

FSU

ASOLO CONSERVATORY  
FOR ACTOR TRAINING

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

*presents*

A  
Midsummer  
Night's  
Dream

By William Shakespeare

**April 7 - 26, 2026**

*Presented in the Cook Theatre*



## MISSION STATEMENT

*For over 50 years, the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and Asolo Rep have been linked in a unique collaboration that combines a classical academic training program with a professional regional theatre company. It is one of the last remaining conservatory programs in the United States, offering a sophisticated combination of graduate classroom training with professional performance opportunities at Asolo Rep.*

[www.asolorep.org/conservatory](http://www.asolorep.org/conservatory)

# WELCOME



**JAMES FRAZIER, EdD, MFA**  
Dean  
College of Fine Arts  
Florida State University

On behalf of the College of Fine Arts at Florida State University, I wish you a warm welcome to the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, home to the Asolo Repertory Theatre, the Sarasota Ballet, and our graduate program – the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training.

Our enduring partnership with the Asolo Rep and our ties to Florida's Cultural Coast continue to be a source of immense pride for our College, and our deep connection with Sarasota's robust arts community remains stronger than ever.

This season, we are incredibly excited to welcome back Marcus Denard Johnson (MFA Acting '08) as director of the Conservatory, after a great year as interim director. With his wealth of experience as an actor, director and educator, we are confident that he will continue to bring an exciting new energy to the Conservatory, while continuing to provide the world-class education and performances they're known for.



**MARCUS DENARD JOHNSON**  
MFA, MSED  
Director  
FSU/Asolo Conservatory  
for Actor Training

On behalf of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, I would like to extend a note of thanks for your continuous and unwavering support to our program, and for your support towards me last season as interim director.

As a proud FSU/Asolo Conservatory alumnus, I have a deep understanding and appreciation for the partnership between Florida State University and Asolo Repertory Theatre. It has been a catalyst for amazing performances and professional training.

As a professional training program, with an elite faculty that have worked nationally and internationally, our job is to help hone the craft of our student-actors. What you will see on our stage is not just the highest level of experimentation, but the highest level of professional actor training. We invite you as an audience to be entertained, engaged, and enlightened, knowing that you will receive a professional theatrical experience.

We look forward to seeing you in the Cook Theatre this season, where the play is still the thing!

# CLASS OF 2027



**BRANDON BILLINGS** Originally from Colorado, Brandon is beyond excited to share the stage with his cohort in their second year of training. Recent local credits include Understudy for *Anna in the Tropics*, *Good Night, Oscar* (Asolo Rep). Colorado Credits: *Romeo & Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Wild,) *The River Bride*, *Noises Off* (Arvada Center), *The Cherry Orchard* (Miners Alley Performing Arts Center), *The Inheritance*, *The Hombres*, *The One-Act Play Goes Wrong*, *Fireflies* (Vintage Theatre).



**ALAN KIM** is excited to be on the Cook stage as a second-year student at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Recent work includes: *Peter Pan*, *Wolf Play* (Rec Room Arts), *Los Pecados de Iberia* (Stages), *King Lear*, *Cymbeline* (Houston Shakespeare Festival), *Falstaff*, *Romeo et Juliette* (Houston Grand Opera), *Peerless* (Human Race Theatre), *Cinderella*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Rent*, *South Pacific* (Theatre Under the Stars). He owes this all to his family. IG: @alan.dhk



**JACQUELYN MORALES** is beaming to be performing on the Cook stage. She is coming from California where she received her BA in Theater Arts from Cal Poly SLO. Some of her favorite undergrad credits include *Twelfth Night* (Viola), *Company* (Joanne), and *An Iliad* (Poet). Regional credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby) at SLO Rep and the World Premiere of *Dulce* (Abuelita) at PCPA. Jacquelyn wants to give a warm thank you to all educators that have helped her get "Forward, onward, upward!"



**CORRIE OWENS** is a graduate of Shakespeare & Company's month-long intensive and earned her BA in Theatre Education from Hampshire College. Recent credits include Christina U/S in *Dancing at Lughnasa* with Asolo Repertory Theatre, *Petrushka and the Caterpillar* and *As You Like It* with Theater in the Open, *In the Garden of Z* at NH Theatre Project, and *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol* at The Players' Ring Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

# SECOND-YEAR ENSEMBLE



**JAMES AUSTIN RIDLEY** is excited to make his Cook stage debut. Seen before at the Indianapolis Fringe Festival in *\*Check Your F\*%&^ing Email\**. A second-year student at FSU/Asolo Conservatory, he looks forward to engaging with Sarasota's vibrant arts community. IG: @austinrid



**EDGARDO SOLORIO** is a second-year in the FSU/Asolo Conservatory MFA acting program, hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area. He most recently appeared as Max (U/S) in *Good Night, Oscar*, and Eliades/Ensemble (U/S) in *Anna in the Tropics*, both with the Asolo Repertory Theatre. Before traveling to Florida, he played Prince Charming in *Cinderella* (African American Shakespeare Company) and other notable roles. Enamored by the support of family, friends, and mentors. Thank you!



**DANI TREVIÑO** is a Tejana actress. Selected acting credits include: *Anna in the Tropics*, *Good Night, Oscar* (Asolo Rep), *A Beautiful Day in November...* (The Public Theater of San Antonio), *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Men on Boats* (TXST), and *My True Crime Story* (VH1). "Entonces venimos a trabajar. Dios me dio este talento y esto es lo que hago. A mi gente: Mi respeto, adelante todos unidos. Que viva la raza y que el amor gane. Dios bendiga." | Joshua 1:9 | @danitrevinoo



**KATRIANA VÉLEZ** is a Puerto Rican actress and journalist. She most recently served as an understudy in *Anna in the Tropics* and *Good Night, Oscar* during Asolo Rep's last season. For a second consecutive year, she participated in the Puerto Rican and International Theater Festival, playing Fabiola in *El Olor del Popcorn*. In a previous edition of the same festival, she co-produced *Fefu and Her Friends*, in which she also performed as Cecilia. Her screen credits include the Netflix series *Neon*. Special thanks to Candu Management! IG: @Katrianaalexa

# CLASS OF 2028



**MYA BARBER** is thrilled to make her FSU/Asolo Conservatory debut! The Tallahassee native holds dual University of Kentucky degrees in Theatre and Human Communication, plus a Musical Theatre certificate. She loves working as a performer/director for The Missoula Children's Theatre each summer. Mya thanks her family, friends, and God for their endless support, love, and guidance. [www.iammyabarber.com](http://www.iammyabarber.com)



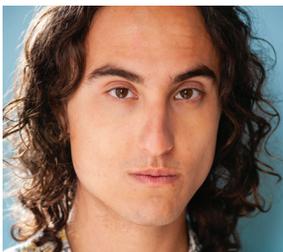
**RICARDO CIONI GARCIA** is an actor and filmmaker with work in five languages and over 20 awards in 8 countries, including the Emmy-winning *What If* and the short *I Loved To See You*. Educated in Brazil, China, and Canada, he received the Ficmonterrey Full Scholarship at Vancouver Film School, and now pursues the FSU/Asolo MFA.



**PAUL HOLOVCHENKO** is honored to become part of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Highlights include leading roles in *The Forest Song* (Lukash), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas), *The Road Back* (George Rahe), and *Three Sisters* (Vershinin). He also served at the Kharkiv Academic Drama Theatre. In Germany, he co-authored and performed in performative theatre in Hamburg and worked at the Hamburg State Opera.



**D'ZYRE JONES** is a first-year MFA student at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. A Syracuse native and Howard University alumna, she also trained with the British American Drama Academy. Her journey—from grassroots organizing to corporate America—informs her purpose-driven artistry. Guided by faith and community, she sees theatre as sacred ground. Previous roles include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Mary in *Laughing Stock*.



**CHARLIE LAVARONI** (she/they/he) is a first year MFA at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. As a bi-coastal actor they have proudly worked with: Shakespeare & Co., SFBATCO, Livermore Shakes (SPARC), Pac Rep, SF Shakes, and Big Idea Theatre. Some of their favorite recent credits include: Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Clown (*The 39 Steps*), Nell Gwyn (*Charlie and Nell*), and Touchstone (*As You Like It*). [www.charlielavaroni.com](http://www.charlielavaroni.com)

# FIRST-YEAR ENSEMBLE



**ARMANDO GONZÁLEZ NARANJO** (he/him/she/her) is a Costa Rican actor, born in the Dominican Republic, with roots across Central America. He holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration and is pursuing his MFA in Acting at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Passionate about sharing underrepresented Central American stories, Armando brings versatility, discipline, and authenticity to stage and screen.



**EMELIE O'HARA** Regional Theatre: *Henry VI* Parts 2 & 3, *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Colorado Music Festival), *Romeo & Juliet* (Redhouse Arts Center), *Hamlet*, (Colorado Shakespeare), *Little Women* (Cincinnati Shakespeare), *Sense and Sensibility* (Arvada Center), *Becket* (Drive Theatre), *Love's Labour's Lost* (UnMasqued); *Macbeth* (Sierra Rep). Film: "Don't Blink," "Stained Glass Windows." TV: Starz, USA, Lifetime. International: Kerry Tribe's Critical Mass, London.



**EREN PAGAN-OVERMYER** (they/them) is thrilled to be joining the FSU/Asolo Conservatory! Previous credits include *The Book of Silence*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Tempest*, *Private Lives*, *Clue*, and *On The Town* (WMU), *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Commonwealth Shakes), and *Man and Moon* and *Taproot* (Queer Theatre Kalamazoo) BFA: Western Michigan University. Much love to my partner and our pets! [erenpaganovermyer.com](http://erenpaganovermyer.com).



**ARIA RAYES** is a storyteller and singer/songwriter who is overjoyed to be making her FSU/Asolo Conservatory debut! She recently graduated from Azusa Pacific University with her BFA in acting and is currently working towards her MFA at the Conservatory. Her heart goes out to her support system. To her professors and directors, thank you for dedicating your lives to the pursuit of truth. IG: @ariarayes



**LIA RODRIGUEZ** is incredibly excited to make her FSU/Asolo Conservatory debut. She has been in productions of *Clybourne Park*, *The Mousetrap*, *Necessary Targets*, *Passage*, and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. She has done voice work in the animated film *Anpanman: Twinkle Princess Vanilla of the Land of Ice Cream* and has received her BFA at Florida International University.



**BIANCA UTSET** is a Miami-born actress and proud alum of Florida International University. She's a board member of absurdist theater company LakehousRanchdotPNG and enjoys writing and developing new plays in her free time. Bianca is thrilled to join the FSU Asolo Conservatory's Class of 2028 and is excited to continue growing as an artist in Sarasota's vibrant and inspiring community.

## URBANITE THEATRE sarasota

# SEASON 12



THANK YOU TO URBANITE THEATRE FOR THE GENEROUS USE OF THEIR SPACE FOR THE CLASS OF 2026'S MFA SHOWCASE.

## Director's Notes

*In the middle of the journey of our lives, we were lost in a dark wood, for the clear path was hidden. – Dante.*

Sometimes, if we want to find ourselves, we have to spend some time lost in the woods.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is an enigma. It was probably not written to be performed in a theatre. Rather, it was likely intended as an after-supper entertainment at the manor-house wedding of some noble couple, and attended by the Queen. Nevertheless, for hundreds of years, there has rarely been a time when it has not been onstage somewhere in the world. We think of it as one of Shakespeare's simpler plays and of course Shakespeare was a master of intertwining subplots. **Lear** has three, **Tempest** is an outlier with five, **Hamlet**, in more than four hours, manages two. **Dream**, in barely two hours, features six. Most of his plays rely on prose to some degree but are predominantly in a verse form called "Iambic Pentameter". **Dream** employs seven different verse forms to tell the story. No other play, I think, combines profanity and profundity, deep psychological inquiry and giddy folly, the magical and the mundane, with such ease and goodhearted grace.

We hope you enjoy finding yourself lost in the wood with us!

~ Jonathan Epstein, Director, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

FSU | ASOLO CONSERVATORY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

APRIL 7 - 26, 2026

Written by William Shakespeare  
Directed by Jonathan Epstein

Stage Manager/Props Design ..... Gabriela Gorka  
Assistant Aerial Consultant ..... Angelle Mishon  
Movement/Intimacy Director ..... Jason Paul Tate\*  
Dialect Coach ..... Patricia Delorey  
Production Manager/Lighting & Scenic Designer ..... Christopher McVicker ‡  
Sound Design ..... Rew Tippin  
Costume Design ..... Jordan Jeffers  
Resident Hair/Wig and Makeup Design ..... Michelle Hart



\* A member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS

‡ FSU/Asolo Conservatory operates under an agreement with the United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, IATSE Local 412

## The Cast

2ND YEAR CONSERVATORY CLASS OF 2027

Theseus, Oberon ..... Brandon Billings  
Hippolyta, Titania ..... Katriana Vélez  
Bottom ..... Austin Ridley  
Puck, Egeus ..... Alan Kim  
Helena, Quince ..... Dani Treviño  
Lysander, Flute ..... Edgardo Solorio  
Hermia, Snarveling ..... Jacquelyn Morales  
Demetrius, Snug ..... Corrie Owens

## The Crew

1ST YEAR CONSERVATORY CLASS OF 2028

Assistant Stage Manager ..... Charlie Lavaroni  
Backstage Crew ..... Paul Holovchenko/Armando González Naranjo  
Costume Crew ..... Emelie O'Hara/Mya Barber  
Light Board Operator ..... Eren Pagan-Overmyer  
Sound Board Operator ..... D'Zyre Jones  
House Manager ..... Aria Rayes  
Box Office ..... Bianca Utset/Ricardo Cioni Garcia

# CREATIVE TEAM

**GABRIELA GORKA** - (Stage Manager/Props Design) has been an active member of the Sarasota region's technical theatre community since 2010. A versatile multidisciplinary professional, her expertise spans scenic artistry, sound design, properties, and more. Gabriela's career is defined by a decade-plus of hands-on experience across the full production lifecycle. Known for her collaborative spirit and her ability to find elegant, immediate solutions to the unique challenges of live theatre, she is thrilled to be back in the booth for this beautiful production.

**PATRICIA DELOREY** - (Dialect Coach) Asolo Rep favorites include: *Knoxville* (world premiere), *Silent Sky*, *Cabaret*, *The Cake*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Ragtime*, *Rhinoceros*, *Roe*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *The Great Society*, *Josephine* (world premiere), *All The Way*, *West Side Story*, *Sotto Voce*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Innocents* (world premiere), *Bonnie & Clyde* (world premiere). Other credits include *Judith* (world premiere Urbanite Theatre), *Pitmen Painters* (American Stage Theatre), *The Smuggler* (Urbanite Theatre), Studio Six's production of *Plasticine* (The Baryshnikov Arts Center), *Saturday Night Fever* (Royal Caribbean International Cruises), *Stone Cold Dead Serious* (world premiere ART), and *Nocturne* (world premiere A.R.T.).

**MICHELLE HART** - (Resident Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer) Hart designs for Asolo Repertory Theatre and FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Other credits: Sarasota Ballet, Palm Beach Drama Works, freeFall Theatre, Urbanite Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Banyan Theatre, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Venice Theatre, Dorset Theatre, Barrington Stage and Open Stage Theatre. She has also done hair and/or make-up for Joan Rivers, Doris Roberts, Martin Short, Jane Russell, Arlene Dahl, Soledad Villamil, Jane Pauley, Richard Dreyfuss, Castille Langdon, Christopher Higgins, Justin Long, Paul Downs. Music videos "Second Chance" by Shinedown, "Reverse Cowgirl" by T-Pain. Film and television: *The Loyalists*, *Lady of the Manor*, *Paradise, FL*, and *The Real Stephen Blatt*.

**JORDAN JEFFERS** - (Costume Design) is a freelance costume and wig designer based in Sarasota, Florida. He has designed and built shows throughout the southeast regional theatre industry, including *Cadillac Crew* (Studio @620), *Man of La Mancha* (Piedmont Opera), *Joan of Arc: Trial at Rouen* (Piedmont Opera), *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Studio Theatre TDS), *Nollywood Dreams* (freeFall), *Green Day's American Idiot* (American Stage), *Jacob Marley's A Christmas Carol* (American Stage), *Angel Street* (Studio Theatre TDS), and *Sense and Sensibility* (FSU/Asolo Conservatory). He is currently serving as the Assistant Costume Shop Manager for the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, in his fifth season. Prior, Jordan traveled internationally installing and managing Broadway titles such as *Jersey Boys*, *Rock of Ages*, and *Kinky Boots*. Jordan has a BFA in Design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. [jmjeffers.com](http://jmjeffers.com)

**CHRISTOPHER MCVICKER** - (Technical Director/Resident Designer/Production Manager) received his degree from George Mason University. He relocated to the Sarasota area in 1996 and has worked at most of the local theatres. He is a member of the Local IATSE 412. Locally, he has won lighting design awards for *Into the Woods* and *A Little Night Music*. He has three beautiful kids that have taught him patience, understanding, and the ability to thrive without sleep. Thus, in lieu of sleep, he stays awake at night grooming his novel for which he is currently seeking a publisher.

**JASON PAUL TATE** - (Movement & Intimacy Director) Tate is a director, choreographer, and performer who is thrilled to be a more permanent fixture at the Conservatory as its new full-time professor of movement. Recent credits include *Newsies* at Tuacahn Center for the Arts, *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare & Company, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Asolo Rep. Additional credits include PAC-NYC, the Public, Metropolitan Opera, Ars Nova, Classic Stage, BAM, A.R.T., Old Globe, Geffen, Ordway, Great Lakes, Idaho Shakes, Virginia Stage, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and The Lost Colony. Tate is a proud member of SDC, AEA, and currently serves as Vice President of the SAFD. [jasonpaultate.com](http://jasonpaultate.com)

**REW TIPPIN** - (Sound Designer) is delighted to be designing for the FSU/Asolo Conservatory again! His most recent work was *Next To Normal* for the 10th anniversary of Significant Productions. He often works with Urbanite Theatre, including recent shows *Spaceman*, *The Sound Inside*, and *Judith*. He is the Resident Sound Designer for the Theater at Monmouth in Maine, for whom he recently designed *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson*, and *Eurydice*. Further credits include work for the Oakland Ballet in California, the Gretna Theatre in Pennsylvania, and the Denizen Theatre in New York. Really, he's just a hitherto untaxonomized large feline.

# THANK YOU

## WHERE DOES YOUR CONTRIBUTION GO?

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory exists thanks to your support of the partnership between Florida State and Asolo Rep. Your gift can benefit many different areas of need. We are grateful for all of your help!

A gift to the FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY will help cover annual needs such as visiting artist workshops, production expenses, and capital expenses like upgrades to the Cook Theatre.

Contributions to ASOLO REP in support of its partnership with the Conservatory cover the students' assistantship stipends and the London Study Semester.

## Our 2026 FSU Great Give was a Great Success!

Your incredible generosity directly supports our students' hands-on learning in the 2026/2027 production season. We are so grateful for the support from our students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, families, and friends!

### Thank You to our Great Give Donors!

#### Anonymous (2)

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# ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS CAMPAIGN  
THE CONSERVATORY GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES GIFTS OF \$100+ IN THIS PLAYBILL

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## SPECIAL THANKS

### SUPPORT OF FREE STUDENT MATINEE TICKETS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Walt and Pam Hunt | Marcie Rose and Tony Jarvis | Jack and Priscilla Schlegel

### DAVID BRUNETTI ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Barbara Jacob and Karen Lichtig

### VISITING ARTIST SUPPORT NEW WORKS PLAY LAB

The Charles L. Huisking Jr. and Lillian Huisking Guest Artist Fund

Asolo Rep supports each FSU/Asolo Conservatory student with an assistantship that allows them to immerse themselves totally in their studies and performances. Once you become a Benefactor, you enter into a whole new relationship with the theatre and the graduate students. The FSU/Asolo Conservatory MFA program continues to be one of the best in the country because of the support of the community. Please consider joining the Benefactors and become a part of the journey of these young artists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANGEL HISSOM:  
ANGEL\_HISSOM@ASOLO.ORG | 941.351.9010 EXT. 4706

# THANK YOU

# 25/26 BENEFACTORS



**RON BANYAY**



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**TERRY O. BRACKETT**



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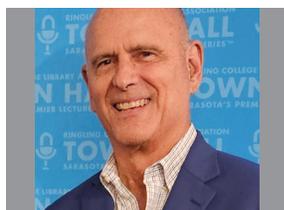
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*Mi Amor*  
20TH SEASON | 2025-2026

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**YAYA DIAMOND &  
THE DREAM CHASERS**

**JAN 15-18**  
**JEHANNE**  
*INSPIRED BY JOAN OF ARC*

**MAR 19-22**  
**SCD + PIAZZOLLA**

**MAY 15-16**  
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PHOTO BY SORCHA AUGUSTINE

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*Director  
FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training  
Play Analysis*

**ANDREI MALAEV-BABEL**

*Head of Acting  
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**JONATHAN EPSTEIN**

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*Dean, College of Fine Arts*

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*Director of the School of Theatre*

**FSU COLLEGE OF  
FINE ARTS**

For more  
information,  
please contact:

[info@conservatory.fsu.edu](mailto:info@conservatory.fsu.edu)

