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Church of Our Savior for our rehearsal space.
J. Matt Higuera for construction assistance.
Jeffrey Trotter for our chairs.

John Lewis, HARD costume shop
Jo Lusk, Masquers Playhouse costumes
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Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera and Daniel Yelen
San Francisco Opera Guild and Ellen Kerrigan
Novato Theatre Company and Mark Clark

Janette Higuera

John Leonard and the Curtain Board for their work year-round.

The Curtain Theatre is named after one of London's first public theatres. Built near the Curtain Close in Shoreditch, it was described in Shakespeare's Henry V as the "wooden O." The Curtain was home to Shakespeare's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, until they constructed the Globe in 1599. Like our own Curtain, the 1577 original featured an open-air stage and conspicuous absence of curtains.

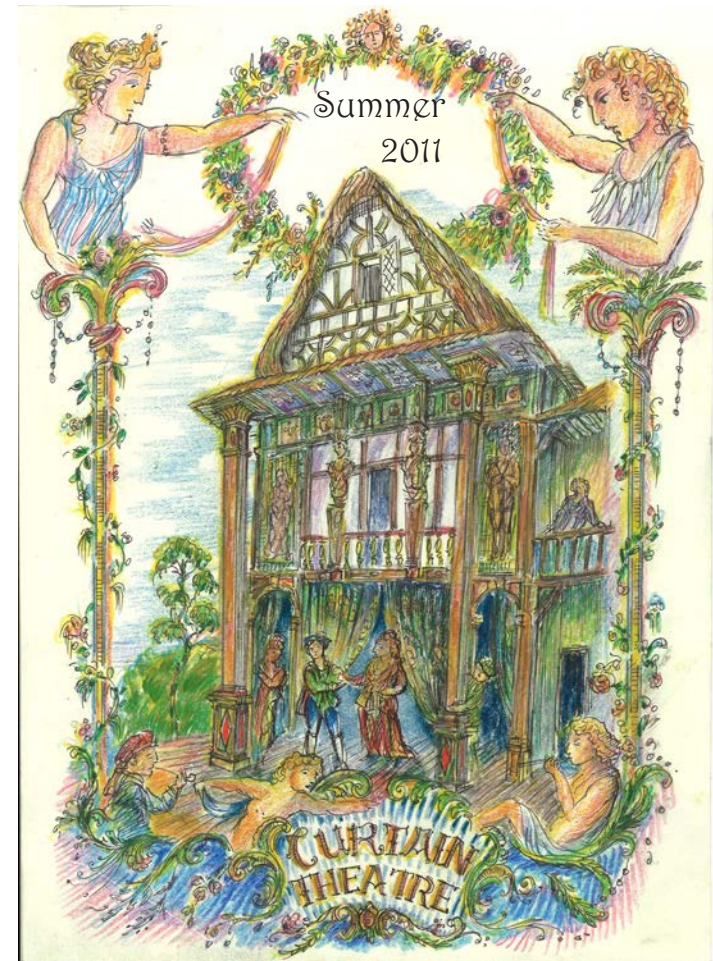
The Curtain company depends on community support to make our productions possible. Join us in this labor of love!

The Curtain Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit organization.
Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted.
Tax ID number - 51-0584747.

For more information or to join the Curtain volunteers:
email info@curtaintheatre.org
or visit <http://curtaintheatre.org>.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

By William Shakespeare



August 27-28, September 3-4-5, 10-11, 17-18

2:00 PM

Old Mill Park, Mill Valley



SETTING: The suburban town of Windsor and nearby countryside.

TIME: We have set our telling of the story in 19th century England after the defeat of Napoleon with soldiers out of work, a rising middle class and profligate aristocracy.

PLOT: *MerryWives'* catalyst for comedy is Sir John Falstaff, a disruptive wastrel on loan from Shakespeare's history plays, along with his parcel of rogues, Pistol, Nym, and Bardolph. The story opens with visiting gentry complaining of the knight and his gang filching their way through the countryside before descending on Windsor's hospitable citizens.

Taking up residence at the Garter Inn, the out-of-funds Falstaff plots to seduce the wives of two of Windsor's prosperous residents – largely to gain control of their husbands' purse strings. However, he greatly underestimates the wives' virtue and learns his lesson through a series of elaborate comic revenges they orchestrate to show that "wives may be merry and yet honest too." In the process, the wives also cure Mistress Ford's husband of a chronic case of irrational jealousy.

Meanwhile, there is another comedy of love and money: the wooing of Windsor heiress Anne Page. Her mother's favored suitor is Caius, a French doctor; her father's candidate is Slender, a foolish gentleman living on slender means; but Anne's own choice is a reformed rake, Master Fenton. All three suitors are represented with impartial enthusiasm by local matchmaker Mistress Quickly.

When the town's Welsh parson, Evans, sends a letter to Quickly supporting his friend Slender's suit, it is intercepted by the hot-headed Dr. Caius who challenges the parson to a duel. Their mutual friends, led by the Hostess of the Garter, join forces to keep the "healer of souls" and the "healer of bodies" from hurting each other.

A further complication comes in the form of Simple, who in our setting of the play is a girl who disguises herself as a boy in order to go into service with Slender. She falls in love with her master and assists in a plot to trick him into marrying her instead of Anne.

The tangled tales of love, lust, and greed converge at Herne's Oak, outside of town, where the citizens of Windsor dress as fairies to frighten Falstaff out of his folly. Here it is left to the younger generation to teach the wives themselves a lesson in love: Anne foils her parents and transforms the final masquerade into an opportunity to marry for love rather than money.



A NOTE ON THE MUSIC: Music has always been a foundational element for this company, in part because three of its ringleaders are musicians. More conceptually, selecting melodies for Shakespeare's songs is a way to define a production's setting and style. As befits the band's background, this year the tunes are mostly in the English folk tradition, though several of the melodies were composed by Don Clark. And, continuing an audacious Curtain tradition, he wrote words AND music for a song about sweet Anne Page that Shakespeare did not envision but we hope would approve.

TOURISTS



JUSTICE SHALLOW
SLENDER, HIS COUSIN
SIMPLE, SLENDER'S SERVANT
FENTON, A GENTLEMAN

Norman Macleod
Patrick Barresi
Carla Pauli
Phillip Swanson

TOWN



HUGH EVANS, A WELSH PARSON
CAIUS, A FRENCH DOCTOR
QUICKLY, HIS HOUSEKEEPER
JOHN RUGBY, HIS SERVANT
MASTER PAGE
MISTRESS PAGE
ANNE, THEIR DAUGHTER
WILLIAM, THEIR YOUNG SON
MASTER FORD
MISTRESS FORD
WILLA THEIR YOUNG DAUGHTER
JOHN, THE FORDS' SERVANT
ROBERT, THE FORDS' SERVANT

Steve Beecroft
Damien Seperi
Victoria Siegel
Matthew Surrence
Johnny DeBernard
Heather Cherry
Caitlin Evenson
Daniel Helmer
Tom Reilly
Patricia Rudd
Miranda Craig
Phillip Swanson
Matthew Surrence

TAVERN

HOSTESS OF THE GARTER
SIR JOHN FALSTAFF
ROBIN, HIS PAGE-BOY
BARDOLPH
NYM
PISTOL

Georgie Craig
Jack Halton
Olivia Rudd
Hal Hughes
Damien Seperi
Matthew Surrence

BAND



DON CLARK
MICHELE DELATTRE
HAL HUGHES
ALICE MONTGOMERY

Guitar
Concertina
Fiddle
Flute; Melodeon

P R O D U C T I O N

DIRECTOR
STAGE MANAGER
MUSIC DIRECTOR
CHOREOGRAPHY
COSTUMER
COSTUME AND PROP ASST.
SET DESIGNER
PUBLICITY
PHOTOGRAPHY
CURTAIN PRODUCER
ASSISTANT PRODUCERS

Michele Delattre
Diane Pickell-Gore
Don Clark
Steve Beecroft
Maria Graham
Daniel Yelen
Steve Coleman
Pat Meier Johnson
Russell Johnson
John Leonard,
Alice Montgomery, Vicki Siegel



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Patrick Barresi (Slender) is happy to be back in the redwoods with Curtain Theatre! Last summer he played Oliver in *AsYou Like It*. Other recent credits include *Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell*, *Broadway Bound*, *Private Fears in Public Places*, and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Love and devotion to Jerry.

Steve Beecroft (Sir Hugh Evans/Choreographer). This is Steve's third production with the Curtain Theatre and he has enjoyed every minute of it. Any chance to perform Shakespeare is a blessing and in such idyllic surroundings even more so. Thanks to Michele and Don for their creative talents and to the cast for their hard work on the choreography. And thanks to you, the audience, for supporting theatre in Old Mill Park.

Heather Cherry (Mistress Page). This is Heather's second show with the Curtain Theatre. She appeared last summer as Jacques in *AsYou Like It*, and is so happy to be back in the forest this year! Thank you to Michele and the cast, musicians and crew for a wonderful time. And thank you to Connie and Peter!

Don Clark (Music Director). Don is happy to be leading the music in his 11th Curtain production. Besides writing and arranging songs and tunes for the shows, he plays guitar, mandolin and sometimes bouzouki, and every once in a while, people let him sing. He thanks band mates Michele Delattre (concertina, whistle), Alice Montgomery (flute) and new recruit Hal Hughes (fiddle) for their hard work in making this year's music merry.

Steve Coleman (Set Design) is a longtime stage designer in the Mill Valley art scene known for his loving, often fantastical design of everything from small models to the elegant reborn stage at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre. He is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre. His past sets for the park shows include a glorious Volkswagen-sized galloon carried through the opening storm of *The Tempest* by the actors while they performed from the decks and audience members ducked the swinging masts.

Georgie Craig (Hostess of the Garter) is delighted to be performing in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, her third production with the Curtain Theatre. Georgie appeared as Old Addie in last season's production of *AsYou Like It*. Georgie was most recently seen as Mrs. Bagatelle in James Dunn's production of *Detective Story* at College of Marin. Georgie is very proud to be working with her daughter Miranda in this production. And says thank you to husband Keith for all his support. By day, Georgie tells stories to children at the public libraries in Marin, works as a substitute teacher, a freelance writer, and a Send Out Cards distributor.

Miranda Craig (Willa Ford) is excited to be part of her second play and her first with the Curtain Theatre. The cast used to think of Miranda as their biggest fan because she went to every show. And now she gets to be in it. When not performing, Miranda attends Sun Valley School, dances, fences, plays tennis and creates art.

Johnny DeBernard (Master Page) is excited to be appearing in his first show for the Curtain Theatre. This is his first venture into Shakespeare as well as outdoor theatre, and he is happy to cross these two items off his theatrical "bucket list." Now he can't wait to act in Shakespeare's other 36 plays! Congrats to a wonderful cast and special thanks to Michele for this most rewarding experience. Enjoy the show!

Michele Delattre (Director, Band) is a longtime member of the Curtain Theatre along with her husband and music partner Don Clark. She first encountered Shakespeare's plays as a Mill Valley teenager and has since performed over a dozen of his characters in theatres large and teensy across the country. Last summer with *AsYou Like It* she moved from acting to directing. It is a true delight to be collaborating with such a talented cast and amazing production and design team.

Caitlin Evenson (Anne Page) is thrilled to be back with Curtain Theatre this summer! Last year she played Phebe in *AsYou Like It* under these very redwoods. Other favorite roles include Jane Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Marlene in *Top Girls*, and her time with "All Terrain Theatre." She has spent most of this year immersed in Shakespeare, both as an intern with California Shakespeare Theater and performing in several staged readings with Subterranean Shakespeare. Caitlin holds a Honors degree in History from UC Berkeley with a minor in Theatre and Performance Studies.

Maria Graham (Costumer) has been designing costumes for community theatre for going on seven years. Recent productions include *The Italian Girl in Algiers* for Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera and *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* for the Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. A novice to sewing, she hopes the Merry Wives' dresses will provide color, harmony and characterization on the Curtain stage. Thank you, dear actors, for your patience and generosity! And thank you, beloved audience, for giving us the excuse to dress up and play!

Jack Halton* (Falstaff) returns to the Curtain Theater having appeared as Hardcastle in the 2003 production of *She Stoops To Conquer* directed by Mikel Clifford. Last summer Jack played Polonius in *Hamlet on Alcatraz* with The We Players and last fall did Beckett's *Rough For Theatre* in the alleys of North beach and Chinatown in the guerilla style. He is a graduate of the AADA in NYC.

Daniel Helmer (William Page) is entering third grade and this is his first experience on stage acting in a Shakespeare play. He is an old hand at singing though - developing a musical ear at Neil Cummins school and at Church of our Savior in Mill Valley, where is father is rector. Thanks to his parents for helping him play with the Curtain company this year!

Hal Hughes (Bardolph, Band) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Third Rail Power Trip, North Beach Beckett, and others. He currently plays and records with Gift Horse, SmoothToad, and Microblind Harvestmen. This is his first appearance with Curtain Theatre, and it's a delight.





Norman Macleod (Shallow) trained as an actor with York Repertory Theatre in England. Since 1965 he has performed in numerous local productions. Last year he played Duke Senior in the Curtain Theatre's production of *As You Like It*. Other recent roles are Sir Anthony Absolute in *The Rivals*; Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*; Berenger the First in *Exit the King*; and Antigonus in *The Winter's Tale*. Norman thanks Dianne for her continued support and forbearance during his theatrical endeavors.

Alice Montgomery (Band) is a Holy Names University music graduate who has taught flute and piano in the Bay Area for 25 years. She has been with the Curtain band since its beginning, playing in the first production of *As You Like It* in summer 2000. During the rest of the year she plays and sings in a variety of other classical music ensembles.

Carla Pauli (Simple) has had a blast working with Curtain Theatre. Other recent theatrical performances include *Farragut North* and *Fishing* with Open Tab Productions and *Electricidad* with Pacifica Spindrift Players. Currently she is in rehearsals for Cutting Ball Theater's original adaptation of *Pelleas and Melisande*. She is also currently working on her second lead role in a feature film, *White Rabbit*, with Boxcar Pictures. She has also had the fortune to work with other local companies, including Woman's Will, Golden Thread Productions, Brava, NCTC's YouthAware, Magic Theatre and a number of other independent theatre companies. Carla has studied at different Bay Area schools including American Conservatory Theater Studio and singing with Izetta Fang. She is also a theatre arts educator with Spindrift School of Performing Arts, teaching and directing children's theater.

Diane Pickell-Gore (Stage Manager). After earning her BA in Theatre Arts at San Francisco State, Diane stage managed in a variety of settings, then took a break to work for the federal government, run a business, attend Seminary in Berkeley, and raise a family. Since returning to her backstage roots a few years ago, she has stage managed *Cinderella* at Stapleton Theater Company; *Pirates of Penzance*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Angel Street* and the 2011 One Act Festival at Novato Theater Company; and *Rabbit Hole* at Ross Valley Players. On Sunday mornings she can be found "stage managing" priests at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Corte Madera.

Tom Reilly (Master Ford) is very happy to be doing his second show with Curtain Theatre after appearing in multiple fabulous costumes in *As You Like It* last summer. (Thanks, Maria!) He has recently been seen in *Into The Woods* with Squirrel Hill Players, in *Annie and Bye, Bye Birdie* at Solano College Theatre, and in *November, The Miracle Worker*, and *Sabrina Fair* with Ross Valley Players. He has also worked with the Marin Shakespeare Company (*Julius Caesar*), TheatreFirst (*Sergeant Musgrave's Dance*), Contra Costa Civic Theatre (*St. Joan, And Then There Were None*), and Actors Ensemble (*The Devil's Disciple, Camping With Henry and Tom*). He has studied with Donna Davis and at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre and has toured with Kaleidoscope Players, the State Theatre of New Mexico.



Patricia Rudd (Mistress Ford) is happy to be returning to the Curtain theatre stage after 10 years. She received a B. A. in Theatre Arts from her home state of Kentucky. A Mill Valley resident for 16 years, she has two children at Greenwood School where she has had the pleasure of directing some of the middle school plays.

Olivia Rudd (Robin) is very happy to finally be in a Curtain Theatre play after watching her mother in several of them when she was younger. Other roles she has been in are Midas in *Midas and the Golden Touch*, Nurse in *Robin Hood*, and ensemble in the *King and I* at Stapleton theatre. Olivia is in the eighth grade at Greenwood School.

Damien Seperi (Caius/Nym) is thrilled to be returning to Mill Valley for this joyous production with such an amazing group of people. He appeared here last year as the troublesome Orlando in *As You Like It*. And he is absolutely beside himself to be performing here once again. His more recent roles include Professor Amos Robillet in *Indulgences in a Louisville Harem* with Off-Broadway West, the bloodthirsty Richard Lionheart in *Lion in Winter* with the Role Players Ensemble and the dashing Sergius in *Arms and the Man* with the 16th Street Players. Many thanks to all fans and supporters of the arts. He'd like dedicate this one to his beautiful forest spirit hoping to make her smile with this performance. By gar!

Victoria Siegel (Mistress Quickly) thanks Shakespeare for the role of Mistress Quickly, the best malaprop speaking dingbat-with-a-purpose role ever. She has worked with the Curtain for nearly 10 years in some capacity or other. Acting roles have been the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Trinculo in the *Tempest* and Merchant 3 in her original musical *A Hot Day in Ephesus* based on *Comedy of Errors*. I dedicate this performance to Lee Siegel, my first Falstaff, and the estimable Jack Halton who takes up the mantle with moxie and the true Plump Jack spirit, as well as the rest of this fine cast.

Matthew Surrence (Pistol, Rugby, Robert) is pleased to make his Curtain Theatre debut under the direction of Michele Delattre, with whom he performed earlier this year in George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Last year at that theater he played Slater in Sam Shepard's *Curse of the Starving Class*. Formerly the drama critic at the *Oakland Tribune*, Matthew is also a playwright whose recent works include *The Agony of the Leaves*, a romantic comedy set in Berkeley, and '06: *A Not Entirely Untrue Tale of San Francisco*, about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Phillip Swanson (Fenton, John, Bardolph-in final show). This is Phillip's second show with Curtain Theater, having previously appeared as Dromio in *Hot Day in Ephesus*. Recently Phillip has appeared in *The Love Course*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and as Orin the Dentist, among many other characters, in *Little Shop of Horrors*, all with the Novato Theater Company. He will soon be appearing in *Jekyll and Hyde the Musical* at the Spreckles Theater in Rohnert Park.

