



Gunston Arts Center  
Theatre 2  
February 29 - March 23, 2024

An Avant Bard-Longacre Lea Co-Production

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: Seamus Miller

### Cast

Coriolanus.....	James Finley
Volumnia .....	Kimberly Gilbert*
Virgilia, et al. ....	Kiana Johnson
Cominius, et al. ....	Christopher C. Holbert
Titus Lartius, et al. ....	Stephen Kime
Menenius.....	Eric Hissom*
Aufidius .....	Saron Araia
Ensemble.....	Karina Hilleard
Ensemble.....	Brendan Edward Kennedy
Brutus (Video).....	Samuel Richie
Sicinius (Video).....	Shayna Freedman

### Production and Design Team

Director and Adaptor.....	Séamus Miller
Stage Manager.....	Solomon HaileSelassie
Co-Producer.....	Kathleen Akerley
Co-Producer.....	Séamus Miller
Co-Producer.....	Sara Barker
Co-Producer.....	Alyssa Sanders
Fight and Intimacy Choreographer.....	Bess Kaye
Asst. Fight Choreographer.....	Gil Mitchell
Sound Designer and Composer.....	Tom Carman
Lighting Designer .....	Solomon HaileSelassie
Asst. Lighting Designer.....	Trey Wise
Video Designer.....	Séamus Miller
Costume Designer.....	Alexa Cassandra Duimstra
Props Designer.....	Kathleen Akerley
Scenic Design Consultant.....	Elizabeth Jenkins McFadden

### Technical Team

Master Electrician.....	Trey Wise
Electrician and Video Engineer.....	Jerran Kowalski
Sound Engineer.....	Evan Thanicatt
Electrician.....	Malory Hartman
Electrician.....	Isaac Demarchi
Set Build.....	Complete Fabrications

### Special Thanks to . . .

*Production Sponsors David Highnote and Roger Hockenberry and to Delaney Bray, Jared Davis, Rich Gibson, Natalie Kurczewski, Hope Lambert, Mark Lambert, Graham McBride, Holly Morgan, Aubri O'Connor, Dan Paris, Casey Robinson, Andrés Luque Turriago, and Signature Theatre*

Come Back to Gunston Arts Center in May for the Filming of Another Avant Bard-Longacre Lea Co-Production!

### **Homeless Garden** by Matt Minnicino

directed by Kathleen Akerley

May 2 - 25, 2024

*A DC-area premiere, Homeless Garden modernizes and deconstructs Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard with an eye on the interconnection of environmental and class issues.*

## Cast

**Saron Araia** (Aufidius) is an actor and teaching artist with an MFA from the STC Academy at George Washington University. Some of her credits include *Jane Anger* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *The Winter's Tale* (STC Academy), *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (Forum Theatre), *An Ideal Husband* (Washington Stage Guild), *Julius Caesar* (Drama Lady Theatre Group), *Il Trovatore* (Washington National Opera), and *Troilus and Cressida* (Negro Classical Carnival).

**James Finley** (Coriolanus) is an actor and fight choreographer who has been working in the DC area for over 20 years. He was last seen at Avant Bard in *Friendship Betrayed*, where his other credits include *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, *Richard III*, *Gnadiges Fraulein*, *Lulu*, *Camille: a tearjerker*, and *Small Craft Warnings*. He and his work have also been seen on area stages, including with NextStop, Keegan, Rorschach, Flying V, and Constellation Theatres. He is a company member at Flying V Theatre, an Advanced Actor-Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, a member of the International Order of the Sword and the Pen, and licensed as a Professional Wrestler in MD, where he performs as "[Dragonheart](#)" Jim Finley.

**Shayna Freedman** (Sicinius [video]) Avant Bard & Longacre Lea debut! Other credits include *Learnéd Ladies*, *As You Like It*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo & Juliet* (*Classic Theatre of Maryland*), and *Richard II* (*Her Majesty & Sons*). As an acting coach, Shayna works privately with actors, as well as alongside showrunners, producers, and directors, most notably collaborating with Netflix, Amazon, and Claro Video. Shayna has led guest workshops at New York University, New School University, Sarah Lawrence College, Marymount Manhattan College, Synetic Theater, and more. She is on faculty at Lucid Body House (NYC) and Casa Spanda (Mexico City). MFA: The Academy at Shakespeare Theatre Company/George Washington University. [www.shaynafreedman.com](http://www.shaynafreedman.com)

## Cast (cont.)

**Kimberly Gilbert\*** (Volumnia) was last seen on the Avant Bard stage, posthumously named Washington Shakespeare Company, in 2001 in *Antony and Cleopatra*. Recent credits include: Jennifer in *Jennifer, Who Is Leaving* (World Premiere) by Morgan Gould, Round House Theatre; Antoinette in *La Salpetriere* (World Premiere) by Kelsey Mesa, Taffety Punk; Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, Ford's Theatre. A proud union actor for over 20 years, she is a company member of both Woolly Mammoth and Taffety Punk Theatre in Washington, DC. She received her MFA in Classical Acting with The Academy at Shakespeare Theatre Company.

\*Member of Actors' Equity Assn.

**Karina Hilleard** (Ensemble) is excited to be making her Avant Bard & Long Acre Lea debut! Credits include: Rorschach Theatre; *Night of the Living Dead* (Helen/Fight Captain), Synetic Theater; *Cinderella* (Fairy Godmother), *Treasure Island* (Trelawney), Keegan Theatre Company; *Top Girls* (Marlene), Theater Alliance; *Wonderful World of Dissocia* (Lisa, Helen Hayes Nom. - Outstanding Lead Actress, Best Ensemble), Constellation Theatre Company: *Equus* (Nurse/Hesther u/s - Helen Hayes Nom. - Best Play); Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Tartuffe* (Dorine u/s); Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: *Richard II* (Duchess of York), *A Christmas Carol* (Female u/s). International credits include Bristol Old Vic: *Heresies* (Leah); Theatre Royal: *No Blind Faith* (Emma); Hammerpuzzle Theatre: *Agamemnon* (Clytemnestra)

**Eric Hissom\*** (Menenius) is a DC-based actor, director and playwright, making his debut appearance at Avant Bard & Longacre Lea. Local acting credits include roles at Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theater Company, Round House Theater, Theater J, Studio Theatre, and Folger Shakespeare, where he won a Helen Hayes award for his performance in *Arcadia*. Nationally, his credits include productions at Seattle Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Cleveland Rep, Asolo Rep, Milwaukee Rep, Geva Theatre, and Syracuse Stage, as well as the National Tour of *The 39 Steps*. He recently directed the world premier of his play *Rude Mechanics* at Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill, New York to critical acclaim. He has an MFA in performance from the Florida State's Asolo Conservatory.

\*Member of Actors' Equity Assn.

## **Cast** (cont.)

**Christopher C. Holbert** (Cominius) is happy to be making his debut with Longacre Lea and his return to Avant Bard after appearing as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. 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).

**Kiana Johnson** (Virgilia/Citizen et al.) last appeared in Avant Bard's *Julius Caesar* (2023). 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: [@Kianalexisi](https://www.instagram.com/@Kianalexisi).

**Brendan Edward Kennedy** (Ensemble) is an actor and voiceover artist. He previously appeared at Avant Bard as Patrick in *TAME*. and Gerardo in *Friendship Betrayed*. He is a member of the Resident Acting Company at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. He holds a double degree in Vocal Performance and English from University of Maryland College Park. [www.BEKennedy.net](http://www.BEKennedy.net).

**Stephen Kime** (Titus Laritus et al.) is a DC-based actor. This is his first production with Avant Bard & Longacre Lea. Credits include *The Pitchfork Disney* (Red Rat Theater Co.), *Frankenstein* (NextStop Theatre), *Shakespeare in Love* (Keegan Theatre), *Only Love: A Fresh Cut of Romeo and Juliet* (Capital Fringe), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (NextStop Theatre), *Inherit the Windbag* (Mosaic Theater Co.), and *The Awakening* (Endangered Species Theater Project). Stephen holds a BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

## **Cast** (cont.)

**Samuel Richie** (Brutus [video]) is making his Avant Bard and Longacre Lea debut. Credits include: Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and Pistol in *Henry V* at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, and *Cymbeline*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Man and Superman* at Shakespeare Theater Company's Academy. Other credits include *Macbeth* at Rapid Descent Theater and *Henry VI* and *The Tempest* at Do it Live! Richie holds an MFA in classical acting, Shakespeare Theater Company Academy and frequently studies stage combat with the Society of American Fight Directors. [www.samuelrichie.com](http://www.samuelrichie.com)

## **Production Team**

**Séamus Miller\*** (Director, Producer, Video Designer) is a theatre artist based in DC and Bermuda, where he is the Artistic Director of Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company. He has appeared onstage at Avant Bard as Antony in *Julius Caesar* and the young Truman Capote in *Holiday Memories*. Séamus is the Managing Director of Longacre Lea and an Associate Artistic Director at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, most recently directing productions of *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other stage credits include Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, 1st Stage, Mosaic Theater, Arts on the Horizon, Imagination Stage, and Spooky Action Theater. He is also the Co-Founder and CEO of Ardan Community Living, which provides safe and supportive housing for women in early recovery from substance use disorder. Séamus holds a BA from Cornell University and an MFA from The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy at George Washington University. [www.seamusactor.com/directing](http://www.seamusactor.com/directing).

\*Member of Actors' Equity Assn.

**Solomon "Solo" HaileSelassie** (Stage Manager, Lighting Design) is a director, stage manager, designer, film maker, and the Resident Stage Manager for Longacre Lea. He is also the Resident Production Designer/Manager for the Library of Congress, the Founding Director of Artistic Collaboration for Annexus Theatre Company, and the Stage Manager for the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. He attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Winston Salem State University, and New York Film Academy.

## **Production Team** (cont.)

**Kathleen Akerley** (Producer, Props Design) is a director, filmmaker, playwright, actor and teacher, the Artistic Director of Longacre Lea and an Avant Bard Producing Partner. 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.

**Sara Barker** (Producer) is grateful to work with the exceptional humans at Avant Bard and Longacre Lea to produce *Coriolanus*. Primarily an actor, credits include Avant Bard: *Suddenly Last Summer*, *King Lear*, *Emilie*, *Orlando*, *Othello*, *A Misanthrope*, *Mary Stuart*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Lulu*, *Peace*, *The Mistical Hysteria of Henry (I) V*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The House of Yes*; Rorschach: *A Maze*, *This Storm is What We Call Progress*; Factory 449: *4.48 Psychosis*, *Closet Land*; ExPats: *Pankrác '45*; Scena: *Sea*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Woman of No Importance*; Faction of Fools: *The Cherry Orchard*. New York: Lear DeBessonet's devised *Death Might Be Your Santa Claus*, Josh Fox's devised *Limitless Joy*. Sara is an Avant Bard Producing Partner, a Rorschach company member, and a St. John's College graduate. She lives in Arlington with a Yorktown H.S. teacher and two Ashlawn (one soon to be Kenmore) students. [sarabarker.com](http://sarabarker.com)

**Alyssa Sanders** (Producer) has been part of Avant Bard's shared leadership structure since February of 2021 and is incredibly proud of the seasons produced under this paradigm. She has been a local DC area actor for over 15 years and was most recently seen as Pam in Avant Bard's *Hurricane Diane*. Other favorite roles include: Goneril to Rick Foucheux' Lear in Avant Bard's *King Lear*; the dual roles of Mr. Bennet and Charlotte in NextStop Theatre Company's production of *Pride and Prejudice* (Kate Hamill adaptation); the dual roles of Trinculo and Sebastia in Avant Bard's *Tempest* and Emilia in Avant Bard's *Othello*. Other local theaters she has worked for include Quotidian Theatre Company (Company Member), Peter's Alley Theatre, Lean & Hungry Theater (Company Member), Venus Theatre, Studio Theatre, Adventure Theatre. Training: American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Brandeis University, Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

## **Production Team** (cont.)

**Tom Carman** (Sound Designer, Composer) is a Philadelphia-based sound designer, composer, and production sound mixer. He is a company member of Longacre Lea, contributing as an actor, composer, audio editor, and now theatre sound designer! He has sound mixed for NFL+, Apple TV+, Philadelphia Eagles, and an upcoming feature-length documentary. Sound Design/Composition credits include *Broccoli*, *Roosevelt and Mr. House!* (Theatre Horizon), *Written By Phillis*, *Camille*, *Awake and Sing!* (Quintessence Theatre Group), *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Boise Contemporary Theatre). @TomCarmanSound

**Alexa Cassandra Duimstra** (Costume Design) (she/they) is a DC area costume designer and illustrator. Previous work includes, *Birds of a Feather* and *Jingle Journey* at Arts on the Horizon, *La Valentina* at Gala, *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea* at Rorschach, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Little Women* at NextStop, *Golden Fish*, *The Madness of Poe* and *Snow Queen* at Synetic. You can see more of her work at [alexaduumstra.com](http://alexaduumstra.com).

**Bess Kaye** (Fight and Intimacy Director) is an actor and Fight and Intimacy Director based in DC joining the creative team for Avant Bard & Longacre Lea for the first time! She teaches with [The Noble Blades](http://TheNobleBlades.com) Stage Combat Troupe and is the Associate Stage Combat Instructor and Intimacy Consultant at the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy MFA program. Her stories of love and violence have been seen on stage with Flying V, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Monumental Theater Company, the Washington Stage Guild and others. Upcoming fight and intimacy work includes *American Psycho* with Monumental Theater Company, *An Unbuilt Life* with Washington Stage Guild, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with PG Shakespeare in the Parks. [www.thebesskayescenario.com](http://www.thebesskayescenario.com)

## Production Team (cont.)

**Elizabeth Jenkins McFadden** (Scenic design consultant) returns to Avant Bard, where she previously designed *Julius Caesar* (1991, and again in 2023), *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hapgood*, *Night & Day*, and *Tennessee Continuum*. She was for 25 years the Designer-in-Residence at Montgomery College Rockville Theatre Department, for 7 years the Designer-In-Residence for Imagination Stage's Reeve Studio Theatre, and was a 2006 recipient of the Theatre Lobby's Mary Goldwater award for her body of local design work. Credits include *Caps For Sale* for Adventure Theatre (national tour and Off-Broadway); *In the Heights* (Helen Hayes nom.), *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *House of the Spirits* (Helen Hayes nom.), 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.



## 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. Liz is currently pursuing an MFA in Arts Management at George Mason University. Avant Bard looks forward to welcoming a new Tom Prewitt Arts Management intern in Spring 2024. For information on donating to support the fund, [visit here](#).

## Free Theatre Tickets to Arlington Students

In the Fall of 2024, Avant Bard made the decision to further open doors to the theatre by providing free tickets to Arlington middle and high school students. Additionally, Avant Bard will provide half-price (\$20) tickets their accompanying parent(s)/guardian(s).

A poster for a weekend intensive workshop. The background is dark blue with a woman in a red beanie and black tank top. The text is in white and yellow. At the top, 'SHAKESPEARE &amp; COMPANY' in white, 'Center for Actor Training' in yellow. Below that, 'WEEKEND INTENSIVE' in large yellow letters, 'Washington DC' in white, and 'March 29 - 31' in white. Then 'Discover the power and freedom of speaking Shakespeare's text.' in white. Below that, 'INSTRUCTORS' in white, 'Sheila Bandyopadhyay, Director of Training (she/her)' and 'Jen Rabbitt Ring, Designated Linklater Teacher (she/her)' in white. At the bottom, 'Hosted by AVANT BARD THEATRE' in white and red, 'SHAKESPEARE.ORG/ACTOR-TRAINING' in white, and 'training@shakespeare.org' in white.

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Avant Bard Theatre is supported in part by Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, that delivers public activities and programs as:

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Avant Bard Theatre is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts



## Thank you for Sponsoring Coriolanus

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## Thank you for Supporting Longacre Lea

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## Thank you for Supporting Avant Bard (cont.)

Individual Supporters: \$100+

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### Can we add your name the list?

**Support Avant Bard & Longacre Lea!**

Visit [avantbard.org](http://avantbard.org) to donate today!

All donations through May 2024 will benefit both companies!

Prefer to send a check? Our mailing address is:

**Avant Bard Theatre Office**  
**3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive**  
**Arlington, VA 22206**

Questions? Email [info@avantbard.org](mailto:info@avantbard.org) or call 703-418-4808.

*Avant Bard and Longacre Lea are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits.*

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