

VORTEX Repertory Company
presents

LEAR

May 20-June 18, 2011

Adapted from Shakespeare and
Directed by Rudy Ramirez

Scenic Design by
Ann Marie Gordon

Lighting Design by
Jason Amato

Video and Sound Design by
Sergio R. Samayoa

Original Music by
Datri Bean, The Inheritance,
The Love Leighs, and Luna Tart

Costume Design by
Pam Fletcher Friday

Makeup Design by
Amelia Turner

Hair Design by
Andréa Smith

Fight Choreography by
Toby Minor

Prop Design by
Helen Parish

Producing Artistic Director
Bonnie Cullum

LEAR CAST

Lear	Jennifer Underwood
Goneril	Andréa Smith
Regan	Jennifer Coy
Cordelia	Suzanne Balling
Fool	Shannon Grounds
Kent	Julianna Elizabeth Wright
Edmund	Micah Goodding
Gloucester	Mick D'arcy
Edda	Amelia Turner
Albany	Toby Minor
Cornwall	Tom Truss
Oswald/Ensemble	Trey Deason
Ensemble/France	David J. Boss
Ensemble/Burgundy	Joseph Garlock
Ensemble/Lear's Gentlewoman	Laura Ray
Ensemble/Curan	Mindy Rast
Ensemble/Doctor	Chelsea Manasseri

•There will be two 10-minute intermissions•

*Food and drink from The Butterfly Bar are
allowed in the theatre. The Bar is open 5pm-
Midnight every night (closed Tuesdays).*

*Please NO photography, recording, or texting.
Please turn off phones and electronics.*

Warning: Strobe and Haze effects.

LEAR

Stage Manager

Tamara L. Farley

Assistant Stage Manager

Michael Massey

Crew

Jennifer Fielding

Christen Perez

Assistant Lighting Designer

Patrick Anthony

Poster Design

Jennifer Davis

Poster Photography

Maureen Martinez

Scenic Construction

Ann Marie Gordon, Andy Agne, Elaine Jacobs,
Casey Smith, Jonathon Thomas, April Bingham,
Jessica WebsterLove, Daniel Pfaff, Steven Fay,
Tamara L. Farley

Costume Construction

Pam Fletcher Friday

Electrics

Patrick Anthony, Jason Amato, Pedro Alexander

*This production is dedicated, in loving memory, to
Dr. Janet Adelman, Shakespeare scholar and
cherished mentor.*

*"As long as you're teaching, I'm going to be happy,
and doing theatre counts as teaching."*

Rudy Ramirez (Director) - *The History of the Garden* (Rhizome Collective, 2003), *Getting Off: Stories of Sexuality and Consent* (Rhizome, 2004), *The Emma Goldman Project* (Radical Encuentro, 2007), *Luna Tart Died* (Frontera Long Fringe 2008), *The 999 Eyes Freak Show* (2008 Tour), *Wheels of Wonderland* (Austin Bike Zoo, 2009), "Cardigan" (Frontera Short Fringe 2010, Best of Week), "Spit" (Frontera Short Fringe 2010, Wild Card Selection), *An Oddity Odyssey* (Bike Zoo, 2010), *Cardigan* (Frontera Long Fringe, 2011). Assistant Director: *Dragonfly Queen* (VORTEX 2009), *Sleeping Beauty* (VORTEX 2010). Writer/performer: Spike Gillespie's *The Dick Monologues* (2007-2009), *Promised Land: A Radical Queer Revival* (2009-2010), *Footnotes for People Who Don't Speak Spanish* (2010). Actor: *Food/No Food* ([humdrum collective] 2007), *The Secret Lives of the InBetweeners* (VORTEX, 2009), *Fernando and the Killer Queen* (2009), *Re: Psyche* (2010). Upcoming productions include *The Physicists* (Director, VORTEX Summer Youth, 2011), *Midsummer in Motion* (Director, Bike Zoo, 2011). Thanks beyond measure to Bonnie for this opportunity, and to a glorious cast and crew. I feel truly blessed.

Production Team Bios

Jason Amato (Lighting Designer) - Jason's career has spanned 18 years, designing over 500 local and international shows. He is the resident lighting designer for ZACH, Austin Shakespeare, Blue Lapis Light, and VORTEX Repertory Company. The Austin Critics' Table has honored Jason for outstanding lighting in 25 shows. He has also received B. Iden Payne Awards for his lighting of *Troades*, *Trickster*, *Triskelion*, *Panoptikon*, *Despair's Book of Dreams* and the *Sometime Radio*, and *The Deluge* at The VORTEX and *The Exonerated* and *Omnium-Gatherum* at Zach. In 2002 he was honored with "Best Dazzler" in The Austin Chronicle's Critics' poll. In 2008, Jason received the "Outstanding Contribution to Austin Theater" award from Austin Circle of Theaters. www.jasonamato.com

Bonnie Cullum (Producing Artistic Director) has created and presented over 300 innovative productions for VORTEX Repertory Company and has been inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. She has a long relationship with LEAR, having portrayed Goneril as a teenager, directed *King Lear* for VORTEX in 1991, and now producing Rudy's new version. She earned an MFA in Directing (University of Texas) and a BA in Theatre (University of Kansas). Thrice honored as Austin's Best Director by the Austin Chronicle, Cullum has been nominated for dozens of outstanding directing awards and received B. Iden Payne Awards for Best Director for *Troades: The Legend of the Women of Troy*, *Moby Dick*, and *Despair's Book of Dreams* and the *Sometimes Radio*. She is internationally recognized for her experimental productions and her advocacy of cutting-edge artists.

Pam Fletcher Friday (Costume Designer) Hill Country Middle School drama teacher by day, costumer by night. Her award-winning costumes have been seen on stages throughout Austin and Texas. Pam is excited to be working with the LEAR company. Next up is *Frog and Toad* with Summerstock Austin, followed by *Sarah Silverhands* with the vortex. Lots of love and gratitude to my ever growing family. Keep supporting the arts in education! xoxox

Ann Marie Gordon (Scenic Designer) has a BFA in Painting from the University of Texas and has been the resident scenic designer for VORTEX Repertory Company since 1997. She received B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Scenic Design for VORTEX's *Sleeping Beauty*, *St. Enid and the Black Hand*, *The Deluge*, and *Despair's Book of Dreams* and the *Sometimes Radio*. She also designed the scenery for dozens of other world premiere VORTEX productions including *The Elementals: AIR*, *Oceana*, *Trickster*, *Vampyress*, *Wake for the Dark Poet*, *Dark Goddess*, *The X&Y Trilogy*, and *Elytra*, as well as numerous Summer Youth Theatre productions.

Sergio R. Samayoa (Video and Sound Design) wrote original music and sound design for over 50 theatre shows as VORTEX company member between 1990 and 2000 and won several awards for best sound design including the B. Iden Payne First Choice Award and the Austin Critics' Table award. Other credits include original music for Ariel Dance Theatre and original composition and video as a guest artist at McNeese State University. Sergio worked for Nemesys Music Technology, now Tascam, and was on the development team for the industry standard software sampler Gigastudio. He toured the world as a product specialist showing the software at trade shows from Los Angeles to Frankfurt, Germany. Sergio moved to NYC in 2001 where he came to work closely with most of the top composers in the New York City area and has been closely involved with productions including the YugiOh movie and the Lizzie McGuire movie and several national commercials. Since returning to Austin a few years ago, he has co-written, produced, and performed in the 2009 production of *SPACEMAN.DADA.ROBOT*, *IN.CAR.NATION*, *SURFIN' UFO*, and *Planet of the Mermaids* with the Electronic Planet Ensemble and created original video for the ethos' *XEPHYRA*.

Cast Bios

Suzanne Balling (Cordelia) - Suzanne returns to The VORTEX after playing the 13th Faery in last spring's production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Other Austin roles include Rosie in *Humble Boy*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Doris in *Dead White Males* (2010 B. Iden Payne and Austin Theater Examiner nominations), Mom/Penny in *The Long Now*, Maryamma in *Miss Witherspoon* (2009 B. Iden Payne award), and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*.

David J. Boss (France/Ensemble) - While at UT, David trained with the Shakespeare at Winedale program where he played such parts as Falstaff (ii *Henry IV*), Duke Vincentio (*Measure for Measure*), and Cornwall (*King Lear*). Over the past three years, he has worked year-round with many theater companies in Austin. He is a regular performer with Austin Shakespeare seen most recently as Antonio (*The Tempest*) and has collaborated on more than one occasion with Breaking String as Volodya (*Flying*) and Yasha (*The Cherry Orchard*).

Jennifer Coy (Regan) - Jennifer is a two-time B. Iden Payne award nominee and Shakespeare at Winedale alumnus. She most recently appeared in *The Elementals: Air* with VORTEX Repertory and Trey Deason's *Cardigan* for FronteraFest. She has also worked with City Theatre, NXNW Theatre Company, and the Georgetown Palace. In other words, she has spent her entire career trying to bury her East Texas twang under proper diction, sacred texts, and iambic pentameter. Eternal love and gratitude to this extraordinary cast- loveyoumeanit!

Mick D'arcy (Gloucester) - Mick is a long-time VORTEX Company member. Favorite roles include Travis Flood in *A Ghost From A Perfect Place*, Cyrano de Bergerac in the same, Maurice in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and John Wayne Gacy in *Killers*. He has received six B. Iden Payne nominations and one Critics' Table nomination.

Trey Deason (Oswald/Ensemble) - Trey last appeared at The VORTEX in *The Secret Lives of the Inbetweeners* (B. Iden Payne Nomination, Best Supporting Actor). Other recent acting credits include *Hamlet* (Osric- Black Swan Productions), *An Inspector Calls* (Different Stages), and in his own original play, *Cardigan*. It's nice to take a walk in the rain.

Joseph Garlock (Burgundy/Ensemble) - Joseph is making his VORTEX debut in *Lear*. Most recently, he performed in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Present Company Theatre. Other credits include *Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Henry V*, *Pippin*, *West Side Story*, and *Angels in America*. All love and thanks to Perckle and a defiant shake of the fist to Jim Michael Verda, his arch-nemesis.

Micah Goodding (Edmund) - Micah Goodding has been active in the arts for nearly ten years as a puppeteer, director, educator and classically trained actor. His students have performed at state competitions. He has acted with Texas Shakespeare Festival and in national commercials. Recently he filmed a documentary in India. He holds a double Bachelor's in Theatre & Art from SFASU. In August, Micah will be attending the East 15 Acting Conservatoire in London. He credits all of the above to Mom and Dad and Him.

Shannon Grounds (Fool) - Shannon is the Producing Artistic Director of Shrewd Productions, a core company member of Hyde Park Theatre, and an alumnus of Austin Shakespeare. Recent credits include *MilkMilkLemonade*, *Feast of Fools* and *The Long Now* with Shrewd Productions, *69 Love Scenes with Gnap!* Theatre, *God's Ear* with Biophilic Productions, *As You Like It* for Scottish Rite Theatre, and a couple of stints on the popular website Project Rant. Other Shakespearean credits include Viola in *Twelfth Night* for Scottish Rite, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus* for Austin Shakespeare, Margaret and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* for Austin Shakespeare and The Company, respectively, Phebe in *As You Like It* for Zach Scott, Cordelia in *King Lear* and Marianna in *Measure for Measure*. Shannon has received multiple B. Iden Payne, Austin Critics' Table and Austin Theatre Examiner nominations/awards for her work. Her next project will be *Thirst: a spell for Christabel* coming to the Long Center this Fall.

Chelsea Manasseri (Ensemble) - Chelsea Manasseri is no stranger to the VORTEX stage. You may recognize her from the 2010 productions of *Sleeping Beauty* (Yyola the Magician) and *Vampyress* (King Matthias). Locally, Chelsea has performed with The Gilbert & Sullivan Society, The Georgetown Palace Theatre, and Sam Bass Theatre, just to name a few. In 2009 Chelsea graduated from Michigan's Oakland University with a BA in Musical Theatre. While at OU, Chelsea performed in a wide range of musicals and plays, including *Chekhov in Yalta* (Masha Chekhov), *A Year with Frog & Toad* (Mouse), and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, in which her performance as Lily Ann Green earned her an Irene Ryan Award nomination. Lots of love and thanks to my wonderful VORTEX family and friends!

Toby Minor (Albany) - Toby received his B.A. training from NMSU. He is a certified Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), and a black belt Ninja, and has choreographed fights for various shows and films around town, including *Hamlet* with Black Swan Productions. Toby has also had roles in *A Brilliant Revolution* with Debutantes and Vegabonds, and *Spirits to Enforce with Cap T* as well as a few student films. Toby is represented by DVA Talent.

Mindy Rast (Ensemble) - This is Mindy's ninth production at The VORTEX, the past six being as a company member. She won an ensemble B. Iden Payne for *Troades*, and her latest credits include *Planet of the Mermaids* (Merra), *Vampyress* (Darvulia), and the non-Vortex production *The Story Seekers* (General). Continually acting around town, Mindy has branched into voice work, receiving Parcec nominations for *Batman: The Ace of Detectives* and *The Frequency of Fear*. She gives love to her fiancé, Drake, who continues to amaze her.

Laura Ray (Ensemble) - Laura Ray is excited and grateful to be a part of this fantastic production. Recent show credits include The Assistant in *Cardigan* by Trey Deason (directed by Rudy Ramirez), as well as Mary Warren in *The Crucible* and Agnes in *Agnes of God* at The City Theatre Company. Laura would like to say a special thank you to her parents, Brandon, Lisa, and Heath for their continual love and support.

Cast Bios

Andréa Smith (Goneril) - Andréa has been an actor, director, producer and choreographer in Austin for the past decade, and is a seven time B. Iden Payne award nominee. Favorite credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Midsummer* (Titania), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Chris), *Arcadia* (Hannah), *Fame* (Mabel), *Hamlet* (Player Queen), *Mister Z Loves Company* (Naughty Maid), *Sleeping Beauty* (Chief of Staff/Felune), and as set designer and director for SYFT's, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*.

Tom Truss (Cornwall) - Tom returned to school in 2007 to obtain an MFA in acting from the University of Texas at Austin. Before attending UT he had a twenty year career as a dancer that included touring nationally and internationally with the Liz Lerman/Dance Exchange, various companies, and as a solo artist. He also created and directed his own dance company, became certified as a teacher of the Alexander Technique and obtained an MFA in dance from the University of Iowa. Prior to his career in dance he graduated from the College of Wooster with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance. Tom received the Austin Critics Table award as best actor, been nominated for a B Iden Payne and was honored with the examiner.com best featured actor award last year.

Amelia Turner (Edda) - Amelia is a theater practitioner who heralds from Shreveport, LA and moved to Austin after graduating with a BA in Theater from the College of Santa Fe in 2008. She is the artistic director and founder of Biophilic Productions, as well as a professional makeup artist and film actor. Creative endeavors from the last year include *God's Ear*, *Peter and the Wolf* (most recently along side dysTheatre's production of *Duck Variations: Reducks*), and a workshop Biophilic's original rock opera, *The Eye Inside* (full production coming to Chicago, IL in October 2011). You may also have seen her in Clay Liford's feature film *Earthling*, and be sure to look for her in Ryan Harper Gray's upcoming feature, *This is a Love Story*. Despite all the producing and directing, her heart belongs to Shakespeare, and is eternally grateful to Rudy, Bonnie, and the cast and crew of *Lear* for the chance to tell "the most piteous tale of Lear...that ever ear received." Also, she loves you! YES! YOU!

Jennifer Underwood (Lear) - Jennifer's most recent roles were that of Flora Humble in *Humble Boy* and Esther in *Mornings at Seven*. Other roles include Grace Ann in *The Carpetbagger's Children*, the title role in *Miss Witherspoon*, Mrs. Venable in *Suddenly Last Summer*, Lotte Shoen in *Lettuce and Lovage*, Queen Elizabeth I in *The Beard of Avon*, Catherine Petkoff in *Arms and the Man*, Mrs. Siezmagraff in *Betty's Summer Vacation* (B. Iden Payne award for outstanding actress in a comedy), the title role in *The House Of Bernarda Alba*, Gertie in *Fuddy Meers*, Mrs. Dudgeon in *The Devil's Disciple*, Kate in *The Cripple of Inishmann*, Kate in *All My Sons*, Norma in *The Misses Overbeck*, the Duchess in *The Casket of Passing Fancy*, (Austin Critics Table Award for Outstanding Acting in a Leading Role), Mag in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, (B. Iden Payne for Outstanding Cast Performance), Mother Miriam Ruth in *Agnes of God*, Kate in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Vera in *Auntie Mame*, Sis in *Queen of Bingo*, Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Melissa in *Love Letters*, Bessie in *Marvin's Room*, Elizabeth in *The Petition*, Betty in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon-Marigolds*, and Evie in *The Gingerbread Lady*.

Julianna Elizabeth Wright (Kent) - Julie has been actively involved in the Austin Theatre Community for almost a decade. She currently holds the position of Theatre Director at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. Julie is also Chair of the B. Iden Payne Committee and has received multiple Payne nominations in categories that include Outstanding Performer in a Play for Youth, Outstanding Director of a Play for Youth, Outstanding Original Script, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy, and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama. Julie is a writer, director, producer, actor, designer, educator, music lover, and mom to her Chihuahua, Zoe.



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VORTEX Mission

- to create and present new and innovative performances
- to transgress conventional theatrical forms
- to cultivate new relationships between artists and audiences
- to generate new audiences through outreach
- to foster educational programming
- to anchor The VORTEX, a dynamic and cherished home for the arts of the 21st Century

Board of Directors

Paula Gilbert, Bonnie Cullum, Suzanne McAnna, Gerrell Moore, Edna Parra, Yvonne Oaks, Emily Fleming-Nash

About VORTEX

- Incorporated 1988
- Artist-owned and operated year-round Cultural Arts Center
- Founder of East Austin Live
- Produced more than 300 different productions since 1988
- Revered around the world as a haven for alternative performance
- Local and national leaders in creating and presenting world premieres, cutting-edge plays, ritual theatre, musical theatre, and opera
- Tuition-free Summer Youth Theatre since 1991
- ADA-Accessible Facility
- ASL-Interpreted Performances
- Audio Described Performances
- Sliding Scale Tickets
- Café with antique bar—Beer, Wine, Food
- Beautiful, breezy Yard and Deck for productions and events
- Salons and Workshops develop artists and new work
- Color-blind casting
- Generating discourse about the issues of our time
- Strong, dedicated company of resident artists
- Dozens of Awards, hundreds of nominations for excellence
- VORTEX has always recycled!