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IN ASSOCIATION WITH
KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

Polishing Shakespeare

BY
BRIAN DYKSTRA

DIRECTED BY
MARGARETT PERRY

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PRESENTS

Polishing Shakespeare

BY **BRIAN DYKSTRA**

DIRECTED BY **MARGARETT PERRY**

— CAST—

(in order of appearance)

Janet ..... KATE SIAHAAN-RIGG *

Grant ..... BRIAN DYKSTRA *

Ms. Branch ..... KATE LEVY *

— CREATIVE TEAM—

Playwright ..... BRIAN DYKSTRA

Director ..... MARGARETT PERRY §

Scenic & Lighting Design ..... TYLER M. PERRY

Costume Design ..... MuMbles

Sound Design ..... ARIANA CARDOZA

Production Stage Manager ..... ANT PRIOLA *

Associate Director ..... ALĀNA RADER *

Associate Lighting Designer ..... CLAIRE CHESNE

— PRODUCTION TEAM—

Twilight Theatre Co. ..... MARGARETT PERRY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kitchen Theatre Company ..... EMILY JACKSON
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TYLER M. PERRY
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Resident Acting Company ..... BRADFORD COVER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Run time: 90 minutes with no intermission

Polishing Shakespeare was first presented as a script-in-hand performance by The Resident Acting Company at The Players in NYC. It received its first production by Twilight Theatre Co. in association with The Resident Acting Company at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh. The world premiere was presented by the Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, New York.

Polishing Shakespeare began as a ten-minute play commissioned by The Drilling Company (Hamilton Clancy, Artistic Director) in honor of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

§ The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

BRIAN DYKSTRA
(Grant/Playwright)



Brian Dykstra is an actor, playwright, and HBO def Poet. Broadway: ***Lucky Guy*** with Tom Hanks, ***Great Society*** with Brian Cox. London: ***Americana Absurdum***, ***A Special Relationship***. Regional: ***Jerusalem*** (Rooster Byron), ***Red*** (Mark Rothko), ***King John*** (King John), ***Banned From Baseball*** (Pete Rose), ***A Doll's House Part 2*** (Torvald), ***All The Way*** (LBJ), ***The Humans*** (Erik), ***Copenhagen*** (Heisenberg). Brian is the only person other than Mos Def and Dave Chappelle to appear on both *Chappelle's Show* (*Blind Ambition* & *White People Dancing*) and *HBO def Poetry* (*Pushing Bush*) in the same season. Other TV & film: *The Good Fight, The Blacklist, Stay, The Affair, Bull, Third Watch, Law & Order, Knight and Day, Freedomland, Corn, Another Bed, Poor Behavior, Spectropia.* Playwright: ***Polishing Shakespeare***, ***Hiding Behind Comets***, ***Clean Alternatives***, ***Education***, ***Silence,*** etc. Currently: writing a few TV shows: *...mr. wizard...*, *A Sane Policy*, *Double Down*, a musical, ***Crazy, Make Crazy***, and four plays: ***Art Thieves***, ***In Plain Sight*** a sequel, 18 years later, to his play ***Hiding Behind Comets***, ***The Podium***, and ***Not Nobody***. Brian is married to the woman of his dreams. He is loath to stand for the anthem until Black Lives are treated like they Matter.

www.briandykstra.net

KATE LEVY
(Ms. Branch)



Broadway and national tours: ***Bernhardt/Hamlet***, ***On Golden Pond*** (with Michael Learned and Tom Bosley), ***The Graduate***. New York theater: ***Stalking the Bogeyman*** (NY Rep), ***The Memorandum*** (TACT), ***The Return of the Prodigal*** and ***Soldier's Wife*** (The Mint), ***Halfway Home*** (The New Group). Regional: ***Polishing Shakespeare*** (Edinburgh & KTC), ***The Lady Hamlet*** (Provincetown Theatre), ***The Niceties*** (Milwaukee Rep), ***Fingersmith*** (ART), ***Third*** and ***The Other Place*** (Hartford TheatreWorks; CT Critics Circle and St. Louis Theater Circle awards for Best Actress), ***Snow Falling On Cedars*** (Hartford Stage), ***Well*** (Denver Center), ***A Sleeping Country*** (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), ***The Goat*** (Arena Stage), ***Outrage*** (Portland Center Stage), ***On Golden Pond*** (Cleveland Play House), ***Uncle Vanya*** (Denver Center), ***Present Laughter*** (Pioneer), ***Heaven*** (Yale Rep), ***Dinner With Friends*** (Alliance), ***The Real Thing*** (Alley Theatre). Also: Barrow St. Theater, MTC, Roundabout, The O'Neill, Merrimack Rep, Northern Stage, Theater Under the Stars, Florida Stage, Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Florida Rep, Clarence Brown, Philadelphia Festival for New Plays, BoarsHead. Numerous Shakespeare roles at various festivals. Television: *Succession, The Deuce, Younger, The Sinner, Odd Mom Out, The Affair, Elementary,* all three *Law & Order's, Blue Bloods, Unforgettable, A Gifted Man, Royal Pains, The Good Wife, Gossip Girl.* Film: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.* BA, Tufts University; MFA, American Conservatory Theatre.

KATE SIAHAAN-RIGG
(Janet)



Kate writes, performs, and produces work for television, film, stage, and dive bars around the world. World premieres: ***Polishing Shakespeare*** (Edinburgh), ***Plotters*** (Edinburgh), ***Wilder Rediscovered*** (ATL), ***Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*** (NYTW), ***Cygnus*** (Women's Project), ***Three Kinds of Exile*** (Atlantic), ***BFE*** (Long Wharf and Playwrights Horizons), ***Collective Rage*** (Wooly Mammoth), ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** (ACT). Off Broadway: ***The Jammer*** (Atlantic), ***Dogeaters*** (NYSF The Public Theater), ***Redwood*** (EST). Solo shows: ***Birth of a nASIAN*** (CTGLA, La Mama ETC./Comedy Central/ Smithsonian Institute), ***Americasiana*** (MACLA/ Dixon Place/Smithsonian Institute), ***Happy Lucky Golden Tofu Panda Dragon Good Time Fun Fun Show*** (La Mama ETC / Edinburgh), ***Zombie Asian Moms*** (La Mama ETC). TV: *Elsbeth, New Amsterdam, Tales of The City, The Path, Law and Order SVU, Law and Order, Family Guy, The Dr. Phil Show. Film: Mile 22, Race Is the Place, That's What She Said, Family Guy Movie.* Training: Juilliard.

www.katerigg.com
@kateriggnyc

MARGARETT PERRY

(Director)

Margarett Perry is an award-winning director of new plays. She has directed and developed new work Off Broadway and in regional theaters across the country as well as in Scotland and London. Her previous 59E59 productions include: ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** by John Jiler, ***A Special Relationship*** by Tim Marriott & Jeff Stolzer, ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott, ***Body Politic*** by Richard Abrons & Margarett Perry; ***Clean Alternatives*** (Fringe First Award/Edinburgh), ***A Play on Words*** and ***Education*** (all by Brian Dykstra). Recent world premieres include the critically acclaimed ***Born in East Berlin*** by Rogelio Martinez and ***Seared*** by Theresa Rebeck both at San Francisco Playhouse, ***The House*** by Brian Parks (US, London & Scotland), and ***Banned from Baseball*** by Patricia O'Hara (Human Race). Margarett was the resident director at the Kitchen Theatre Company where she has directed over 25 productions. Other recent favorites include ***Shrek the Musical*** (Connecticut Rep), ***Used to Was/Maybe Did*** (Center Theatre Group), ***The Revolutionists*** (Human Race), and ***A Doll's House, Part 2*** (Hudson Stage). During the shutdown, she began exploring watercolor and her work was licensed by the New York Historical Society and was a finalist in 2020 Brush & Lyre Prize. Margarett was an artistic fellow with the Lark for years and considered it her theatrical home base.

www.margarettperry.com

ALĀNA RADER

(Associate Director; she/her)

Alāna Rader is thrilled to be reunited with Team Polishing! She is a Brooklyn-based theater maker/poet & dog mom. Recent directing credits include: Tracy Letts' ***The Minutes*** (Lab Theatre of Florida), Sarah DeLappe's ***The Wolves*** (Cedar Crest College), and assistant director on ***Polishing Shakespeare*** and ***Plotters*** (59E59 & Edinburgh), as well as ***'Tis the Season*** (B Street Theatre). As an actor, favorite roles include Sonya in ***Uncle Vanya*** (Medicine Show), Gertrude in ***Seussical*** (The Fulton), and Helena in ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Colonial Theatre). Much love & gratitude to Margarett & Brian. MFA in Directing, University of Idaho, 2025. Let's connect and collaborate!

www.alanarader.com

TYLER M. PERRY

(Scenic & Lighting Design)

Tyler is an award-winning designer for theater, television, and live events. For Twilight Theatre: ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** (lighting designer). He has designed regionally at theaters including Florida Repertory Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, Axelrod Performing Arts Center, Northern Stage, Ocean State Theatre Company, and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. His work on television has earned Telly Awards and an Emmy nomination, and can be seen on BravoTV, Amazon Sports Network, NBC, Peacock, ABC, Fox Sports 1, and AOPA Live. Tyler is the assistant lighting designer for the 2017 Broadway revival of ***Miss Saigon*** and national tours of ***Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*** and ***Beautiful: The Carole King Musical***.

www.tylermperrydesign.com

ARIANA CARDOZA

(Sound Design)

Ariana Cardoza is a sound designer based in New York City. Previously, her work has been heard at Kitchen Theatre Company (***Laughs in Spanish***, ***Polishing Shakespeare***, ***The Brobot Adventure***), The Brick (***Prisoncore!***), The Cherry Arts Center (***Heroes of the Fourth Turning***), Weathervane Theatre (***Intimate Apparel***, ***The Marvelous Wonderettes***), Ithaca College (***The Trojan Women***), and across the country as the A2 on the ***Annie*** national tour. She is the recipient of The Harry Weininger Sound Fellowship at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2022/23).

www.arianasound.com

MUMBLES DESIGN CO.

(Costume Design)

MuMbles is a design collective providing theatrical design for practical applications on stage and in the real world. Recent design credits include production design for ***Kafka*** and ***A Special Relationship*** (59E59 Brits Off Broadway) and costume design for ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** by John Jiler (59E59) and ***A Special Relationship*** at the Tabard Theatre, London. Other recent designs include scenic design for ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott directed by Margarett Perry (59E59 Brits Off Broadway) and costume design for ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks directed by Margarett Perry & Natalie Tell at Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

CLAIRE CHESNE

(Associate Lighting Design)

Claire Chesne is a lighting designer from Chicago and a recent graduate of Ithaca College with a BFA in Theatre Production and Design. Her recent assistant lighting design work includes ***A Case for the Existence of God*** and ***Letters from Max*** for LD Tyler M. Perry and Cornell's PMA Dance Showcase for Steve TenEyck. Claire is so excited to be working with Tyler again on ***Polishing Shakespeare***!

ANT PRIOLA

(Production Stage Manager)

Ant Priola is a freelance Equity stage manager and multidisciplinary theater artist thrilled to be back at 59E59! Previous credits include: ***The Mistake*** (PSM), ***Gertrude Lawrence*** (PSM), ***A Special Relationship*** (PSM), ***Party?*** (PSM), ***Chesapeake Chicks*** (ASM), and ***Vatican Falls*** (ASM).

TWILIGHT THEATRE CO.

Twilight Theatre Co. is a Co-Op Resident Company of 59E59 Theaters with a mission to develop, workshop, and produce new work and to tell stories that deepen our awareness, encourage compassion, and ignite conversation. Founded by Sturgis Warner in 1998 and now under the artistic leadership of Margarett Perry, Twilight continues its mission to support new work through readings, workshops, and productions. Last season Twilight produced ***Appraisal*** and ***Watson: The Final Problem*** for Brits Off Broadway as well as the sold-out, extended run of ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** by John Jiler at 59E59 directed by Margarett Perry. This season Twilight presented two Brits shows: ***A Special Relationship*** and ***Kafka***. Twilight also produced two sold-out critically acclaimed world premieres at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival: ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra and ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks. Other past highlights included: ***Shortlist*** by Brian Parks (in collaboration with Flying Bridge Theatre in Wales), Ted LoRusso's ***Prelude to the First Day, Suite for Four Actors and Percussionist***, Brian Dykstra's ***A Play on Words***, and ***Palestine*** written and performed by Najla Saïd.

www.twilighttheatrecompany.org

KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY

Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC) is Central New York's Off Broadway theater, creating bold plays in an intimate space, engaging our community and sparking important conversations. Located in a LEED-certified building in Ithaca's historic West End neighborhood, KTC has produced more than 225 plays—including 35 world premieres—since its founding in 1991. Originally established as a space for emerging artists to collaborate and take creative risks, KTC continues to champion new work, uplift underrepresented voices, and connect the stories on our stage to the full breadth of the human experience. Over the years, the company has been shaped by visionary leaders, including founders Matt Tauber and Tim O'Brien, longtime Artistic Director Rachel Lampert, M. Bevin O'Gara, and, most recently, Producing Artistic Director Emily Jackson. Each show we produce, each artist we support, and each audience we welcome reflects our purpose: to create space for dialogue, discovery, and connection. It all culminates in what we believe most deeply: important conversations happen in the Kitchen.

RESIDENT ACTING COMPANY

In 2017, after 33 seasons the celebrated Pearl Theatre Company closed its doors. In response, The Pearl acting company banded together to form The Resident Acting Company. The RAC has produced numerous script-in-hand performances at The Players on Gramercy Park including ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra. They have performed Greek Tragedy for the inmates at Rikers Island and during Covid presented several online events called "Play Dates." In cooperation with the Beckett Estate, they produced a short film of Samuel Beckett's ***Play*** and they commissioned a new digital work from playwright Brian Dykstra, ***Time Passes*** directed by Margarett Perry. They also commissioned a new play by RAC Company Member Chris Mixon titled Carrie Girl, an adaptation of "Sister Carrie" by Theodore Dreiser. The RAC believes theatre is best when created by artists experienced in working together and allied in producing theatre as a company. They believe in the power of ensemble, and a genuine communion with their audience. Upcoming projects include William Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, Fall 2025.

SPECIAL THANKS

Jack W. Batman, Paul & Karen Galleberg, Natalie Tell, Vineyard Theatre, Sturgis Warner.

CURATOR'S NOTE

Last July, I was introduced to this hilarious, should-be-preposterous, show right here at our very own East To Edinburgh Festival. Exactly one year later, after countless rave reviews from productions in Scotland and Upstate NY, we are thrilled to welcome Twilight Theater Company back home.

Author/performer Brian Dykstra is a modern-day Cassandra and with this story he's concocted a prescription that is sure to induce boisterous reactions and had my mind working long after the standing ovation ended. I hope it lands that way for you too!



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO
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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.