

**AVANT
BERD**
THEATRE

JULIUS CAESAR



**BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
A MODERN RETELLING BY KATHLEEN AKERLEY**

This production was made possible through the support of Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, that delivers public activities and programs as *Arlington Arts*. [arlington arts](http://arlingtonarts.org)

Cover Art: Farron Sanders

Cast

Cassius et al.	Lizzi Albert
Soothsayer, Cicero, et al.	Mason Catharini
Marullus, Lucius, et al.	Chris Galindo
Brutus et al.	Christopher C. Holbert
Soothsayer, Casca, et al.	Kiana Johnson
Antony et al.	Séamus Miller*
Flavius, Calpurnia, et al.	Emily Sucher
Roommates (video):	Dylan Arredondo, Jonathan Del Palmer, Cassidee Grunwald

** Member of Actors' Equity Association*

Production Team

Director and Adaptor.....	Kathleen Akerley
Production Manager.....	Alyssa Sanders
Prod. Stage Manager	Holly Morgan
Reh. Stage Manager	Cassidee Grunwald
Lighting Designer	Hailey LaRoe
Video Designer.....	Séamus Miller
Video Production Intern.....	Mirko Almosd
Set Designer.....	Elizabeth Jenkins McFadden
Sound Designer.....	Neil McFadden
Props Designer.....	Liz Long
Costume Designer.....	Rachael Norberg

Technical Team

Technical Director.....	Jarrod DiGiorgi
Master Electrician.....	Trey Wise
Scenic Painter.....	Elaine Sabal

Avant Bard Producing Partners

Sara Barker, Sean McCarthy, Alyssa Sanders, DeMone Seraphin

Tom Prewitt Arts Management Intern: **Liz Colandene (GMU)**

Marketing: **Natalie Valentine**

Photography: **Dan Corey, DJ Corey Photography**

Producing Partners Emeriti: **Megan Behm, Dina Soltan**

Artistic Director Emeriti: **Christopher Henley, Tom Prewitt (in memoriam)**

*Special thanks to **Alicia DiGiorgi, Holden Gunster, Christopher Henley, and Georgetown University***

2022-23 Season, Gunston Arts Center Theatre 2

Scripts in Play Festival

Nov - Dec 2022

Julius Caesar

March 9 - April 1, 2023

Billy and George

Jan 19 - Feb 11, 2023

Hurricane Diane

May 18 - June 10, 2023

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Cast

Lizzi Albert (Cassius et al.) is making her Avant Bard debut. Locally, Lizzi has appeared with the American Century Theater (*Bang the Drum Slowly, Come Blow Your Horn*), Constellation Theater Company (*Absolutely! Perhaps*), Peter's Alley (*Collected Stories*) and Barabbas Theatre (*Henry V, Never Never*). She is a company member with Chesapeake Shakespeare, where she has performed in *Twelfth Night, Richard III, Anne of the Thousand Days, Antony and Cleopatra*, and *As You Like It*, among others. Directing credits include *This Historic Night: Short Plays by Jack Novak* (Capitol Fringe), *A Christmas Carol* and *The Tempest* (Chesapeake Shakespeare), *Macbeth* (Notre Dame of Maryland University) and *All's Well That Ends Well* (CSC Blood and Courage). Education: BFA, Theater, NYU/Stella Adler; MA, Acting, East 15 Acting School/University of Essex. www.lizzialbert.com.

Mason Catharini (Soothsayer, Cicero, et al.) is returning to Avant Bard after performing in *The Scripts in Play Festival* and the *Sleepy Hollow Fire Ring Reading*. Other recent credits include *Forest Treas* and *Imogen* (Pointless Theatre Company).

Chris Galindo (Marullus, Lucius, et al.) is happy to perform with Avant Bard and be reunited with Kathleen Akerley who directed him in his first professional show. Chris has worked with Synetic Theater, Studio Theater, Imagination Stage, Kennedy Center, Adventure Theater, Washington Shakespeare Company, and many more! Some of his favorite performances have been in *Titus Andronicus, Rocky Horror, Taming of the Shrew, West Side Story, Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *A Chorus Line*.

Christopher C. Holbert (Brutus et al.) last appeared in Avant Bard's Scripts in Play Festival (2022). Other appearances include *Cymbeline* (Theatre Prometheus), *Runaway Home, A Clockwork Orange, Invisible Man* (Studio Theatre), *On The Waterfront* (American Century Theatre), *Greatest Science Fiction Story Ever Told* (Grain of Sand Theatre), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Port City Playhouse), and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Silver Spring Stage). Film/Television: *Mercy Street* (PBS), *The Good Seed* (Mythic Films), *Bloodsworth* (Chapel Cove Productions). Love to Gavin for letting dad drag him to rehearsals.

Cast (cont.)

Kiana Johnson (Soothsayer, Casca, et al.) last appeared in Avant Bard's Scripts in Play Festival (2022). Some of Kiana's other recent credits include *Our Town*, *Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare Theatre Company) *Winter's Tale*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Tis' Pity She's A Whore* (Academy for Classical Acting) MFA: Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting. BFA: Shenandoah Conservatory. Instagram: [@Kianalexisj](https://www.instagram.com/Kianalexisj).

Séamus Miller* (Antony et al.) is a DC-based actor, director, and filmmaker. He previously appeared at Avant Bard as the young Truman Capote in *Holiday Memories*. Séamus is a company member of Longacre Lea and an Associate Artistic Director at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (most recently directing productions of *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*). Other regional stage credits include Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, 1st Stage, Mosaic Theater, Arts on the Horizon, Imagination Stage, and Spooky Action Theater. His first film, *The Infection*, premiered at the Portland Film Festival in 2019, and his latest project, *She Speaks to the Trees*, is in consideration at festivals this year. Séamus holds a BA from Cornell University and an MFA from The Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University. www.seamusactor.com. *Member of Actors' Equity Assn.

Emily Sucher (Flavius, Calpurnia, et al.) Avant Bard debut! Selected performance credits include *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* (NextStop Theatre), *Infinite Tales* (4615 Theatre), *King John* (Folger Theatre), *Inside Out* (Imagination Stage), *Hello, My Name Is...* (The Welders). Emily is also a Helen Hayes Award nominated intimacy choreographer with over 25 intimacy direction and consultation credits in the DMV theatre scene. www.emily-sucher.com

Production Team

Kathleen Akerley (Director, Adaptor) is a director, filmmaker, playwright, actor and teacher, and the Artistic Director of Longacre Lea. She has a Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Choreography, a Theater Lobby Mary Goldwater Award for Acting and Directing, was a semi-finalist for the Steinberg Award for her play *Something Past in Front of the Light*, and a several-time recipient of the DCCA Fellowship for playwriting and directing.

Alyssa Sanders (she/her) (Production Manager) is proud Avant Producing Partner and a DC-area stage actor whose Avant Bard credits include *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, and *Othello*. Other DC-area credits include NextStop Theatre Company's production of *Pride and Prejudice* (Kate Hamill Adaptation). In addition to Avant Bard, Alyssa has worked with various DC-area theatres including Quotidian Theatre Company (Company Member), Peter's Alley, Lean & Hungry Theater (Company Member), Venus Theatre, Studio Theatre, Adventure Theatre. Be sure to catch Alyssa in Avant Bard's production of *Hurricane Diane*, up next!
www.alyssasanders.com

Holly Morgan (she/her) (Production Stage Manager) is a stage manager local to the DMV area. This is her first time working with Avant Bard Theatre. Past credits include *paper backs/Life Jacket* (4615 Theatre Company), *Maple & Vine* (Spooky Action Theatre Company,) *Housewarming Festival* (4615 Theatre Company,) *Othello* (4615 Theatre Company,) *My Fair Lady* (Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre,) and *The Addams Family* (Civic Theatre of Allentown.) She is currently working to earn a M.A. in Theatre Education from The Catholic University of America.

Cassidee Grunwald (Rehearsal Stage Manager) is happy to be a part of her first Avant Gard production! She was last seen as an actor in Catholic University's *Twelve Angry Jurors* and was the assistant stage manager in a Broadway workshop for *Radio 930*. She currently works at Catholic University as the Assistant Technical Director. Cassidee has truly enjoyed this experience and hopes you all enjoy the show! Instagram [@cassidee.grunwald](https://www.instagram.com/cassidee.grunwald).

Production Team (cont.)

Hailey LaRoe (Lighting Designer) is happy to return to Avant Bard after designing lighting and projections for *Billy and George* and *Suddenly Last Summer*. Hailey is a lighting and projection designer, based in the DC area since 2018. Her recent lighting design credits include *Clue on Stage* (Anne Arundel Community College), *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (Next Stop Theatre), *Rhinoceros* (Pointless theatre co.), and *Man Covets Bird* (Spooky Action Theater). Hailey's Projection work includes a design for *Christmas Eve* (ExPats Theatre), assistant projections and content creation work for *Show Way* (Kennedy Center TYA), associate projections for *The Phlebotomist* (1st Stage), and assistant projections for *La Casa De La Laguna* (Gala Hispanic Theatre). Hailey has really enjoyed working with such a great group of people on this production. Haileylaroedesigns.com

Séamus Miller (Video Designer)—see bio in Cast.

Elizabeth Jenkins McFadden (Set Designer) returns to Avant Bard, for whom she first designed *Julius Caesar* in 1991(!) as well as *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hapgood*, *Night & Day*, and *Tennessee Continuum*. She is the Designer-in-Residence at Montgomery College Rockville Theatre Dept. She was a 2006 recipient of the Theatre Lobby's Mary Goldwater award for her body of local design work. Credits include *Caps For Sale* (national tour and Off Broadway); *In the Heights* (Helen Hayes nom.), *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *House of the Spirits* (Helen Hayes nom.), *The Innocent Erendira and her Ghastly Grandmother*, and *The Beauty of the Father*, all at Gala Theatre; *4380 Nights* at Signature Theatre; *Whipping, or the Football Hamlet*, *Fear*, *Pol-Pot and Associates*, *Goldfish Thinking*, and *Oogatz Man / Artist Descending a Stair*, all at Longacre Lea. Other theatres Elizabeth has designed for include Imagination Stage, Round House Theatre, Adventure Theatre, and Next Stop Theatre.

Neil McFadden (Sound Design) Neil's sound and lighting designs have been heard (or seen) in many area theatres, including Arena Stage, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Olney Theatre, Adventure Theatre, Rep Stage, Longacre Lea, Everyman Theatre, Flying V

(cont.)

Production Team (cont.)

(where he is a company member), Venus Theatre, and Round House Theatre (where he was the Resident Sound Designer and Sound Master for eleven years). An eleven-time nominee, Neil received the Helen Hayes Award for his design of Round House's *Heathen Valley*. He has designed several national tours and Off-Broadway productions. Neil is also a musician and composer: he has played in many area shows; he also performs with several rock/blues bands, and as a solo acoustic performer. Love to Elizabeth. .

Liz Long (Properties Design), she/her, returns to Avant Bard Theatre having previously worked her magic for *Billy and George*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Ada and the Engine*, *How I Learned What I Learned*, *A Misanthrope*, *Topdog/Underdog*, and *Illyria, or What You Will*. Other designs include *Puffs*, *Coraline*, and *1776* (Landless Theatre Company); *The Man Who*, *The River*, and *Happy Hour* (Spooky Action Theater); and *Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (Monumental Theatre).

Rachael Norberg (Costume Design) is an award-winning costume designer, model, and actor in Northern Virginia. She is the creative force behind Lokelicious Cosplay and serves on the board of directors for DC Cosplay Photo Shoots. Rachael has worked with Avant Bard on *Billy and George* as a Costume Tech and Tailor. Recent design credits include *Xanadu* and *Urinetown* (Workhouse Arts Center). For more information on costuming and photography arts education in the DMV, please visit dccosplayphotoshoots.org.



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Tom Prewitt Arts Management Intern

In honor of Tom Prewitt, Avant Bard's beloved artistic director from February 2013 until his passing in November 2020, the Prewitt family set up the [Tom Prewitt Fund for Theatre Arts](#), which provides a stipend for Avant Bard's Tom Prewitt Arts Management Internship. In December 2021, Avant Bard welcomed our first intern, Liz Colandene. For information on donating to support the fund, [visit here](#).

Liz Colandene (Tom Prewitt Arts Management Intern), they/she, is thrilled to be interning with Avant Bard. Liz is currently pursuing an MFA in Arts Management at George Mason University. Liz is also the Performing Arts Coordinator at Workhouse Arts Center and has produced their past eight shows, including the Helen Hayes recommended production of *Xanadu*. When not managing the arts, Liz is performing or drawing, their two original loves. Check out Liz's at Instagram [@lizzypastaart](#).

Avant Bard Producing Partners

Sara Barker (she/her) is grateful to work with Avant Bard's resilient, team of producers. As an actor with Avant Bard Theatre, Sara has performed in *Suddenly Last Summer*, *King Lear*, *Emilie*, *Orlando*, *Othello*, *A Misanthrope*, *Mary Stuart*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Lulu*, *Peace*, *The Mistorical Hystery of Henry (I)V*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The House of Yes*; with Rorschach Theatre, Sara has performed in *A Maze*, and *This Storm is What We Call Progress*; With Factory 449, Sara has performed in *4.48 Psychosis* and *Closet Land*; with Scena Theatre, Sara performed in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *A Woman of No Importance*; with Faction of Fools Theatre, Sara performed in *The Cherry Orchard*. In New York, Sara performed in Lear DeBessonnet's devised *Death Might Be Your Santa Claus* and Josh Fox's devised *Limitless Joy*. Sara is a company member with Factory 449 and Rorschach. [sarabarker.com](#)

Avant Bard Producing Partners (cont.)

Sean McCarthy (he/they) joined Avant Bard Theatre in 2019 as a Development Associate, connecting Avant Bard's community of supporters to the organization's thought-provoking, challenging, and award-winning art. In June 2022, Sean accepted an offer to join the Producing Partner team and contribute to Avant Bard's unique approach to shared leadership. In his current capacity, Sean continues to sustain Avant Bard's relationships with supporters by creatively messaging Avant Bard's impact and amplifying their achievements and reputation for outstanding service delivery. Sean is an accomplished fundraising professional, people manager, administrator, and community liaison, with a diverse portfolio of career experience. In addition to their position at Avant Bard, Sean serves as the principal fundraiser for the National Housing Trust, where he nurtures NHT's mission-critical efforts to preserve and modernize affordable housing stock across the country. In 2023, the Association for Fundraising Professionals designated Sean an Outstanding Young Professional, in recognition of his exemplary and innovative career performance and his strong commitment to philanthropy. Sean received a Master's in Political Communication from The American University and obtained dual degrees in Political Science and Journalism from Mississippi State University.

Alyssa Sanders—see bio in Production Team.

DeMone Seraphin (he/him) has directed for Avant Bard: *Billy and George*, *How I Learned What I Learned*, *Topdog/Underdog* (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Direction of a Play) and *The Gospel at Colonus*. Other credits: *Five Guys Named Moe* (The Fulton Theatre) and the regional premiere of *Chicken and Biscuits* (Virginia Rep Theatre), *Jitney*, *Once Upon a Time: An American Scheme* (An American Scheme), *Dutchman*, *Split Second*, and *The King: The Final Hours*, *An Elvis Presley Musical*. As an actor DeMone has appeared on Broadway, Off Broadway, regionally and internationally in *Ragtime*, *Miss Saigon*, *Rent*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Memphis*, *Sideshow* (Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *the Best of Both Worlds*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Othello*, *Once on This Island*, *Big River*, *Crowns*, and *Sweet Charity*. On screen DeMone has appeared in *Person of Interest*, *Law and Order SVU*, *The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete*, *Hush*, *The Subject*, *The Magic Door*, and *Bad Street*.

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