



THE
BARON'S
MEN

William Shakespeare's

Much Ado *about* Nothing

October 2-25

The Curtain Theatre

Cast

<i>Beatrice</i>	Jacquelyn Lies
<i>Benedick</i>	Timothy McKinney
<i>Hero</i>	Anneliese Friend
<i>Claudio</i>	Rylee Ross
<i>Leonato</i>	Todd Jeffrey
<i>Friar Antonio</i>	Julio Mella
<i>Don Pedro</i>	Chris Casey
<i>Don John</i>	Michael Pratt
<i>Conrade</i>	Michael Osborn
<i>Borachio</i>	Jonathan Vineyard
<i>Balthasar</i>	Gene Storie
<i>Dogberry</i>	Audrey Renkenberger
<i>Verges</i>	Jared Walls
<i>Ursula</i>	Renee Osborn
<i>Margaret, Oatcake</i>	Jennifer Fielding
<i>Seacoal</i>	Jimmie Bragdon

Crew

<i>Director, Choreographer</i>	Lindsay M. Palinsky
<i>Stage Manager, Assistant Director</i>	Sophia Lynch
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Shannon Gibson
<i>Music Director</i>	Josh Kavanaugh
<i>Set Designer</i>	Michael Pratt
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jimmie Bragdon
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Michael Osborn
<i>Front of House Manager, Costume Consultant</i>	Dawn Allee-Hemphill
<i>Stitchers</i>	Dawn Allee-Hemphill, Chris Casey, Jennifer Fielding, Anneliese Friend, Shannon Gibson, Jacquelyn Lies, Lindsay M. Palinsky, Michael Pratt, Michael Osborn, Renee Osborn, Audrey Renkenberger, Maggie Renkenberger, Rylee Ross
<i>Builders</i>	Josh Kavanaugh, Timothy McKinney, Lindsay M. Palinsky, Michael Pratt, Jared Walls

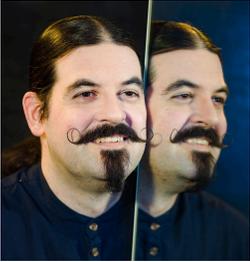
Who's Who in the Cast

Chris Casey
(he/him)



Chris Casey (Don Pedro) is a lifetime Austinite that has been acting in the area since 2011. His credits include Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet* '24, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* '23, and The Player King in *Hamlet*, all with The Baron's Men. He has also performed as Macduff in *Macbeth* with The Archive Theatre, and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The Baron's Men. Chris has also been performing improv since 2014, mostly with the musical duo Too Shy Guys. Chris is a student at the Robichaux Studio.

Jimmie Bragdon
(he/him)



Jimmie (Seacoal, Lighting Designer) has been acting on stage with The Baron's Men since 2009 in roles from Tybalt to Touchstone, playing captains, fools, nobles, ghosts, holy men, and even Lucifer himself! Off stage he's worked with props, sets, producing, and lighting design for the troupe. He is also a regular actor at Scare for a Cure and a GameMaster at Quest Night.

Anneliese Friend
(she/her)



Anneliese (Hero) is an Austin based theater maker and has been working with The Baron's Men since 2018. She holds an MA in Staging Shakespeare from the University of Exeter and delights in bringing Early Modern English theater to life. Some of her favorite past roles include Joan of Arc (*Henry VI Part 1*) Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*) and Titania (*A Midsummer's Night Dream* '21). It has been such a privilege to bring Shakespeare to the Austin audience in this wonderfully unique setting and although we say goodbye to this stage, in true English fashion, we will Keep Calm and Shakespeare on!

Jennifer Fielding
(she/her)



Jen (Margaret, Oatcake) is once again overjoyed to play at the curtain. Although bittersweet, she is excited to play both the derpy deputy Oatcake and the promiscuous yet moral Margaret. Last season, Jen was the violence coordinator for *King Lear* and channeled her multiple personality disorder for multiple roles in *King Lear* and *Tales of Darkness*. Jen would like to dedicate this last performance at the Curtain to Liegh Hegedus Toland who we lost unexpectedly last year.

Todd Jeffrey
(he/him)



Todd Jeffrey (Leonato) is an actor, teacher, musician, and athlete. *Theater: Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet '24, King Lear, The Winter's Tale, The Tempest, Macbeth, Henry IV, Part I (The Baron's Men), Dear Brutus, Death By Natural Causes, Night Watch (Sam Bass Theater), Dearly Departed (Georgetown Palace Theater).* *Film: The Red Night (UCLA).* He thanks his amazing family, Amy, Kate, Layne, and Jack for their love and support.

Jacquelyn Lies
(she/her)



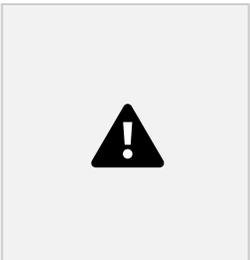
"I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me." - *Beatrice*. Jacquelyn (*Beatrice*) is honored to bring this complex, exciting, heroic, funny, incredibly witty, brave *Beatrice* to life. She is no stranger to TBM; past roles include *Celia, Jane, Ariel, Bottom* (for which she was nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award), *Gertrude, Dr. Pinch, Feste, and Goneril*. She also directed *Love's Labour's Lost, Macbeth* and *Tales of Darkness*. She served on the board for five years and was previously Co-Artistic Director. TBM is more than just a group of players to her, but family. The Curtain has been such a magical place to perform, there is nothing like it; hearing the owls, a breeze sweeping through the theater at the right moment, or lighting off in the distance, and of course the party boats. Much love to dad, my sister, Linz, and all my fellow TBMs. Huzzah and onward tally ho!

Timothy McKinney
(he/him)



Timothy McKinney (*Benedick*) lived the majority of his introverted existence in small towns scattered across the east Texas coastline. He discovered theater in high school. He has studied Meisner method acting for years under the guidance of David A. Cox, and has studied with many other industry professionals, including Mitchel Gosset, James F. Robinson, Mona Lee, Toni Cobb-Brock & Sally Allen, Beth Sepko and many others. He is currently represented by the great folks at Landrum Arts LA and has worked professionally in commercial, theater and television. This is Timothy's 4th production with the wonderful team of *The Baron's Men*, and considers it an incredible honor and privilege to be performing on the stage of *The Curtain Theatre*. He is profoundly saddened it will be but a memory after all this time. But what a memory it will be!

Julio Mella
(he/him)



Julio Mella (*Friar Antonio*) has been with *The Baron's Men* since its production of *The Alchemist*. Most recently he was seen as *Philippe* in *All For One*, several roles in *Tales of Darkness*, *Antonio* in *Twelfth Night '23*, the *Shepherd* in *The Winter's Tale*, *Gravedigger* in *Hamlet*, and *Antipholus of Syracuse* in *Comedy of Errors '22*. He has also worked with other companies in Austin such as *The Velvet Rut, The Wondrous Strange Players, and Teatro Vivo*. He continues to be grateful for the privilege of working with such wonderful artists. "I hope you enjoy the show!"

Michael Osborn
(he/him)



Michael "Oz" Osborn (Conrade) is happy to be on stage for what will be The Baron's Men's final performance at The Curtain Theatre. *Much Ado About Nothing* holds a special place in his heart, as the last time TBM did this show in 2015 is when he got engaged to the love of his life, Renee, proposing on stage right after the show ended. There's a lot of melancholy with this show and theatre, and Oz is so happy that you have joined us for this production!

Renee Osborn
(she/her)



Renee (Ursula) is so honored to be treading the boards of The Curtain one last time with her theatre family. Having gotten engaged during TBM's last production of *Much Ado*, this play has a special place in her heart. Renee fully joined the troupe in 2015 (celebrating 10 years!), and has tried to help out wherever and whenever she can. She has served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors since 2018. Other past roles with The Baron's Men have included *Love's Labour's Lost* (Maria), *The Tempest* (Trincullo), *A Comedy of Errors '22* (Dromio of Ephesus), *Twelfth Night '23* (Viola/Cesario), and *King Lear* (Cornwall).

Michael Pratt
(he/him)



Walking this stage one last time, Mike takes on the wedding party as the saccharine agent of chaos, Don John. Enjoy his seductive mischief, boo at his evil schemes, and applaud his inevitable comeuppance. Thanks for joining us to make this show a special one!

Audrey
Renkenberger
(she/her)



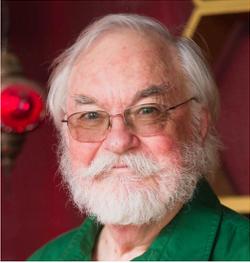
Audrey (Dogberry) loves being on stage and has been performing since she was 5 years old. Audrey enjoys acting because it allows her to pretend to be someone who is not as shy as her. When she isn't acting, she is dancing or singing. This is Audrey's fourth production with The Baron's Men. She appeared in *The Winter's Tale* as Mamillius, *Twelfth Night '23* as Valentine, and *King Lear* as Cordelia. She would like to thank her parents and her sister for encouraging her to do whatever makes her happy and for putting up with her unhinged schedule. She would also like to thank her dog Addy for being her emotional support dog throughout the rehearsal process. And she sends a special thank you to Ms. Lindsay for being the best teacher in the world and selecting her to play Dogberry.

Rylee Ross (she/her)



Rylee Ross (Claudio) was previously seen on and behind The Curtain as Anoinette in *All For One*, Fabian in *Twelfth Night '23*, Clown in *The Winter's Tale*, and Lechery/Witch/Anne/Tamora in *Tales Of Darkness*. Celebrating 13 years of watching, volunteering and residing with The Barons Men, she looks forward to the future growth and theatrical love we can create together. Tell your cats I love them, treats and scratches.

Gene Storie
(he/him)



Gene Storie (Balthazar) has performed in more than a dozen shows with TBM at The Curtain. His fellow performers have carried him twice to BIP nominations for best ensemble, both as a member of the Rude Mechanicals in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ('10, '21). Gene also especially enjoyed portraying Amiens in *As You Like It* and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night '23*. He performed frequently at the (now destroyed) Sam Bass Community Theatre in Round Rock, and was Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* at the Georgetown Palace. Gene admits to finding it hard to accept that this will be the last TBM show at the wonderful Curtain, but takes great consolation in knowing that TBM and this group of lovely people will go forward. Finally, and always, Gene is most grateful for his Beautiful Darling Tracie and their wonderful children, Emily and Will.

Jonathan Vineyard
(he/him)



Jonathan Vineyard (Borachio) has been acting in the Austin area for most of the past decade. He started as a Shakespeare at Winedale student under the wing of the inimitable James Loehlin and has been performing for the fun of it ever since. He had the good fortune to work with the Baron's Men in 2016 for *Doctor Faustus*, and is honored to perform in the Curtain Theatre one last time. You may have seen him recently as Mr. Zuckerman in *Charlotte's Web* with the Georgetown Palace Theatre, Cardinal Richelieu in the Archive Theatre's adaptation of *The Three Musketeers*, or in *All is Calm* with Trinity Playhouse. He would like to thank his castmates for their dedication and hard work and has high hopes for TBM's touring era.

Jared Walls
(he/him)



Jared (Verges) has been with TBM since *Henry V* in 2011! Recently, he was seen swordfighting in *All For One*, murdering and getting murdered in *Tales of Darkness*, swordfighting and murdering in *Romeo and Juliet '24*, and murdering in *Macbeth*. All of his love to Becky and Finn.

Who's Who in the Crew

Dawn Allee-Hemphill
(she/her)



Dawn (FOH Manager, Costume Consultant) is a founding member of The Baron's Men and has trod the boards in several TBM productions, but prefers to ply a needle or wear black and work in the dark. She currently serves as TBM's Board President. Recent designs for TBM are *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *The Lark*, and *Much Ado About Nothing '15*. Dawn is a 3-time B. Iden Payne nominee with one BIP award. She is married to another TBM founding member Steve Hemphill; they played Hero & Claudio when TBM did this show in 2002.

Shannon Gibson
(she/her)



Shannon (Costume Designer) has loved getting to make her friends look pretty in this show! Repeat patrons may have seen her on stage in *Tales of Darkness* (Sea Hag, Lavinia), *King Lear* (Oswald), *Romeo & Juliet '24* (Juliet), *Comedy of Errors '22* (Dromio of Syracuse), *Midsummer '21* (Cobweb), or *Macbeth* (Lady M). Sooooo many thanks to Dawn, Renee, Lindsay, and anyone who sewed anything for this show, and love to Mac, the cats (aka the assistant costumers), and the Gurls.

Josh Kavanaugh
(he/him)



Josh (Music Director) got drafted into TBM service by his fiancée Lindsay, as Music Director and guitarist for *The Tempest* and *Romeo & Juliet '24*. A mechanical engineer by day and musician and home-improver by night, Josh is glad he gets to support the performing arts in his spare time. He plays guitar in the local Latin rock band Mala Nota, has been a featured composer and musician for local dance company BLiPSWiTCH, and served as the Music Director for Pink Box Burlesque in Tuscaloosa, AL from 2011-2014. Lots of love to Lindsay and Tommie.

Sophia Lynch
(she/her)



This is Sophia Lynch's (Stage Manager, Assistant Director) 9th season with The Baron's Men. She started with her role as a Demon 4 in *Doctor Faustus* in 2016. However, her true passion lies in working behind the scenes, primarily in stage management. She was Stage Manager for *The Dead of Winter* (2017), *Macbeth* (2019), *Hamlet* (2022), *Twelfth Night* (2023), and she is excited to return as Stage Manager for *Much Ado* and fill her first role on a directorial team as Assistant Director. She wishes to thank all patrons for coming to see our last show at The Curtain. Though it is bittersweet, she is happy to share her evening with you at the place that has been her sanctuary since her teenage years.

Lindsay M. Palinsky
(she/her)



Lindsay M. Palinsky (Director) joined The Baron's Men in 2011, and has been a member of TBM Leadership since 2014. Some favorite roles on The Curtain stage: Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet* '14), Beatrice (*Much Ado* '15), Lucifer (*Doctor Faustus*), Helena (*Midsummer* '21), Olivia (*Twelfth Night* '23), and Isabeau (*All For One*). Lindsay has served many roles backstage for TBM including directing *Lysistrata*, *The Tempest*, *Romeo & Juliet* '24, and *King Lear*, as well as costume designing *Comedy of Errors* '22, *Hamlet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Twelfth Night* '23. She is thankful for everyone who has helped make The Curtain such a memorable place, and is looking forward to making new memories as TBM enters its Blackfriars Era! Vivat Triumviratus, extra thanks to Mikey & Jared, love to the Gurls, Kid A, and Jax, and all of her heart to Josh & Tommie.

Director's Note

Welcome, and thank you so much for joining us for *Much Ado About Nothing*. This play has meant a lot to me for a long time. I've been in it three different times, including playing Beatrice when TBM produced it ten years ago, so getting to direct it now feels like coming full circle. *Much Ado* is, to me, much more than clever banter. It's a play that dances between comedy and seriousness, love and misunderstanding, public spectacle and private pain. It's a story about transformation, vulnerability, and choosing love even when it feels risky. I've loved this story from both sides of the stage, and sharing it again – this time with a new cast, new vision, and in a moment of big change for our organization – has been incredibly meaningful.

You see, this production is also a farewell, and that's not easy to write. *Much Ado* will be the last show ever performed at The Curtain Theatre. For so many of us in The Baron's Men, this stage has been home. It's where we learned, failed, grew, laughed, and found our people. I've spent the last 15 years in this space: I found my best friends here, I got engaged here, I climbed all the way up to Heaven, and crawled around down in Hell. Every inch of this theatre holds a memory.

Saying goodbye to The Curtain is heartbreaking, but it's also a reminder of how lucky we've been. This space gave us more than just an historic backdrop. It gave us a community, a place to tell stories under the stars, and the chance to be part of something bigger than ourselves. So, while we say farewell to this beloved stage, we do so with immense gratitude and a sense of purpose. The Baron's Men is starting our next chapter with the same passion that built this troupe in the first place.

As we take our final curtain call in the place we've called home for two decades, *Much Ado* feels like the perfect story to tell. Just as Benedick and Beatrice step into their future with open eyes and full hearts, so do The Baron's Men. We're excited for what's to come, and we're carrying the spirit of The Curtain with us wherever we go.

To the audiences who have sat with us for dozens of shows or just this one, thank you. To the casts and crews who have breathed life into this wooden O, thank you. And to the Curtain Theatre, thank you for being our stage, our storybook, and our sanctuary.

Thank you to our 2025 Resident Artists

Aleena Azhar
Jimmie Bragdon
Chris Casey
Stephanie Crugnola
Kendall Duffina
Jennifer Fielding
Hector "Rae" Fox
Annelise Friend

Todd Jeffrey
Sophia Lynch
Timothy McKinney
Eva McQuade
Julio Mella
Pablo Muñoz-Evers
Aaron Niemuth

Sîan Rees
Audrey Renkenberger
Rylee Ross
Gene Storie
Laura Trezise
Jonathan Vineyard
Jared Walls
Edwin Wise

TBM Leadership

Executive Artistic Director Lindsay M. Palinsky
Associate Artistic Director Shannon Gibson
Board President, Costume Consultant Dawn Allee-Hemphill
Board Treasurer, Storage Coordinator Renee Osborn
Facilities Coordinator Josh Kavanaugh
Sets & Props Coordinator Michael Pratt
Board Secretary, IT Coordinator Michael Osborn
Board Member At-Large Jacquelyn Lies

Very Special Thanks

AzulOx Visuals
Holy Word Lutheran Church
Kristina Trotti
Whitney Rowlett

The Garriott Estate
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Megan Newell
Emily Beyda

Bryant Hill Photography
TexArts
Dale Flatt
Steve Hemphill

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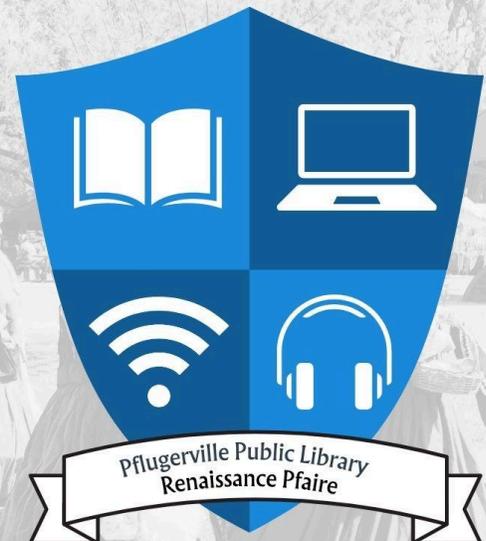
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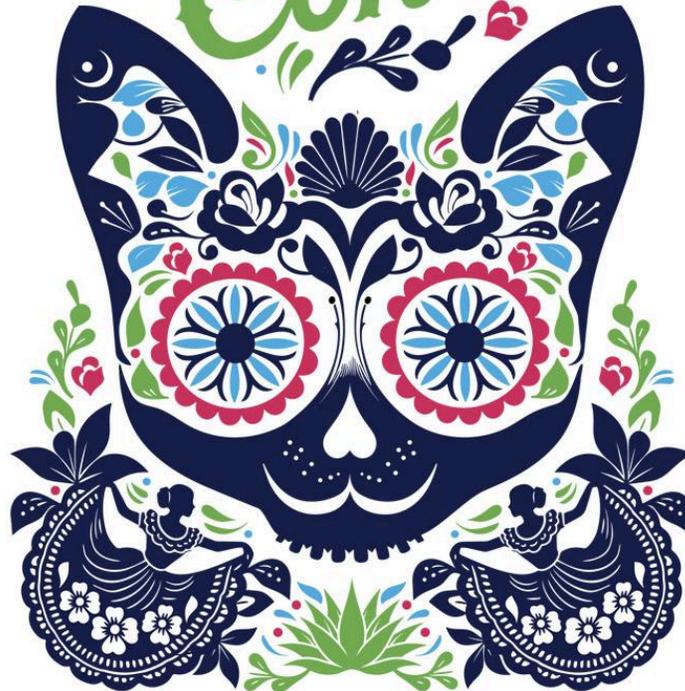
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