



Scenes from
The Book of Will

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON



CELEBRATING THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SHAKESPEARE FOLIO



THE BOOK OF WILL BY LAUREN
GUNDERSON WAS ORIGINALLY
COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED
AT THE DENVER CENTER THEATRE
COMPANY - A DIVISION OF THE
DENVER CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS (KENT
THOMPSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR).
SUBSEQUENT ROLLING WORLD
PREMIERE PRODUCED BY
HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL, GARRISON, NEW YORK
(DAVIS MCCALLUM, ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR; KATE LIBERMAN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR).

THESE SCENES FROM
THE BOOK OF WILL
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RECORDING OF THIS
PERFORMANCE BY ANY
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SCENES FROM THE BOOK OF WILL

PROGRAM	SCENES
Introduction by Lee Bebout - ASU English Professor and Director - Literature Program	SCENE 1 - The Pub SCENE 2 - The Globe
Playwright, Lauren Gunderson on "The Book of Will" video presentation	SCENE 3 - The Pub SCENE 4 - The Pub
Performance of Scenes from "The Book of Will"	SCENE 5 - The Pub SCENE 6 - The Print Shop
Q&A	SCENE 7 - The Pub

CAST



Amie Bjorklund (Henry Condell/Teaching Artist) - is a recent graduate from ASU Dept of English with her MAS: Film and Media Studies. She also holds her MA: Acting the British Tradition from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in Birmingham, UK. She is an adjunct professor with ASU, GCU, and Maricopa Colleges where she teaches acting, film history, theatre history, voice & movement, and dramaturgical studies. A professional actress, Amie's AZ credits include The Phoenix Theater Company, Southwest Shakespeare, Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, The Bridge Initiative (also Co-Artistic Director/Board member), Hale Theater and Don Bluth Front Row Theater. She also performs throughout the United States and the UK. In addition, Amie is a director, fight choreographer and props designer, as well as serving as a committee member on the Education and the Equity and Equality committees with the Shakespeare Theater Association (STA). Amie is passionate about the arts as a powerful motivator for social change with education at its heart.



Ireland Blim (Elizabeth Condell) - is a Phoenix native and self-proclaimed desert rat. She is currently a senior and will obtain her Business Law degree from ASU in December. This is her first play in a while, but she's excited to give it a shot again!

Previous credits from High School: *The Music Man* (Ethel) and *Seussical, The Musical* (A Who). When not a student at ASU, she waitresses and sings in her church choir. She has taken Shakespeare classes and feels as if Shakespeare has followed her everywhere - so it is only fitting to be in this play! She would like to thank God, her family, friends and all the people who have encouraged her. She believes that no matter who you are you can do whatever you want if you apply yourself and give your all.



Breona Conrad (John Heminges/Teaching Artist) - is a multi-faceted theatre practitioner working with many AZ companies such as Stray Cat, BLK BOX PHX, Southwest Shakespeare, Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, Bridge Initiative (board and company member), Don Bluth Front Row

Theatre, and Ronin Theatre. She holds a BA in Acting from Indiana-Purdue and her mastery of Shakespearean Original Practice in performance from Bill Kincaid (author of: *Performing Shakespeare Unrehearsed: A Practical Guide to Acting and Producing Spontaneous Shakespeare*). When not on stage, Breona works as a Teaching Artist with East Valley Children's Theatre, ASU Gammage High School Musical Theatre Awards, and Disney Musicals in Schools, as well as a private studio for voice and acting students. Notable credits include: Puck, Katherina, Beatrice, Dromio of Ephesus, Lady M, and Phoebe as well as Whatsername (*American Idiot*, *Stray Cat*), *Truvy* (*Steel Magnolias*, Don Bluth Front Row Theatre), and *Katherine* (*The Taming*, *Class 6*).



Alyssa Figuedergo (Alice) -

is a graduate of Raymond S. Kellis High School where she played the Voicer Picker in *iBocón!*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Matilda in *Matilda the Musical*. Alyssa took

theater classes in high school and received training from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Summer Acting Intensive. Alyssa is a current ASU student majoring in Medical Studies. She would like to thank her mom and siblings for their love and support, her choir teacher Mrs. Bell, and her theater teacher Ms. Triveline for always believing in her.



Mary Beth Hollmann (Ben Jonson) -

is a Program Manager for the ASU English Department - Literature Area, Production Director, a bardolator, and a sometimes actor.

She holds a BA/MA in English. She also has a Graduate Technical Communications certificate from ASU. Recent work: *Lady Clapham* (*Something Rotten*), *Jack's Mom* (*Into the Woods*) at Desert Stages. Favorite credits: *Hamlet/R&G are Dead* (Gertrude); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania/Hippolyta); *Richard III* (Duchess/Rivers/Catesby); *Pippin* (Berthe); *9 to 5* (Violet); *Children's Hour* (Lily); *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser);

Nunsense and Nuncrackers (Mother Regina), The Odd Couple (Director), Acting on Intuition (Film). "Thanks, thanks and ever thanks" to Jonathan Hope for the conversation that led to this event, Lee Bebout, Kristen LaRue, Ashley Sorensen, Bruce Matsunaga, the entire Literature Area faculty, Jim Salisbury, David Jinks, the amazing cast and everyone at the English Department for their support. Huzzah!!



Venus Kapadia (Isaac) -

is an ASU student currently pursuing a BS in Biological Sciences, a BS in Neuroscience and a BA in English Literature. She is also applying to medical school. She will next be seen as Albiene in *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing*, in her ASU acting class. She would like to thank the entire cast, ASU and her parents.



Pamela Lang (Ed Knight) -

received her BA in English Literature from ASU, where she is currently a graduate student in Comparative Literature. Although this is her first foray into acting, she has had experience speaking to audiences as a public education advocate. She is currently working on creating a theatre camp where autistic and disabled kids can work with their typical peers to discover the magic of performance. As an avid romance reader turned author, she is also writing several story lines featuring older characters (they fall in love too!). She would like to thank Aiya, first and always; Breona, Amie and Mary Beth for giving her this opportunity and sharing their time, expertise and energy. And, of course, thanks to William Shakespeare and the people who preserved his work for posterity.



Raini St. John (Rebecca Heminges/William Jaggard)-

is very excited to be a part of this amazing celebration of history. Recent work: *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (Sylvie) at Mesa Encore Theatre; *It's A Wonderful Life* (Cousin Tilly/Annie) and *Camelot* (Lady Margaret) at Don Bluth Front Row Theater, and *Once Upon A Mattress* (Lady in waiting) at Desert Stages Theatre. Raini also has had the honor of performing at both Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House as part of the American Honors Performance Series. She is very grateful to be able to work with such a wonderfully kind and talented group. She would also like to thank Mary Beth, Amie, and Breona, her friends for their joy and spirit, her parents for their love and support, and her partner for all that and so much more. Enjoy the show!



Meghan van Dobben (Ralph Crane) -

is an ASU student currently pursuing a BFA in Theatre. She has Shakespeare and Misner acting training. Recent credits include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Adam);

The Sound of Music (Sister Sophia); Safe at Home (Mascot); Ocean in the Valley (Marie), The Other Side (Sapphire) at ASU; The Not Broken Monologues (Player 2) at University of Utah; Sleeping on the Couch (Amy) at The Grand Pricks; and Human Action (Martha) at Prism Theater Company. She would like to thank her mom, who keeps putting up with her crazy schedule, Monica, who is always teaching her new things and her teacher.

PANELISTS



Melissa Anderson (Lead facilitator) -

is a New York based Director, Actor and Acting Coach. Melissa directs in New York City and regionally, specializing in Contemporary Plays, Shakespeare and Musicals. She directed The Phoenix Theatre production of The Book of Will. Her acting credits include Network TV, National Tours, Off-Broadway, Regional, and Voice Over work, as well as several cast recordings. She teaches master classes regularly with emphasis on Musical Theater, Audition Technique and Acting Through Song.



Bradley Ryner (Scholar) -

is an associate professor of English at ASU and the author of Performing Economic Thought: English Drama and Mercantile Writing, 1600-1642 (University of Edinburgh Press, 2014) and the co-editor, along with Darlene Farabee and Mark Netzloff, of Early Modern Drama in Performance: Essays in Honor of Lois Potter (University of Delaware Press, 2015). His teaching interests include: Shakespeare and Renaissance drama; British literature to 1700; drama as a genre; literary theory and cultural studies.

PLAYWRIGHT

Lauren Gunderson (Playwright) -

Lauren is one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015 topping the list thrice including 2022/23. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for I and You and The Book of Will, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's Residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her play The Catastrophist, about her husband virologist Nathan Wolfe, premiered digitally in January 2021. She co-authored the

Miss Bennet plays with Margot Melcon, and *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* premiered off-Broadway and at Audible.com. Her work is published at Playscripts (*I and You*; *Exit Pursued By A Bear*; *The Taming and Toil And Trouble*), Dramatists Play Service (*The Revolutionists*; *The Book of Will*; *Silent Sky*; *Bauer, Natural Shocks, The Wickhams and Miss Bennet*) and Samuel French (*Emilie*). Her picture book *Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon* is available from Two Lions/Amazon. She is the book writer for musicals with Ari Afsar (*Jeannette*), Dave Stewart and Joss Stone (*The Time Traveller's Wife*), Jorjah Kwamé (*Sinister*), Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk (*Justice and Earthrise*), and Kira Stone (*Built for This*). She is a board member of The Playwrights Foundation.

LaurenGunderson.com



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*The Department of English's presentation of
scenes from "The Book of Will"
by Lauren Gunderson
is part of ASU Humanities Week.*