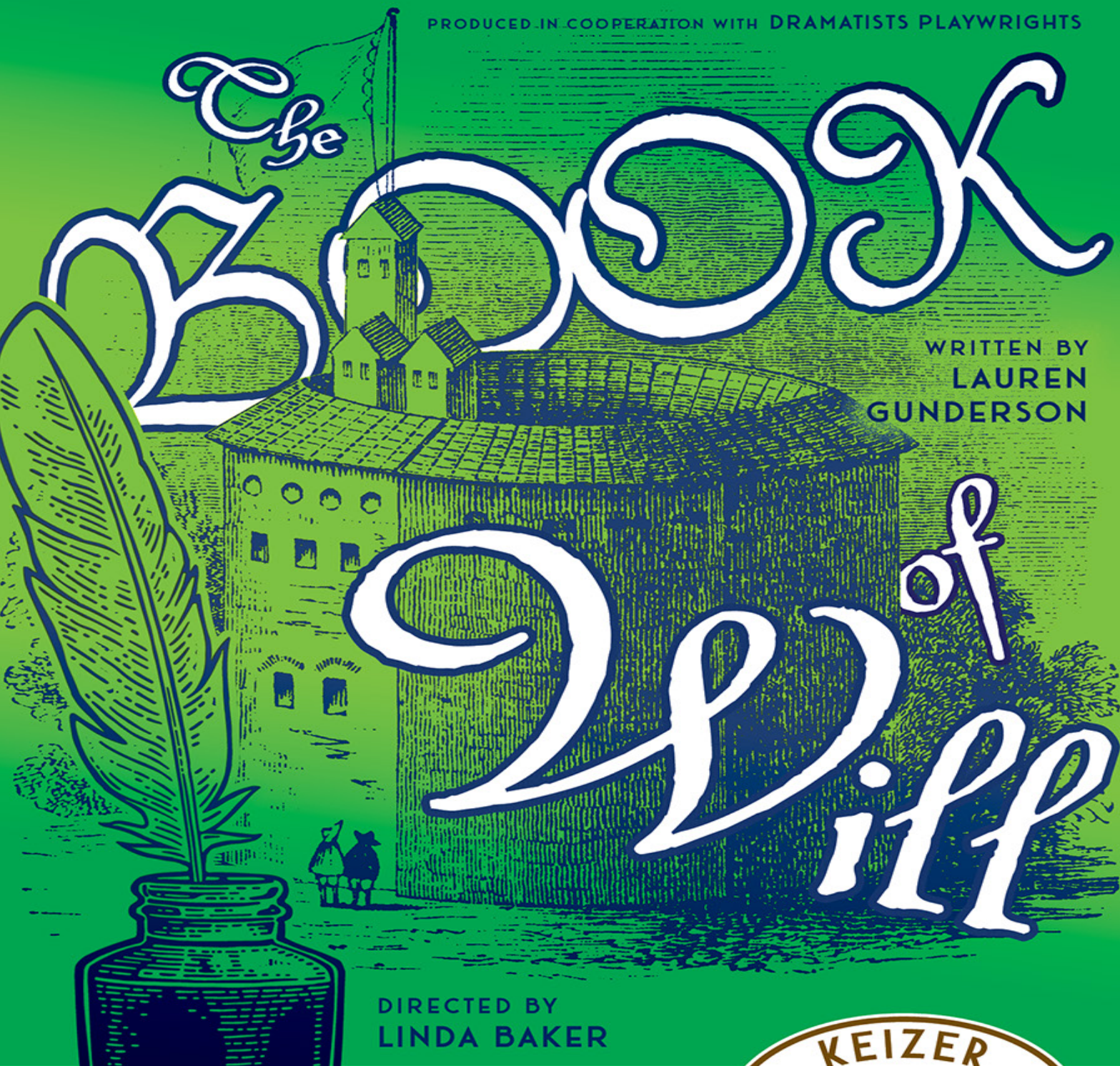


PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH DRAMATISTS PLAYWRIGHTS



WRITTEN BY  
LAUREN  
GUNDERSON

DIRECTED BY  
LINDA BAKER

9 Performances  
**JULY 14-30**

14 | 15 | 21 | 22 | 28 | 29 | at 7 pm  
16 | 23 | 30 | at 2 pm



980 Chemawa Rd NE, Keizer

PRESENTED BY

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
[KeizerHomegrownTheatre.org](http://KeizerHomegrownTheatre.org)

Holders of Oregon Trail Card are eligible for FREE TICKETS





# CAST

Henry Condell.....Koli Cutler  
John Hemmings.....Robert Condron  
Richard Burbage.....Paul Nelson  
Alice Hemmings.....Cassandra McKenna  
Elizabeth Condell.....Celsea Wuster  
Rebecca Hemmings.....Becky Nielson  
Ben Johnson.....Sam Tibbits  
Anne Hathaway Shakepeare....Shelly Stoye  
Emilia Bassano Lanier.....Shilah Tibbits  
Susanna Shakespeare.....Lauren Stenerson  
Ed Knight.....Lyndon Zaitz  
Crane.....Stephanie Bednarz  
William Jagger.....Erich Schmidt  
Isaac Jagger/Barman 1.....Robert McMorris  
Maria/Company.....Mandi Thompson  
Compositor/Company.....Kirsten Davis  
Boy Hamlet/Company.....Paul Nielson  
Crier/Lady Derring.....Deborah Nelson  
Barman 2/Company.....Andy Bednarz

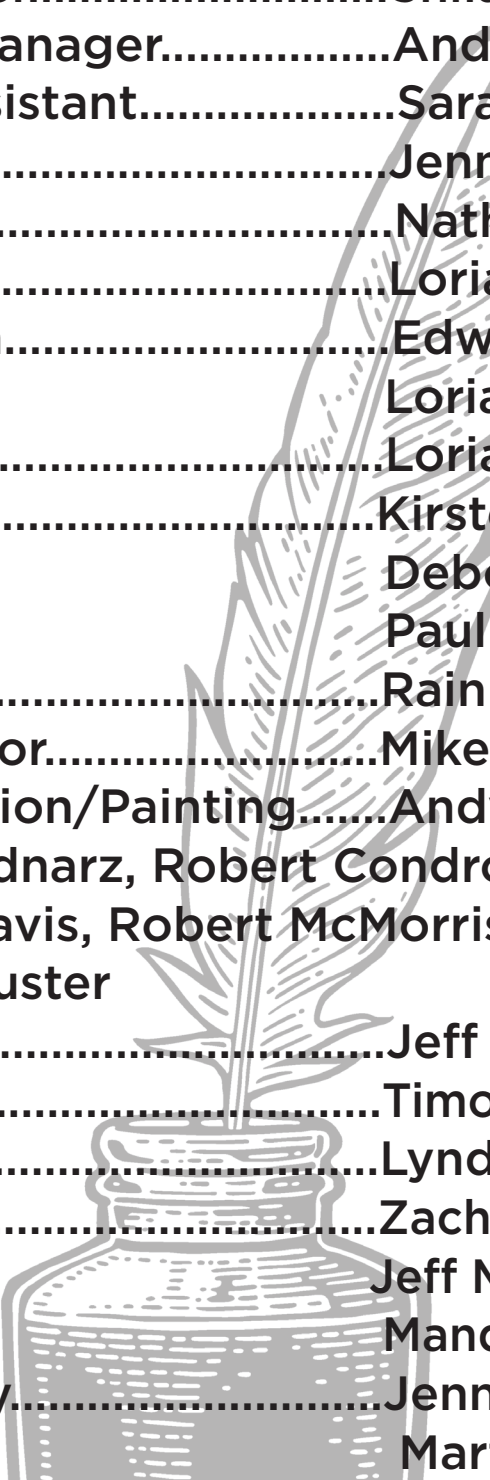


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# PRODUCTION TEAM



Director.....	Linda Baker
Stage Manager.....	Shilah Tibbits
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Andy Bednarz
Director's Assistant.....	Sarah Pitz
Producer.....	Jennifer Johnson
Set Design.....	Nathaniel J. Price
Light Design.....	Loriann Schmidt
Sound Design.....	Edward Stiner, Loriann Schmidt
Costumes.....	Loriann Schmidt
Props.....	Kirsten Davis Deborah Nelson Paul Nelson
Light Crew.....	Rain Holland
Board Operator.....	Mike Jaffe
Set Construction/Painting.....	Andy Bednarz, Stephanie Bednarz, Robert Condron, Kirsten Davis, Robert McMorris, Sam Tibbits Celsea Wuster
Box Office.....	Jeff Minden
Dramaturge.....	Timothy Jordan Reid
Program.....	Lyndon Zaitz
Social media.....	Zach Dufault Jeff Minden Mandi Thompson
Lobby Display.....	Jennifer Johnson Martha Smith
Poster.....	Andrew Jackson
Cast Portraits.....	Logan Turbes
Volunteer Coordinator.....	Celeste Guptill

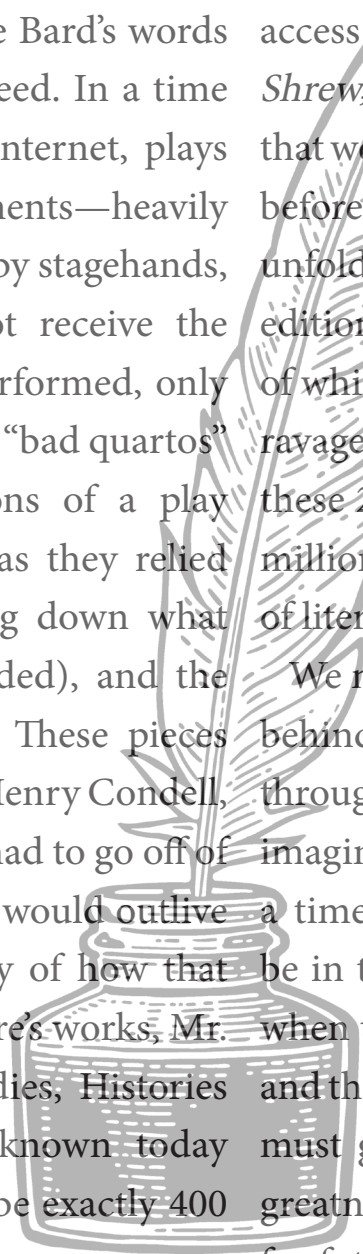
# DRAMATURGE By Timothy Jordan Reid

It is hard to imagine a world in which the works of William Shakespeare are not an omnipresent factor in popular culture, but during his life and immediately after his death in 1616 the immortality of the Bard's words was actually far from guaranteed. In a time before mass printing or the internet, plays often existed only in fragments—heavily annotated promptbooks used by stagehands, actors' sides (players did not receive the entirety of the scripts they performed, only the lines they spoke), so called “bad quartos” (unauthorized printed versions of a play often rife with inaccuracies, as they relied on audience members writing down what they heard as the play unfolded), and the memories of those involved. These pieces were all that John Heminges, Henry Condell, and other friends of the Bard had to go off of when ensuring that his works would outlive them all, and this is the story of how that first compilation of Shakespeare's works, Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies (colloquially known today as “The First Folio”) came to be exactly 400 years ago.

Written by Lauren Gunderson, *The Book of Will* premiered in January 2017 at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and has been met with critical and audience acclaim alike. The characters presented therein are actual

historical figures who worked with, under, and in the orbit of the greatest playwright in the history of the western world. It is because of them and the First Folio that we have access to *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *MacBeth*, and about 20 other plays that were never written down in their entirety before the events that you are about to watch unfold. It is believed that a mere 750 first edition copies of the First Folio were printed, of which 235 are known to have survived the ravages of time. In October of 2020, one of these 235 copies was sold at auction for \$10 million, making it the most expensive work of literature ever sold.

We may not know the exact circumstances behind the creation of the First Folio, but through historical sleuthing and a touch of imagination, Gunderson's *The Book of Will* is a timeless exploration of what it means to be in the presence of greatness, how it feels when that greatness is suddenly snuffed out, and the lengths that those who are left behind must go to in order to make sure that the greatness is remembered and immortalized for future generations. Thanks to these men and women, William Shakespeare is today remembered as a legend. For them, however, he was just Will. And this is the story of his book.



Our 2023 season is made possible, in part, by funding from....

Oregon Arts Commission  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Oregon Community Foundation—  
*J. Davidson and Patricia G. Moss Family Fund*  
Marion Cultural Development Corp.

## Our generous donors....THANK YOU

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Jan Summers

Joanna Summers

Lyndon Zaitz

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# Biographies

**Andy Bednarz (Company)**—Having done a lot of theater in the Salem area as a kid, Andy is excited to be back on stage as an adult, this production being their first at KHT, and second with their sister Stephanie. Currently living in Portland, Andy enjoys making baked goods for friends, perusing thrift stores and attending as much live theater as possible.



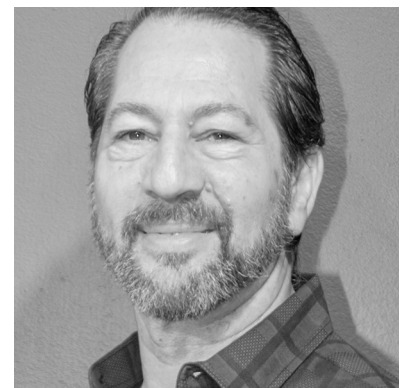
**Stephanie Bednarz (Crane)**—Stephanie is excited to perform Shakespeare again with KHT. She has been a part of the Salem-Keizer theater community since kindergarten, focusing on performance, stage managing and costumes. She graduated with a B.F.A. in Business Administration and Theater Arts from Western Oregon University and her MBA from Willamette University. With an accounting background, she is currently building her costuming and seamstress career. Favorite credits include *Twisted* (Funhouse Lounge), *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods* (Pentacle Theatre) and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged* (Keizer Homegrown Theatre). Outside of theater, she enjoys board games, water sports and snuggling with her three fluffy children. Stephanie is excited to perform with her brother, Andy, for the second time.



**Robert Condron (John Hemmings)**—Robert has recently moved from Alberta, Canada. He was last seen as Speed in *The Odd Couple* and Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*. He also enjoyed playing Mr. Depina in *You Can't Take It with You*. He plays baritone as a member of the Keizer Community Band and is a member of Keizer Rotary. Robert would like to thank Linda Baker for the opportunity to use his talents in this production, his friends for their love and support, and God for his constant faithfulness in his life.



**Koli Cutler (Henry Condell)**—Koli (coal-ee) is excited to become a new member of the KHT family. Koli is delighted to have the opportunity to finally help illustrate the origins of Shakespeare's body of work that was almost lost forever. Can you imagine? Find out tonight, in this wonderful ensemble cast that will make you laugh, cry, and hear some swearing from the 1600s. Koli co-starred on the prime-time television show *7th Heaven*. Plays include *The Odd Couple*, *Hairspray*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Amanda Transcending*, and *Song of Extinction*. It is his absolute honor and pleasure to be chosen for this production. Koli is also thankful to all the hard-working actors in the ensemble, the director and everyone else involved to bring you this show.





# Biographies

**Kirsten Davis (Composer/Company)**—This is Kirsten's first production at KHT theater after working backstage in KHT's *The Odd Couple* and *A Doll's House Part 2*. She attends the Salem PlayHouse acting class with Zach Dufault. Kirsten is a Chemeketa College student pursuing an education degree. She enjoys reading books, hanging out with her brother and playing with her dogs. She wants to thank Zach DuFault for teaching her acting and helping her branch out from her shell. Kirsten thanks her family for having her back through the acting journey and for being there for her.



**Cassandra McKenna (Alice Hemmings)**—Cassi is so excited to finally bring Alice to the stage for you all at last. {Thanks COVID!} While patiently waiting, she has been seen in other KHT productions and partnerships such as *Happy 10th Birthday KHT* and *Weaving Penelope* in 2022. Cassi has been involved in theater for many years and has acquired several favorite roles including Marilla Cuthbert (*Anne of Green Gables* at Corban University '14), Lottie Wilkins (*Enchanted April* at KHT '19), and Elaine Robinson (*The Graduate* at Gallery Theater '19). When Cassi is not involved on stage or behind the scenes, she is spending time with her husband, dogs and friends enjoying role playing games and fluffy puppy cuddles.



**Robert McMorris (Isaac Jagger)**—Robert is a theater kid at heart with over 12 high-school, college and community theater productions under his belt; both on stage and as a tech. After an intermittent decade and a half hiatus (thanks, capitalism) he is back at it! He is very happy to be working with his high school director again as well as the wonderful people involved with this year's Shakespeare. His life outside of drama consists of cooking at a local restaurant, studying voice-acting, goofing around on the guitar, creative writing and catering to the every whim of his two cats.



**Deborah Nelson (Company)**—Most of Debbie's theater background has been musical Theater. She has been honored to play Marie in *The Sound of Music*, Nellie in *South Pacific*, Antonia in *Man of La Mancha*, Edith in *Pirates of Penzance* and Marion in *The Music Man*. Locally, she's done radio shows and audiobooks with Spotlight Community Theater and most recently played Mrs. Pearce in *Pygmalion*. She's excited to be in her second show at Keizer Homegrown Theater under the direction of Linda Baker. She's excited to be able to be in a play with her husband, Paul, and is so proud of him.



# Biographies

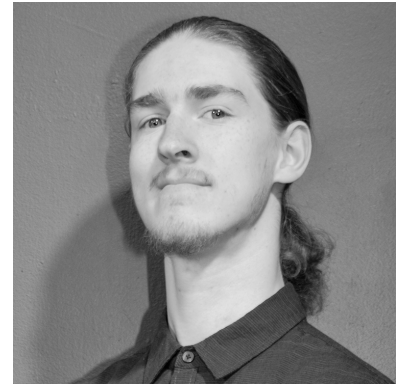
**Paul Nelson (Richard Burbage)**—Paul is honored to portray Richard Burbage, an icon of the Shakespeare stage. Other roles in his 30 plus years of acting include Colonel Tom Parker in *Elvis Has Left the Building*, Newbie in *How to Survive the Apocalypse*, and Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has lent his voice narrating audiobooks and voicing characters in Old Time Radio Shows. Paul has trained with American Conservatory Theater's Studio ACT Program, Glenn Casale, and Charlie Bachman of PCPA. When not on the stage or in the classroom as a Science Teacher, you can find him with his wife Deborah (also in this play) on the farm raising and showing champion Alpacas.



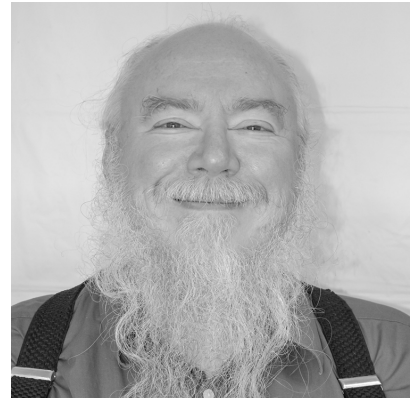
**Becky Nielson (Rebecca Hemmings)**



**Paul Nielson (Boy Hamlet/Company)**—Paul is new to theatre, his only experience being a musical theater/choir class at school. He just graduated from Crosshill Christian School in Turner. He is currently looking for a job to save for college. Through the years, Paul followed the happenings of Keizer Homegrown Theatre through his mother, Becky Nielson.



**Erich Schmidt (William Jagger)**—A master apothecary at the local House of Healing, Erich Schmidt has played Dr. Brubaker in *Seven Year Itch* with Aumsville Community Theater, Judge Taylor in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Pentacle Theater, and Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Keizer Homegrown Theater. He also builds and paints sets, makes props and hangs lights if the ceiling isn't too high. He's thrilled to play a villain for the first time since high school.





# Biographies

**Lauren Stenerson (Susanna Shakespeare)**—Lauren has been involved in every KHT Shakespeare show since the 2017 production of *Romeo and Juliet*, all the way through *The Book Of Will!* They also do Shakespeare and musicals at their high school, and were most recently Hamlet in *Zamlet*. It's like Hamlet, but with Zombies! They are on their school's thespian board and eat, sleep, and breathe theatre! They can't wait to finally pull through for this show cast Pre-Plague!



**Shelley Stoye (Anne Hathaway Shakespeare)**—Shelley was last seen in *Happy 10th Birthday KHT* and as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. She grew up in San Diego County and studied theatre at Palomar College in the early 1970s. She was active in high school drama presentations and community theatre. She again embraced her love for theatre when she relocated to Salem about seven years ago from Portland. Shelley has been seen in KHT productions as Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Corin in *As You Like It* and Mrs. Graves in *Enchanted April*.



**Mandi Thompson (Maria/Company)**—This is Mandi's third production at Keizer Homegrown Theatre. She was previously seen in *Happy 10th Birthday KHT* in 2022, and in *Miscast* in 2019. Other theatres she has worked with are the Sellwood Playhouse (*Scrooge*), Pentacle Theatre (*Shrek*, 1984), and The Salem Theatre Network (*All Together Now*). Some of her favorite roles include the Fairy Godmother (*Shrek*), Mama Asaka (*Once on this Island*), Millie Dilmount (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Billy Flynn (*Miscast*), and Wall (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Mandi continues to be actively involved as a student of The Salem Playhouse and wishes to thank her family, friends, and Linda Baker for their endless support in chasing after her dreams.



**Sam Tibbits (Ben Johnson)**—This is Sam's sixth production at Keizer Homegrown Theatre. He was previously seen in *Hearts Like Fists*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest*, and *Adults Embracing Failure*. He resides in Keizer with spouse/co-star Shilah Tibbits and their five children and three cats. He thanks KHT associate Dan William Hays for his exceptional Shakespeare tutelage.



# Biographies

**Shilah Tibbits (Emilia Bassano Lanier)**—This is Shilah's third opportunity performing for Keizer Homegrown Theater alongside her spouse, Sam Tibbits. They previously shared the stage in *Dating: Adult's Embracing Failure* and *The Tempest*; she was particularly fond of her time spent in the role of Trinculo alongside his Caliban. She's grateful to their five young, brilliantly lovely human offspring for allowing them both to pursue acting once more without burning the house down in protest...yet



**Celsea Wurster (Elizabeth Condell)**—Celsea is positively delighted and honored to be part of *The Book of Will*! She's really into theater but hadn't done much of it for about 15 years until Keizer Homegrown warmly welcomed her last year into the casts of *Happy 10th Birthday KHT* and *Finding Jo March*. She has officially caught the bug again and is really excited to participate in more wondrous Willamette Valley productions. When she's not theatering, Celsea enjoys all things outdoorsy and spending time with friends and family.



**Lyndon Zaitz (Ed Knight)**—Lyndon Zaitz, has appeared in a number of Keizer Homegrown Theatre productions over the past 12 years, including many Shakespeare in the Park shows. He is publisher of the *Keizertimes* newspaper. His dream role is Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, until then, he is content to be a member of *The Book of Will* company.



**Linda Baker (Director)**—Growing up, Linda was the kid who staged plays and pageants in her backyard. She graduated from California State University at Long Beach, where she earned both a BA and MA in Theater and Education. She taught theater from grades seven to community college and headed the McNary High School Theater Arts program for sixteen years. That's considered thirty-two in Drama teacher years. Linda received both the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Education and the Keizer Service to Education Award, but her most treasured accolade is this quote in the *Keizertimes* when she retired, "She made drama cool." In 2012, she and former McNary student, Evan Christopher, founded Keizer Homegrown Theatre.



