

Shakespeare in the Ruff Visual Story
Welcome!

Portia's Julius Caesar

Visual Story for visitors at the Relaxed/Live Captioned Performances
Tuesday, August 21st at 7:30 pm and Tuesday, August 28th at 7:30 pm

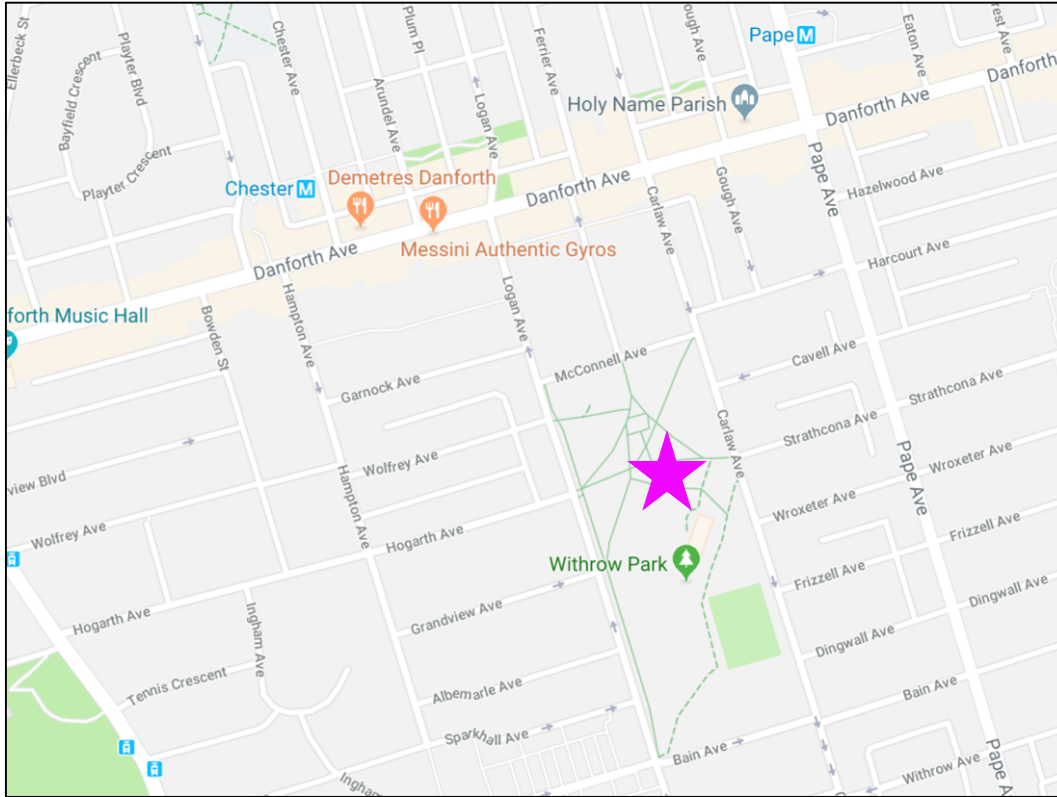
Shakespeare in the Ruff

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Withrow Park

The show is being performed in Withrow Park, which is located at Logan Avenue just south of Danforth Avenue. The address of the park is 725 Logan Avenue, Toronto. The ★ marks the performance location



The closest subway stop to Withrow Park is Chester Station. If you are walking there, once you get out of the subway, head south on Chester Avenue towards Danforth Avenue. Turn left on Danforth Avenue. Turn right onto Logan Avenue, and the address of the park is 725 Logan Avenue.

Withrow Park

Here are photos of the park if you enter from Logan Ave.



Front of House

There is a Front of House area where you can make donations. Here is what our Front of House looks like:



Front of House

Ushers are people who guide you to your seat. Our ushers wear ruffs so you can find them easily. Here is a picture of an usher:



Washrooms

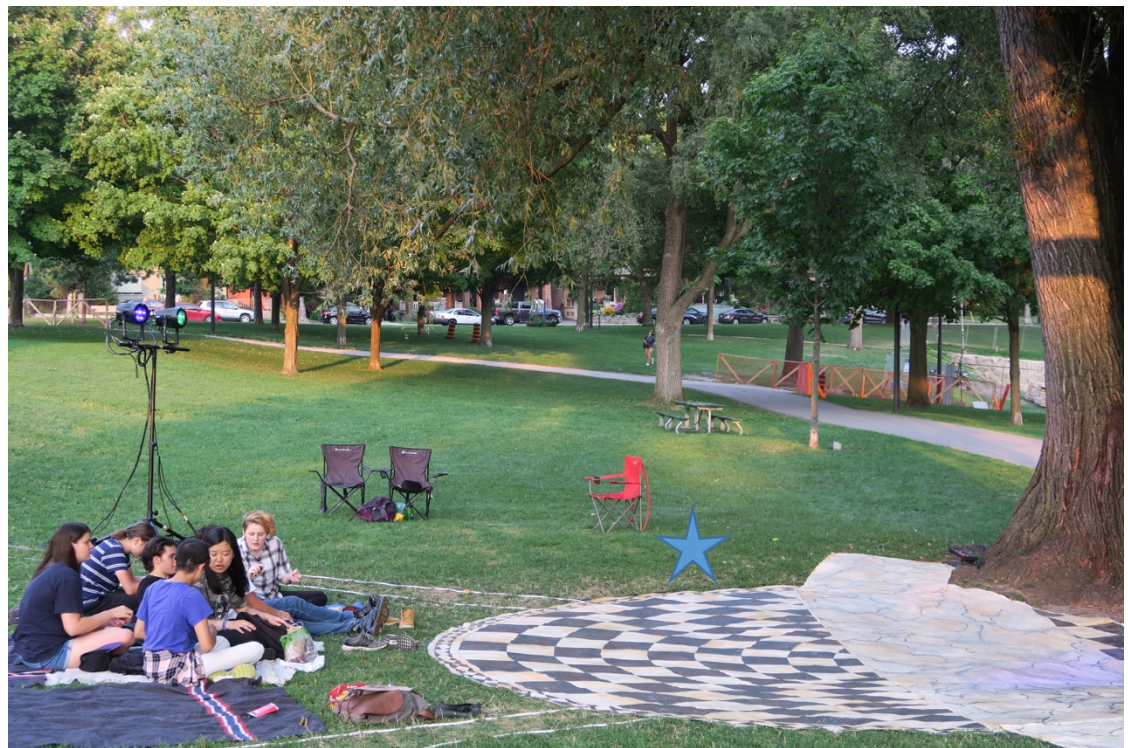
There is an accessible washroom in the park, just north of our performance area that is open until 10pm. It's the building with green and yellow columns.



Screen and Mobility Devices

A screen will be available for audience members who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Audience members can reserve a spot in front of the screen in advance by email FOH@shakespeareintheruff.com. ASL greeters will help you find your seat.

We will reserve a seating area for people with mobility devices, and will hold the space until 7:15pm each night. The grassy seating area can be somewhat uneven, so people using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters or walkers will have to go slowly and exercise caution, as they would in any city park. Our front-of-house staff will be happy to assist you to safely find a comfortable spot.



About the Show

How long is the show? The show is 1 hour and 53 minutes long.

Quiet area(s) of the park: There are picnic tables scattered all around the park. If you need a quiet moment feel free to sit at any of them.

Here is a picture of one of the park's picnic tables:



Our Stage

The show is being performed under two big trees. This is a picture of the stage for Portia's Julius Caesar.



Audience Seating

We perform outside so we do not have official seats. People bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. We have audience seating all around the stage. This is the area where you will be sitting during the performance.



Meet the Performers

Christine (Horne) plays Portia



Meet the Performers

Nikki (Duval) plays Calpurnia



Calpurnia

Meet the Performers

Jeff (Yung) plays Caesar and a Washer Woman Vera



Julius Caesar



Vera

Meet the Performers

Adriano (Sobretudo Jr.) plays Brutus and a Washer Woman Esther



Brutus



Esther

Meet the Performers

Deb (Drakeford) plays Servilia



Meet the Performers

Giovanni (Spina) plays Mark Antony and a Washer Woman Jurtha



Meet the Performers

Kwaku (Okyere) plays Cassius and a Washer Woman Cecilia



Meet the Performers

Tahirih (Vejdani) plays a Soothsayer, Casca, and Cleopatra



Meet the Performers

Troy (Sarju) plays a Roman Chorus Member



Sienna (Singh) plays a Roman Chorus Member



Jahnelle (Jones-Williams) plays a Roman Chorus Member



Meet the Stage Manager(s)

Tamara Vuckovic
Stage Manager



Amelia Blaine
Assistant Stage Manager



***NOTE: These people work behind the audience so you will not see them onstage.**

Meet our Greeters

Before the show, Kaitlyn will be giving an introductory speech with an ASL interpreter.

Here's a picture of Kaitlyn.



About the Story

- The story is all about **Portia**.
- **Portia** is married to a senator named **Brutus**. Her best friend is **Calpurnia** who is married to **Caesar**. **Caesar** is trying to become the King of Rome.
- **Portia** has a baby son, while **Calpurnia** has been trying to have a child for a long time now.
- **Servilia** is **Brutus**' mother and mother-in-law to senator **Cassius**. She doesn't like her daughter-in-law **Portia** very much.
- **Servilia** and **Cassius** plot to convince **Brutus** to assassinate **Caesar** with the help of several co-conspirators so that **Caesar** does not become King.
- **Cassius** convinces **Brutus** to help commit **Caesar**'s murder, and **Portia** overhears their plot.
- **Portia** goes to her friend **Calpurnia** and tells her that she had a dream in which she saw blood spouting from a statue of **Caesar** in which the conspirators that murdered him are bathing their hands in.
- **Calpurnia** asks **Portia** if she saw who the conspirators were in her dream, and she says she didn't.
- **Calpurnia** adopts **Portia**'s dream as her own and warns **Caesar** not to go to the Senate House that day for she fears that something bad will happen to him.
- **Caesar** doesn't listen to **Calpurnia** and he goes anyway.

About the Story

- **Caesar** is murdered by the conspirators including **Brutus** and **Cassius** at the Senate House (we do not see this happen onstage).
- **Calpurnia** finds out that **Portia** knew along who the men who wanted to kill **Caesar** were. She is very upset with **Portia** over this, and **Calpurnia** vows to avenge **Caesar's** death as long as she lives.
- **Brutus** and **Caesar's** friend **Marc Antony**, each give a eulogy for **Caesar** to the citizens of Rome.
- The citizens are won over by **Marc Antony's** speech and because of it are convinced that **Caesar** was a good man. The Romans then turn against **Brutus**.
- **Brutus** flees Rome immediately, leaving **Portia** on her own.
- **Portia** goes to get her baby from **Servilia**, who reveals to **Portia** that her baby has been taken away to safety without her. **Servilia** refuses to tell **Portia** where the baby is.
- **Vera**, a servant, enters with news that the carriage carrying the baby has been attacked and everyone in it killed. (we do not see this happen onstage).
- In her grief, **Portia** swallows fire and dies. (we do not see this happen onstage).

Character Tree with Pictures

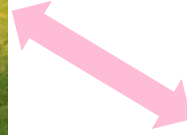
This is **Portia**. She just had a baby.



Portia is married to **Brutus**



Servilia is **Brutus'** mother.



Cassius is **Brutus'** friend



Casca is **Cassius'** friend



Portia is best friends with **Calpurnia**

Brutus is good friends with **Caesar**



Calpurnia is married to **Julius Caesar**



Marc Antony is **Caesar's** friend



About the Characters

- This story is about **Portia**. **Portia** is married to **Brutus**. They have a newborn son. She wants peace in Rome.
- **Brutus** is a friend of **Julius Caesar's**; he is the son of **Servilia**. He loves **Caesar** but does not want him to be king. Sometimes **Portia** and **Servilia** call **Brutus**: "**Marcus**".
- **Servilia** doesn't like **Portia**, but **Portia** wants to be friends with **Servilia**. **Servilia** doesn't like **Caesar** because she thinks he wants to be king. She wants **Caesar** to be killed.
- **Cassius** is **Brutus'** friend and **Servilia's** son-in-law. He also wants **Caesar** to be killed.
- **Casca** is friends with **Cassius** and spends time with **Marc Antony**. She also doesn't like **Caesar**.
- **Metellus Cimber**, **Trebonius**, and **Cinna** are friends with **Cassius** and don't like **Caesar**.
- **Julius Caesar** wants to be king. He is married to **Calpurnia**. They do not have any children, but want to have a baby.
- **Calpurnia's** best friend is **Portia**.
- **Marc Antony** is a loyal friend of **Caesar's**. He wants what is best for **Caesar**.
- **Cleopatra** is the Queen of Egypt and is a good friend of **Caesar's**. She gave birth to **Caesar's** baby.
- A **Soothsayer** warns **Caesar** of signs of tragedy.
- **Esther**, **Vera**, **Cecilia**, and **Jurtha** are all washer women (servants) and are friends.

The Set and Performers

Here are all of the performers on the set



About the Show

Things to look out for:

- Members of the **Roman Chorus** play a **triangle** sometimes. The **triangle** means that the **baby is crying**. **The baby is not real** though– it is a **big bag of rice** made to be about the same size as a baby.
- **Drums** are played at various times throughout the show. The actors playing **the drums move around**, sometimes you can see them onstage, sometimes they are around the outskirts.
- In one scene in the middle of the play, **lightning** is created with **lights flashing** and **drums** create **thunder**.
- During the show, actors **enter the stage** through various designated areas. They enter between the trees, just in front of the two trees, or through **two paths through the audience** designated by **white ropes**. They never enter through unmarked paths in the audience itself.
- Fairly early in the play there is a **street festival** called the Lupercal. In this scene, there are some **instruments** being played onstage, but there is also quite a bit of **shouting**. There is also one actor **shouting from behind the audience** once everyone else is onstage.

About the Show

More things to look out for:

- In the show there is sometimes **yelling** and **crying** – but the actors are not really angry at each other or hurting each other, **they are acting**. And even though some of the **characters** die in the story, you can see that all of the actors are fine at curtain call.
- Once a **character is killed** in the story they **return onstage** in slightly different clothing with the Roman Chorus to **represent their spirit**.
- Some actors play different characters, and sometimes wear **different costumes**. A costume is the name of the clothes that actors wear on stage.
- We are in an open space, so most often the actors **change costumes behind the audience**, but sometimes they change off to the side.

These People Created the Show

Written by **Kaitlyn Riordan** and **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Eva Barrie**

Produced by **Kate Walker**

Set and Costume Design by **Rachel Forbes**

Lighting Design by **Jareth Li**

Sound Design by **Mickey Rodriguez**

Stage Management by **Tamara Vuckovic**

David Costello, Production Manager

Andrew Joseph Richardson, Dramaturge

Elizabeth Morris, Deaf Community Consultant

Nicole Smieja, Marketing Intern

THANK YOU to Autism Ontario for helping to make this production more accessible,
and for guiding Shakespeare in the Ruff in hosting relaxed performances!

