

*Rebels and Royals* is a fast-paced journey through the fierce battles, shifting loyalties, and unforgettable personalities of Shakespeare's History plays. From daring usurpers to embattled monarchs, our actors bring to life the wit, fire, and fierce ambition that define the struggle for the crown. Our ensemble, drawn from Arizona Actors Academy's ongoing Shakespeare class, trains year-round in Brandy Hotchner's First Folio technique, honing voice, movement, and storytelling.

## **We are proud to present our Players!**

In order of appearance by speech:

Doc Taylor: *Duchess*  
 Daniel Giraldo: *Richard II*  
 Daniel Jurado: *Hotspur*  
 Andrew Riggs: *Prince Hal*  
 Erin Leigh: *Margaret*  
 Rachel Riggs: *Margaret*  
 Joey Pietro: *Richard III*  
 Hovig Artinian: *Richard III*  
 David Lorello: *Two Gentleman of Verona*  
 Avery Volk: *Romeo and Juliet*

Brenda Foley: *Measure for Measure*  
 Dorothy Valley & Kenzie Knudson: *Two Gentlemen of Verona*  
 Natalie Andrews: *Romeo and Juliet*  
 Aurora Howard: *All's Well That End's Well*  
 Tim Shawver: *The Tempest*  
 Cynnita Agent: *Antony and Cleopatra*  
 Wes Martin: *Julius Caesar*  
 Amie Bjorklund & Maren Maclean  
 Mascarelli: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

## THE PLAYERS – ARIZONA ACTORS ACADEMY



**Andrew Riggs** began his artistic journey in 2018 after discovering his passion for singing, and has been a student at Arizona Actors Academy for nearly four years, studying improv, acting, and now Shakespeare. He has performed in a variety of events, some of the latest being AZAA's scene festival where he performed a scene from *Stupid F\*cking Bird* by Aaron Posner, East Valley Yamaha Music School's Ensemble Concert at Chandler Center for the Arts where he sang in a medley from Stephen Schwartz's *Wicked*, and the debut show of Spicy Meatball, an improv troupe of which he is a founding member. Supported by his incredible & talented wife Rachel, along with an amazing community of other artists, Andrew has no plans to stop throwing himself into new creative endeavours any time soon.



A 76-year-old author, screenwriter and retired psychologist, **Doc Taylor** goes to AZAA for playtime. She loves performing Shakespeare and comedies that make people laugh. Doc apologizes to the family animals who run for cover when she rehearses Shakespeare. Doc is grateful to her husband, who supports her acting hobby. Doc's children and grandchildren are inspired by her love of theater and acting.



**Daniel Jurado** has been an active member of AZAA for a little over 7 months now. He has dreamed of becoming an actor ever since he was a child and hopes to make this dream a reality. He is also enrolled in a Shakespeare class with Brandy Hotchner and has found another passion in the art of Shakespeare.



**Danniell Giraldo** is a classically trained actor, guitarist and singer-songwriter with a dynamic range across off-off-Broadway, opera, film, and immersive theatre. He studied Musical Theater at AMDA and Opera at New World School of the Arts, as well as training under Brandy Hotchner, Kristen Cerreli, and Tony-winner Randy Graff. His stage work includes Marco in *A View from the Bridge* (Off-Broadway), Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte*, Monty in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Peter in *Company*, and Al in *A Chorus Line*. He's performed in experimental works like *Once Upon a Palooza* and *Square Dance* at the Guggenheim Museum, and on screen in *Fed*, *Without a Stage* (Paris Cinema Award), *Mr. Hialeah*, *Till We Meet Again*, and *Corazón City*. A skilled guitarist and vocalist, he's played *54 Below* and *Nashville*, writes original music that blends raw storytelling with cinematic Flair and has written plays.



**Joey Pietro** is excited to share the stage with his fellow actors to bring to life some of Shakespeare's most riveting characters. He thanks Brandy for being such a wonderful and impactful coach. During the weekends, you'll likely find him doing improv comedy somewhere, anywhere around the valley.



**Hovig Artinian** has spent almost three years taking acting and improv classes at Arizona Actors Academy while building stage experience around the Valley. His credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (Paris) and *The School for Lies* (DuBois/Basque) with Southwest Shakespeare Company, as well as Valley Players' *Significant Other* (Evan/Roger/Zach). Away from the stage, Hovig is a PhD student in Anthropology at Arizona State University. He's grateful to his friends and family for cheering on every step of this creative journey.

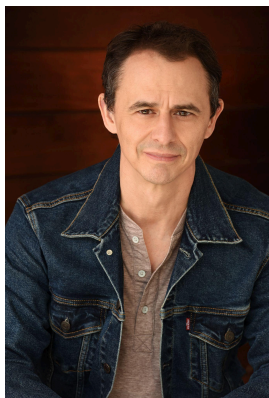


**Erin Leigh** is thrilled to portray the fiery Queen Margaret in this sampler of Shakespeare's histories. She began her training in realism and classical theater four years ago at the Studio Acting Conservatory in Washington, DC and has continued her training here in Arizona at the Arizona Actor's Academy with ongoing Shakespeare and Meisner classes. She was honored to participate in this year's AZAA Scene Festival as Nina from *Stupid F\*cking Bird*, and one of the AZAA Friday Night Readings presenting the work of Haley Rice.

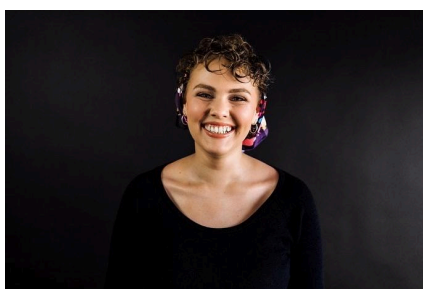


**Avery Volk** is a local actor, singer, writer and poet. She has most recently been seen on stage performing her one-woman show *GIRL IN REVERSE: A FEMININE RAGE MANIFESTO*, performed for the first time locally after receiving a grant from AZ Commission on the Arts. She has previously performed it in LA as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival and the Soaring Solo STARS series mini festival. She can often be seen performing in poetry slams around the valley. As an AZAA alumni and passionate lover of Shakespeare, she is thrilled to perform a bit of the Bard this evening.

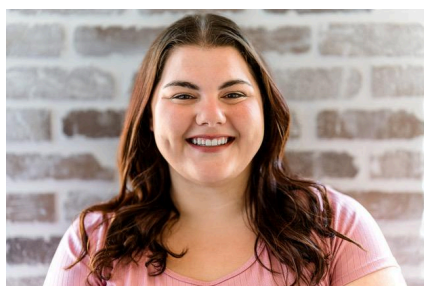




**David Lorello** was last seen playing the role of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* with Southwest Shakespeare. Other notable roles include the title character in Ghosteater's production of *Uncle Vanya*, and Cominius in Ronin Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. He was featured in Theatre Artists Studio's production of *THIS*, playing Alan. David also portrayed Oronte in Southwest Shakespeare's production of *The School for Lies*. He has performed with several improv teams around the Phoenix area and regularly performed with the sketch group Scratch Comedy.



**Kenzie Knudson** graduated with honors from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, and some of her past credits include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, and Olive Allison in *The Women of Lockerbie*. Kenzie has recently been nominated for an Artistic Specialization AriZoni Award for her Foley design in 'A Christmas Carol for Two Actors' with the Southwest Shakespeare Company. She is very thankful to have this opportunity to perform a scene with Dorothy Valley.



**Dorothy Valley** has been involved in the theater community in Arizona for over a decade as an actor, director, and stage manager. Some of her past acting credits include: Kate in *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, Zetta in *Dog Act*, and Egeus/Snout in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. Currently, she is Assistant Directing and doing the Intimacy Coordination for Southwest Shakespeares' production of *1984* this fall. "Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing." - WS



**Aurora Howard** (she/her) is a local actress that has had the privilege of performing in multiple theaters across the valley. Some of her favorite roles include Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* (Southwest Shakespeare Company), Sonia in *Uncle Vanya* (Ghosteater), Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (Hale Centre Theater), and Nora in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Fountain Hills Theatre). She wants to thank you all for supporting live theater!



## ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

Cynnita Agent



Natalie Andrews



Amie Bjorklund



Brenda Foley



Maren Maclean  
Mascarelli



Wesley Martin



Tim Shawver



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