Gertrude and Claudius

By
Mark St. Germain

Based on the novel by
John Updike

Featuring
Elijah Alexander    Nick LaMedica    Kate MacCluggage
Douglas Rees    Rocco Sisto    Mary Stout    Greg Thornton

Wig designer: Anne Ford-Coates
Puppet designer: Brandon Hardy
Choreographer: Barbara Allen

Directed by
Julianne Boyd

Sponsored in part by
Hildi and Walter Black & Susan and David Lombard

World premiere commissioned and produced by Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF
Artistic Director Jim Helsinger, Managing Director PJ Albert
Funding generously provided by Rita and John Lowndes

Gertrude and Claudius was workshopped at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in August 2018,
as part of its Words Cubed new play development series.
TIME
ACT I:
Late Medieval, spanning a period of 18 years

ACT II:
Early Renaissance, 12 years later

PLACE
Elsinore, Denmark

CAST
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Gertrude ................................................................................................. Kate MacCluggage*
King Rorik ................................................................................................. Greg Thornton*
King Amleth ............................................................................................... Douglas Rees*
Claudius .................................................................................................. Elijah Alexander*
Herda .......................................................................................................... Mary Stout*
Polonius .................................................................................................. Rocco Sisto*
Hamlet/Yorick ......................................................................................... Nick LaMedica*

STAFF
Production Stage Manager ......................................................................... Geoff Boronda*
Stage Management Interns ...................................................................... Maria De Barros, Ashton Pickering
Assistant Costume Designer ........................................................................ Aidan Griffiths
Master Electrician/Light Board Operator .................................................. Steven Johnson
Sound Engineer ......................................................................................... Eddy Mineishi
Wardrobe Supervisor ................................................................................ Caitie Martin
MTC Understudy ....................................................................................... Sonia Joffe

*Actors and Stage Manager are members of Actors’ Equity Association.
†The Director and Choreographer are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT...

John Updike wrote his novel Gertrude and Claudius in 2000, as a prequel to Hamlet, Shakespeare’s great tragedy. In Hamlet, the ghost of Hamlet’s Father appears and reveals to his son that he was killed by his own brother, Claudius, who was committing an adulterous affair with Hamlet’s Mother, Gertrude. What unfolds is one of the greatest dramas in world literature, a tale of Hamlet’s revenge, culminating with the deaths of Hamlet, Gertrude and Claudius.

Updike offers a vision of what prompted Gertrude and Claudius to fall in love and begin their illicit relationship, an act both knew could result in their deaths. In the novel, we see young Gertrude and what led to her marriage to Amleth, as well as the backstories of Polonius, Hamlet and Yorick — all fated to forever alter the lives of Gertrude and Claudius.

The challenge in adapting Updike’s story is seeing it through a theatrical lens. What works beautifully on the page needs to take on its own vivid life on the stage. While being faithful to Updike’s vision, the play translates the literary into the dramatic. In doing so, we hope Updike’s revelation of the passions within the kingdom of Elsinore find a new audience.

—Mark St. Germain
CAST


NICK LAMEDICA (Hamlet/Yorick) BSC debut. National Tour and Tokyo: War Horse. Off Broadway: The Price of Thomas Scott (Mint). Regional: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time (Regional Premiere, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis/Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); Hand to God (City Theatre Company & Hartford Theatersworks); How I Learned to Drive (Cleveland Play House/Syracuse Stage); As You Like It & Benediction (Denver Center); Much Ado About Nothing (Two River Theater); Romeo & Juliet (Florida Shakespeare Theatre). NY: Titus Andronicus (American Globe Theatre). Film: Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay, Fine China. Television: Mysteries at the Museum, Mysteries at the Castle. BFA: Marymount Manhattan College. NickLaMedica.com


DOUGLAS REES (King Amleth) BSC: West Side Story, The Cake, 10x10 New Play Festival (2016). He has performed at numerous theatres throughout the country, but particularly enjoys being at BSC because it affords him the opportunity to spend the summer at his cabin above Queechy Lake! NYC: many appearances at The Mint Theatre Company and the New York City premiere of Michael Hollinger’s Opus at Primary Stages (having performed in the world premiere at the Arden Theatre in Philadelphia). TV appearances include 30 Rock. As ever, for Janet.
ROCCO SISTO (Polonius) BSC: The Birds, His Girl Friday. Broadway: The King and I, Seminar, To Be or Not To Be, A Month in the Country, The Comedy of Errors. Recent Off Broadway: Julius Ceasar, The Light Years, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, Loot, Volpone, Measure for Measure. Television: Madame Secretary, Bluebloods, Law & Order(s), The Sopranos, CSI, Star Trek TNG. Film: Donnie Brasco, Frequency, Lorenzo's Oil, Eraser, Far and Away, A Bird of the Air and many independent films including the cult hit, The American Astronaut. Awards include three Obie Awards including one for sustained excellence. Drama League Award and Drama Desk Nomination. Student of Peter Kass.

MARY STOUT (Herda) BSC: A Doll's House, Part 2 (Anne-Marie). On Broadway she is best remembered for her work in Jane Eyre and Beauty and the Beast. Mary has many regional credits, film and television, particularly her work on AMC's series Remember Wenn where she played the organist “Eugen Bremer” for four seasons. Other TV: Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, Odd Mom Out and in four episodes of the upcoming season three of Search Party. Thank you Julianne for the opportunity to grow!

GREG THORNTON (King Rorik) BSC debut. He appeared in the world premiere of Gertrude and Claudius at Orlando Shakes. He has worked extensively with many of the Tony Award-winning regional theatres throughout the U.S. He was a resident actor with McCarter Theatre and was an Associate Artist with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He recently completed filming Son of the South, produced by Spike Lee, written and directed by Barry Alexander Brown. He was the Founding Artistic Director of the Cloverdale Playhouse in Montgomery, Alabama, now in its eighth season. He has been a narrator of recorded books for Audible.com.

CREATIVES

musical, *Stand By Your Man*, was created for Nashville’s Ryman Theater and has toured nationally. Mark wrote the children’s book *Three Cups*. He is member of the Dramatists Guild and the Writers Guild East. Mark is also a Founding Board Member of the Barrington Stage Company.

**JOHN UPDIKE** (1932–2009) is the author of over fifty books, including *The Poorhouse Fair*; the Rabbit series (*Rabbit, Run; Rabbit Redux; Rabbit is Rich; Rabbit at Rest*); *Marry Me; The Witches of Eastwick*, which was made into a major feature film; *Memories of the Ford Administration; Brazil; In the Beauty of the Lilies; Toward the End of Time; Gertrude and Claudius;* and *Seek My Face*. He has written a number of collections of short stories, including *The Afterlife and Other Stories* and *Licks of Love*, which includes a final Rabbit story, *Rabbit Remembered*. His essays and criticism first appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*, and are now collected into numerous volumes. His novels, stories and non-fiction collections have won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the American Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Rosenthal Award and the Howells Medal.

**JULIANNE BOYD† (Director)** For bio, see page #12 in Season Playbill.

**BARBARA ALLEN† (Choreography)** is a NYC-based choreographer. She is currently part-time faculty for Barrington Stage’s MTC program. Barbara has served as guest lecturer at Skidmore College and CAL ARTS and Adjunct Professor at Columbia University’s MFA program and NYU – undergraduate Drama. Barbara is a NEA Choreography recipient and SDC associate member.

**GEOFF BORONDA (Production Stage Manager)** BSC: *The Chinese Lady, Typhoid Mary*. New York: *Ain’t No Mo’, Mobile Unit—Romeo & Juliet, Mobile Unit—The Comedy of Errors, Buzzer, Ping Pong, Under the Radar Festival, The Urban Retreat, The Great Immensity, Fortress of Solitude* (The Public Theater); *The Undertaking* (The Civilians); *generations* (Soho Rep). Regional: *Shakespeare in Love, Jazz* (Baltimore Center Stage); *A View from the Bridge* (Center Theatre Group); *Hamlet, A Doctor in Spite of Himself* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *Appropriate* (Westport Country Playhouse). Education: MFA Stage Management from the Yale School of Drama.


**JENNY GIERING (Composer)** just got home from The Orchard Project where she was working on *Alice Bliss* (book by Karen Hartman, lyrics by Adam Gwon), a commission for Playwrights Horizons. In September she heads to Theater Aspen for a showing of her one-woman musical about her journey through chronic illness called *What We Leave Behind*. Jenny
writes incidental scores and musicals and is proud to say Julianne Boyd directed her first professional production at Barrington Stage in 1998. Jenny is delighted to be working with her again after all this time. More info at jennygiering.com.


**LEE SAVAGE (Scenic Designer)** NYC: *Surely Goodness and Mercy* (Keen Company); *Natural Shocks* (Women’s Project); *Somebody’s Daughter* (Second Stage); *Imagining the Imaginary Invalid* (Mabou Mines); *The Lightning Thief* (TheatreworksUSA); *Satchmo at the Waldorf* (Westside); *Muscles in our Toes, Sunset Baby and Thinner Than Water* (Labyrinth); *Rx* (Primary Stages); *All-American* (LCT3); *The Dream of the Burning Boy and Ordinary Days* (Roundabout Underground). REGIONAL: ACT, Asolo Rep, Baltimore Centerstage, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chautauqua, Dallas Theater Center, Glimmerglass, Goodman, Guthrie, Huntington, Long Wharf, Old Globe, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature, PlayMakers, Trinity Rep, Two River, Washington National Opera, Wilma, Yale Rep and others. AWARDS:
PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES TO THE SEASON PROGRAM

Head of Maintenance ................................................................. Joe Gunn
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Casting Assistant ................................................................. Nathan Francis
Community Engagement Coordinator ......................... Sharron Frazier-McClain
Master Carpenter/Deck Chief ........................................... William Sexton
Artistic/Literary Intern ......................................................... Gabriel Walker
Production Assistants ......................................................... Christina Briggs, Jared Whitman

Helen Hayes, NAACP and Connecticut Critics Circle. AFFILIATIONS: Wingspace Theatrical Design. EDUCATION: MFA (Yale School of Drama) and BFA (Rhode Island School of Design).

SARA JEAN TOSETTI (Costume Designer) BSC: West Side Story, Company, Ragtime, Much Ado About Nothing, American Son, His Girl Friday. Opera: Salome (LA Opera), Xerxes, Cato in Utica (Glimmerglass), Radamisto (Juilliard), Carmen, Orpheus in the Underworld, Cendrillon (Central City Opera), As One (BAM). Theatre: A Flea in Her Ear (Westport Country Playhouse), 'Tis Pity She's a Whore (Duke), The Maids (Red Bull Theatre), Loot (Lortel), The Winter's Tale (ISF), Manuscript (Daryl Roth), The Heart of Robin Hood, The Rivals, Richard III, The Tempest (Hudson Valley Shakespeare festival). Dance: Phoenix Rising (New Victory), Sediment (Jacob's Pillow). Awards: Princess Grace Pierre Cardin Design Award, Bel Geddes Design Award. MFA NYU Tisch School of the Arts. sarajeantosetti.com

MCCORKLE CASTING LTD; PAT MCCORKLE, KATJA ZAROLINSKI (Casting) (C.S.A.) Casting actors for Barrington Stage for 17 years. Pat McCorkle is pleased to be an Associate Artist at BSC. Broadway: Over 50 productions including On the Town, Amazing Grace, End of the Rainbow, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Amadeus, She Loves Me, A Few Good Men. Off Broadway: highlights — Clever Little Lies; Sheer Madness; Tribes; Our Town (Barrow Street); Freud’s Last Session; Toxic Avenger; Almost, Maine; Driving Miss Daisy. Feature film: Premium Rush, Ghost Town, The Thomas Crown Affair, Die Hard with a Vengeance, School Ties, etc. Television: Twisted, St. George, Sesame Street, Hack, Californication, Max Bickford, Chappelle’s Show, Strangers with Candy, Barbershop, etc. mccorklecasting.com

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**WHAT THEY DID FOR LOVE WITH MARK ST. GERMAIN**

Discussion will focus on John Updike’s *Gertrude and Claudius* and the leading characters risking all for passion.

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