

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller

November 3-6, 2022
Rogers Park, Tryon, NC

Meet the Cast & Crew

Anthony Abraira (John Proctor) is an Asheville resident, native from South Florida. His previous performances were in David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi*, Scott McPherson's *Marvin's Room* & most recently in Shakespeare & Friend's Tryon production of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also directed a production of Roger Reuff's *Hospitality Suite* and the classic *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton.

Marty Bernstein (Francis Nurse) is happy to be making his third appearance with Shakespeare & Friends in Rogers Park. Thanks to Andy, Michelle and Catherine for their hard work in making this an enjoyable experience for all.

Lateasa Bond (Tituba) is an Army Veteran; who loves to dance, paint, crochet, felt with wool, sing karaoke, play the flute, she's learning the guitar and violin, taking pictures, meeting new people, trying new things, and most of all torment her boyfriend with her wicked sense of humor. She was in the production of "The Little Prince", "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Three Musketeers" with Montford Park Players. She wants to thank Tod Leaven and Michelle Newman for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this production of "The Crucible". She also wants to thank Steve Jencks for introducing her to the wonderful world of Theater, the amazing cast and crew of The Crucible, and you for taking time out of your busy life to come experience live Theater.

Native New Yorker, **Darlene Cah** (Rebecca Nurse) is a writer and improv actor. She performed longform and musical improv regularly at NYC's Gotham City Improv, wrote and performed sketch comedy, and appeared in NY Revels holiday musicals at Symphony Space. In Tryon, she's had roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Mad, Mad Madrigal*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *The Tempest*, and *Enchanted April*, among others. She is honored to

share the stage with this talented cast in *The Crucible* and is grateful to Shakespeare & Friends for giving her the opportunity to conjure up the character of Rebecca Nurse.

Marianne Carruth (Deputy Governor Danforth) grew up in Tryon, graduated from Spartanburg Day School, and attended Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, with a BA in Speech and Drama. After spending time studying and performing in London, NYC and San Antonio, Marianne returned to Tryon where she has spent the last few decades raising a family with her husband Mike, teaching theater, and directing children's theater throughout the area. She chaired Children's Theater Festival (Super Saturday) for many wonderful years and was on the Board at TLT. As an actor with TLT she played Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Grace in *Grace & Glory*. With Shakespeare & Friends, she enjoyed playing Antonia in *The Tempest*, Signora Nacarelli in *Light in the Piazza* and performed with the Ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* and *Scenery*. She was delighted to play Mrs. Graves in *Enchanted April* recently at Tryon Fine Arts Center (TFAC). She has played multiple Arts Admin and Directing roles with TFAC since 2008 and has served as Executive Director of the organization since 2014.

Sonia D'Andrea (Abigail Williams) An Asheville native, Sonia has been performing on local stages since 2004. Favorite past roles include Milady in *The Three Musketeers*, Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Desdemona in *Othello*, all with the Montford Park Players. She has also worked with Nemesis Theatre Co. as Tullus Aufidius in *Coriolanus* and American Myth Center as Benvolio and the Nurse in *The Ballad of R & J*. When not onstage she is usually doodling or snuggling her cat, Balky Bartokomous. Enjoy the show, and thank you for supporting community theatre!

Stratford Douglas (Giles Corey) began his acting career in the role of Great Big Billy Goat Gruff in Mrs. Cobb's first grade class play at Tryon Elementary School. His most recent role was a small part in Shakespeare & Friends' "Scenery" show in June of 2022. He had several lead roles in high school plays, participated in summer youth musicals at TFAC in the early 1970s, and enjoyed a two-year career as announcer at WTYN radio. Since high school his acting experience helped him succeed as a professional whitewater raft guide and university professor. He and his wife Jodie moved back to Tryon in 2020, where they appreciate the opportunity to participate in Tryon's friendly, active, and talented theater community.

Hillary Fleming (Mary Warren) graduated from Converse College with a BA in theatre in 2015. As punishment, she has spent a majority of the last ten years working in the service industry. Recently, her life has started to make a turn around for the better and you can

catch her in season one of Tom Swift, a new TV show for the CW. Hillary has also done a couple of productions with Shakespeare and Friends, including a portrayal of Ariel in *The Tempest* and Hamlet in this summer's Scenery.

Catherine Gillet (Stage Manager) is also a playwright, whose published and award winning plays have been produced in numerous venues Off Broadway and around the country. While a member of the Playwrights Project at Circle Repertory Company she studied with Craig Lucas, Paula Vogel, and Lanford Wilson. Happily re-located from NY to Tryon, she is a co-founder of Shakespeare & Friends (*Our Town*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Scenery*) and has directed plays at TLT, (*Outside Mullingar*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Climate Change Plays*) and *Enchanted April*, presented at TFAC, where she has directed staged readings and multi-media performances. She would like to thank all of the fearless creative teams and her co-conspirators in the park, Michelle and Andy.

Jess Holderbaum (Tom Putnam) is relatively new to acting, having only started after taking classes at Tryon Arts and Crafts School a few years ago. He has since been in several community theater plays. In this short time he played the parts of Bill Fordham in Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County" at Hendersonville Community Theater, the part of Gary Lejeune in Michael Frayn's "Noises Off" (cancelled due to covid) also at Hendersonville Community Theater, and most recently King Alonso in William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" right here in Rogers Park. Jess Lives here in Polk County with his wife, Christine O'Connor who also plays his wife Ann Putnam in *The Crucible*.

Sarah Hubbard (Elizabeth Proctor) is thrilled to be a part of *The Crucible* with Shakespeare & Friends! A graduate of Converse College with a BA in Theatre and a Minor in Vocal Performance, Sarah is a founding member of Scrappy Shakespeare and administrator of Sparkle City Improv in Spartanburg, SC. A few past favorite roles include: Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*) and Viola (*Twelfth Night*) with Scrappy Shakespeare, Princess Fiona (*Shrek: The Musical*) with Greer Children's Theatre, Diana (*Lend me a Tenor*) with Tryon Little Theatre, and Ursula (*The Little Mermaid*) with Spartanburg Little Theater.

Retired and living on White Oak Mountain, **Elizabeth Hyland** (Martha Corey and Sarah Good) enjoys the daily gifts of Mother Earth & embraces new experiences. Never cast in a play before—not even as a flower or star in a children's performance—she makes her stage debut this evening playing two witches. As a self described magical muse & mystic, she loves baking, gardening, creating stained glass fairy houses, and studying Celtic Spirituality.

Ella Leaven (Betty Parrs) is looking forward to sharing the stage again with her father and the rest of Shakespeare & Friends. She is in eighth grade at Hanger Hall. Her love of theatre is only eclipsed by her love of basketball. Prior roles include Second Lord in *As You Like It*, Ms. Scarlet in *CLUE* (high school edition), Juno and Mariner in *The Tempest*, Princess Ida and Myrtle in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, Janet Mara and Elf J in *Miracle on 34th Street*, and a Munchkin and Citizen of Oz in *The Wizard of Oz*. She lives in Asheville.

Hannah Leaven (Mercy Lewis) I am 23 years old and new to the stage with *Crucible* being my first community theater play! I'd like to thank my uncle, Tod Leaven, and my cousin Eleanor Leaven for inviting me into this adventure with them and believing in my acting skills, as well as my partner Josh and my lovely friends who have supported and encouraged me through all of it! Another big thanks to our director Michelle and all my lovely cast mates for making this a reality.

Tod Leaven (Reverend Parris) is beyond the moon to be back sharing the stage with his very talented daughter in Tryon at the Rogers Park Amphitheater. He is a lawyer and partner at the law firm Grimes Teich & Anderson, as well as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law, and a Veteran of the United States Army. Prior roles include Adam in *As You Like It*, Sebastian in *The Tempest*, King Gerald in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, Mr. March in *Little Women*, and Finley in *Miracle on 34th Street*. He lives in Asheville.

Hi, I'm **Nathan Lovelace** (Judge Hathorne)! It's been many years since I've been on stage but I've performed in a slew of productions in my youth. I'm originally from Gaffney, SC but have been living in Spartanburg since High School. I have a BSc from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and have maintained an outrageous accent from my time living over there. I currently work at WSPA as a Master Control Operator. I'm proud to be a part of this production and I want to thank you for coming out to see our show! Hope you enjoy!

Josh Luria (Reverend Hale) first got the theater bug in elementary school, performing a monologue from *Romeo & Juliet* and as Davy Crockett in a classroom setting. The pleasure of performing continued into high school when he attended Governor's School in NC for drama. His path took him to NYC, where he attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts for drama, studying at the Atlantic Theater Company conservatory, and commedia dell'arte in Florence, Italy, under the guidance of Enrico Bonavera, Jim Calder, and Academy Award winner Tarell McCraney. During his time in NYC, Josh co-founded theater company EBE Ensemble, with whom he produced, directed, and acted for five years, while also performing in various theater productions and short films. Short film "Tell Me

Anything", in which he had a starring role, screened at Cannes Film Festival's short section. After a decade hiatus from the stage to pursue a career in software, Josh is thrilled and thankful, especially to Michelle, as well as Catherine, and Andy for this wonderful opportunity to revisit a long love! He also gives great thanks to Christine for supporting and encouraging him through this process. His favorite hobby is scuba diving and learning about marine animals in the process.

Jennifer Monterisi (Susanna Walcott) Jennifer is an avid western pleasure horse competitor as well as the customer service and computer specialist at The Flower Cottage. Jennifer wishes to thank amazing director, Michelle Newman, and this talented cast and crew for the camaraderie and mentoring in bringing this unique production of *The Crucible* to Polk County. Jennifer's first experience with community theater was in the Tryon Little Theater production of the musical *State Fair* back in 2004 upon moving to Tryon from NYS. She has appeared in many local productions over the years in supporting cast and chorus roles at both TLT and Brevard Little Theater.

Michelle Newman (Director) is delighted to share this story with the community. She is a cofounder of Shakespeare & Friends and has produced seven successful show in Rogers Park with Catherine and Andy. She has appeared on stage and behind the scenes across WNC and upstate SC, and works with the Polk County SilverArts, Explore Tryon TDA, and NC Folklife Institute. She is the Communication Manager for GSP Airport and a proud Converse College graduate. Lots of love to her community, friends, and family for supporting her and to the talented team who have brought this show to life

Travis Newman (John Willard) is making a triumphant return to the stage after roles in Shakespeare & Friend's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, and *Scenery*. He grew up in Polk County and graduated from UNC Asheville.

Christine O'Connor (Ann Putnam) has performed and participated locally as Assistant Stage Manager for August Osage County, ran lighting for *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*, played the Master and Adrian in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. When not acting she works as a Certified Public Accountant and enjoys creating stained glass art, and camping and relaxing at home with her husband Jess, two border collies and Maine coon cat.

Ken Snart (Ezekiel Cheever) moved to North Carolina in 2020 and has been excited about getting back into theater after COVID. He was born and raised in Wisconsin. He began his experience with theater in high school and college where he was involved as an actor and behind the scenes work in many shows. Ken worked for the State of Wisconsin for 30+ years as an Administrator and Program Director for Substance Abuse services in the

Mental Health setting as well as the Department of Corrections. He retired in 2015 and since then has been active in many shows with several community groups. He has his Bachelors Degree in Music Education and two Masters Degrees, one in music and one in counseling. Among his favorite roles are playing Jesus in “Godspell”, Mayor Shinn in “The Music Man”, Ali Hakim in “Oklahoma”, Captain Keller in “The Miracle Worker” and many others. Ken, his husband Jerry, and their black lab Oliver are avid campers. Ken also enjoys golf, gardening, and singing with various groups.

About Shakespeare & Friends

Shakespeare & Friends was founded in 2019. Led by Catherine Gillet, Michelle Newman, and Andy Millard, Tryon’s newest performing arts company presents classic plays with a twist in Rogers Park. Actors and technicians of all experience levels from across North and South Carolina are welcome to be a part of Shakespeare & Friends. Past productions have included Our Town, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, A Christmas Carol, The Light in the Piazza, Enchanted April (in collaboration with TFAC and TLT) and Scenery: An Evening of Shakespearean Scenes. More information is available at www.tryonshakespeare.com.