

WKP 2022 Summer Tour

Titus Andronicus and Comedy of Errors

Prospect Park - 7/9 - 7/17

The Linda WAMC - 7/30 & 7/31

Hubbard Hall - 8/6 & 8/7 | Sand lake Center of the Arts - 8/19-8/21



Comedy of Errors at Music Haven Aug. 26th & 27th



Will Kempe's Players

presents

William Shakespeare's

The Comedy of Errors & The Tragedy of Titus Andronicus

In repertory July and August 2022

The Comedy of Errors

written by William Shakespeare

A two hour play in Five Acts with one intermission

Time & Place

A Past in the Mystical Levant, specifically the city of Ephesus

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

in order of appearance

3 11				
SOLINUS, Duke of Ephesus	Lauren Wicks			
EGEON, a shipwrecked merchant	Dan Smirlock*			
JAILOR	Dom DiCaprio			
BALTHASAR, FIRST MERCHANT	Devin Trager*			
ANTIPHOLUS of SIRACUSA, a merchant's son	Michael Sinkora*			
DROMIO of SIRACUSA, a servant	Phillip Beattie*			
DROMIO of EPHESUS, a servant	Michael Anderton			
ADRIANA, a married woman of Ephesus	Rachel Moore*			
LUCIANA, her sister	Shae Fitzgerald*			
ANTIPHOLUS of EPHESUS, a merchant's son	Imzak Mohamed*			
ANGELO, a goldsmith	Ashley Visker			
COURTIZAN, LUCE, NELL, ATTENDANT	Lita Carbone			
SECOND COURTIZAN	Giulia Pezzulo			
PINCH, ATTENDANT	Joey Cappuccitti			
ABBESS	Maureen Aumand			
PRODUCTION TEAM				
in no particular order whatsoever				
DIRECTORSSandra Boynton* and	d Kristoph DiMaria*			
PRODUCER	•			
STAGE MANAGERC	ameron Richardson			
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Dom DiCaprio			
PUPPETEERSLita Carbon	1 D : - T *			
	e and Devin Trager			
MOVEMENT COUNSELEleah Jayne Pe	O			
	ale and Sean Fagan			
MOVEMENT COUNSEL Eleah Jayne Pe	ale and Sean Fagan Nancy Boynton*			
MOVEMENT COUNSEL Eleah Jayne Pe DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY	ale and Sean FaganNancy Boynton* ore*, Devin Trager*			

A Note from the directors of Comedy of Errors

Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* was born in 1594 as an Elizabethan take on the much earlier Roman comedy *Menaechemi* by Plautus. It is his shortest play by far and rife with the tenets of mistaken identity, word play, puns, and slapstick that feature prominently throughout the entirety of his works. It feels as if *Comedy of Errors* is a young Shakespeare's progenitor of character types, literary devices, and indeed specific lines and phrases that appear in later plays. It would also have been concurrent with the rise of *Commedia dell'Arte* as a popular continental theatre form. With this we explore the notion of mask as embodied *in* the face rather than on it, and evident through gesture and human typology. Cue the clowns. We encourage you to embrace the farce that is indeed embedded in the tragedy. Engage the actors. Share your thoughts and feelings aloud. Beware the law and its consequences. Or don't. You are all the folk of *Ephesus* after all, aren't you?

Sandy and Kristoph

Titus Andronicus

written by William Shakespeare

Place and Time

A fictionalized Roman Empire, specifically in and around the city of Rome A non-historical time midway between the beginning of the Empire and its end.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Titus, A Roman General, Head of the Andronicus familyAndrew Vrom	an*
Marcus, Titus' BrotherShane Sczepankows	ski*
Lavinia, <i>Titus' Daughter</i> Kyra Fitzger	ald
Tamora, Queen of the Goths	re*
Aaron, Tamora's LoverJenae Ga	ayle
Chiron, Tamora's Youngest Son	Ellis
Demetrius, Tamora's Second Son	ıld*
Saturninus, Elder Son of the deceased Emperor of RomeMichael Sinko	ora*
Lucius, Titus' Oldest Living SonAshley Vis	sker
Bassianus, Younger Son of the deceased Emperor, Messenger, Second GothDevin Trag	ger*
Quintus, Titus' Son, Publius, Marcus' SonLita Carb	one
Martius, Titus' Son, Aemilius, a NobleImzak Moham	red*
Mutius, Titus' Son, Young Lucius, Lucius' SonLauren Wi	icks
Alarbus, Tamora's Eldest Son, Nurse, Clown, First GothCatherine See	elev
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Alarbus, Tamora's Etaest Son, Nurse, Clown, First Goth	cicy
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A Note from the director of Titus Andronicus

A friend of mine recently noted that a lot of my art centers around futility. I wasn't surprised to hear that, but it certainly wasn't something I'd actively clocked before. So I thought about it, and fretted a bit that maybe I'm just super negative in my art, but I came to a realization - I am focused on presenting futility on stage so hopefully the audience doesn't see it come to fruition in their lives. It's a round-about way of delivering that message, but it's the best way I can think of at the moment.

This play is about the desperation that is bred of feeling your institutions and community have failed you. It's about the awful things we can all be driven to when we feel afraid, abandoned, or insecure. The characters in this play are elevated, and at times their particular plights are not the most relatable to the average person, but they are all *human*. For all their ills, for all their heroism, they are fallible, whole humans. They fail to see the humanity in each other, and their compassion fails them in turn. Their words run out so violence takes over. They strive for safety and in turn make others unsafe. As we all do at times, in our own ways.

I worry that our country is going the way of Ancient Rome. I worry that the stories of these characters will become more and more relatable over time, and that terrifies me. So I hope that in some small way, this horrible little tale of ours can shine a light on where we could be headed, and what that means for us as people. And gives us some ideas on how we can perhaps escape the cycle of hurt and harm that this play demonstrates so brutally.

Erin Ouellette

Meet the 2022 WKP Theatremakers



Michael Anderton



Maureen Aumand



Phillip Beattie*



Sandra Boynton*



Joey Cappuccitti



Lita Carbone



Dom DiCaprio



Kristoph "Rags" DiMaria*



Jack Ellis



Kyra Fitzgerald



Shae Fitzgerald*



Jenae Gayle



Lila Grace



Imzak Mohamed*



Rachel Moore*



Erin Ouellette

Meet the 2022 WKP Theatremakers









Cameron Richardson Shane Sczepankowski*

Catherine Seeley

Michael Sinkora*







Devin Trager*



Ashley Visker



Andrew Vroman*



Lauren Wicks

Meet the 2022 WKP Theatremakers

Michael Anderton (Dromio of Ephesus in *Comedy*) is a soon to be student at Edinburgh Napier planning on getting his MFA in directing. He was Rothko in Siena College's production of *Red*, Pantalone/Flavio in Siena College's production *Destination: Nowhere!*, and The Man in *Can't Pay, Won't Pay!*. He hopes that you enjoy the show!

Maureen Baillargeon Aumand (Abbess in *Comedy*) is a retired public school educator who took great joy in introducing the brilliance of the Bard to numerous high school students over the years in the classroom as well as through an annual Shakespeare festival. More than twenty years ago she played Goneril in *King Lear* and after a long two decades is happy to "speak the words trippingly" once again. She is delighted also to have this opportunity in the company of the brilliant, "well-graced" actors of the Will Kempe Players. She salutes them and their mentors as well as the broad regional community of local actors and stages devoted to putting on "a good play." She also wants to shout out to her nine grandkids in the hope that their lives will be enriched by the experience of theater and the artistry of those who "strut the stage."

Phillip Beattie* (Dromio of Siracusa in *Comedy*, Properties Manager) is a senior company member of Will Kempe's Players and is so excited to be a part of the 2022 season. A Schenectady native for all his life he delighted to be bringing such a wonderful show to theater goers all over the capital region. Comedy of Errors is his first leading role for the company and in his career. He hopes to bring roars of laughter to everybody watching. Previous roles include: Peter Quince/Peasblossom in *Midsummer Night's Dream*(Will Kempe's Players), Stacey Kinsella in *The Metal Children* (SCCC Players). As always he thanks his family and friends for always supporting his work in the arts.

Nancy Boynton* (Choreographer of *Comedy*) is a noted performer in the Thousand Islands Region. She has appeared in *The Slick of '76*, as La Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Peter Pan in *Peter Pan*, Carlotta in *Phantom*, Emma Goldman in *Tintypes*, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Lead Nurse Lt. Genevieve Marshall in *South Pacific*. She has appeared with Music Theatre North and choreographed for the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Having collaborated with WKP on several productions, she made her debut as a performer with WKP in last summer's production of *As You Like it*. Nancy is a soloist at the First Presbyterian Church in Watertown and a member of Watertown *Musica Viva* and is the handbell director at Stone Presbyterian Church in Watertown. She is the Production Manager for the Trinity Concert Series trinityconcerts.org. Nancy holds a BFA in music/drama with a major in piano from Ithaca College and an MFA in theater/performance from Western Illinois University.

Sandra Boynton* (Director of *Comedy*, Costume Director) After her 2013 retirement from SUNY Schenectady as Professor in the Performing Arts: Drama program, Sandra (Sandy) Boynton became the Founding Artistic Director of Will Kempe's Players. For WKP she has directed *Twelfth Night, The Tragedy of Othello, The Tragedy of Hamlet, As You Like It,* and in partnership with Kristoph DiMaria, this season's *Comedy of Errors*. Also for WKP Sandy performed Sister Aloysius in "Doubt." When not directing, acting, costuming or mentoring young theatre-makers, she lives a quiet life with her feline companions, Mr. Spats and his protege, young Master. Boots. Sandy is ever grateful to fellow theatre makers, to theatre students, to her tiny family, and to wonderful, supportive audiences.

Joey Cappuccitti (Pinch, Attendant in *Comedy*) is back again this year for some theater shenanigans and fun! Previously he was seen in renditions of *As You Like It*, Neil Simon's *Fools*, *Columbinus* and was the leader of The Flying Monkeys in *The Wizard of Oz*. He was also cast as an extra on an episode of MTV's High School Stories.

Lita Carbone (Courtizan, Luce, Nell, Attendant in *Comedy*, Quintus and Publius in *Titus*) is excited to be with WKP and back on stage after a long hiatus from acting. Well, acting without a puppet attached to her arm anyway! After traveling around the country performing in a puppet show, as well as various educational videos and story time sessions, Lita wanted to brush up on her Shakespeare. Previous local acting credits include Be Scene 2022, *Dracula* at SCP, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Steamer No. 10, *Julius Caesar* at CTG, and numerous productions at her alma mater (Hartwick College). Lita would like to thank her hubby bunches of oats, family, friends, and fur babies for their support during this process!

Dom DiCaprio (Jailor/Assistant Stage Manager in *Comedy*) is so excited to work on his first ever WKP show! He is a recent graduate of Siena College, and is looking forward to teaching in France in the upcoming year! He has been an actor, director and stage manager throughout the capital region and is excited to see what his future in the arts holds! He hopes you all enjoy the show!

Kristoph DiMaria* (Director of *Comedy*) is deeply grateful for the talent and support of this outstanding cast and crew, their partner Nina Schwartzman, their family, and all of you. They are a professional musician, practicing clown, collaborative theatre maker, writer, activist, educator, small business owner, and most recently...a brand new parent!. They are the Director of Development, Musical Director, and a founding member of Will Kempe's Players. They are an Associate Artist with Troy Foundry Theatre. They are also a founding member of the Social Justice Artists Collective under the direction of Creative Action Unlimited. Directing credits include: *Destination: Nowhere!* (Siena College) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Will Kempe's Players). Other credits include *The Climb* (actor/deviser, Creative Action Unlimited), George in *North Country Pastoral* (Siena College) and Iago in *Othello* (Will Kempe's Players). Performs as Ragliacci. They offer workshops, commissioned work, and other good trouble. Reach out to ragliacci@gmail.com.

Jack Ellis (Chiron in *Titus*) is absolutely ecstatic to be joining the cast of *Titus Andronicus* in their production of the Bard's bloodiest tragedy. A current English Education student at Siena College, they have performed in several shows on Siena's campus, including *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon), *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* (Luigi), and *The Pillowman* (Tupolski). They also devised for and performed in Siena's new work, *Justice!*. They are excited to get to work with a professional theatre company on such a complicated, multilayered play. They would like to thank Erin and Cate for their endless insight into the world of *Titus*, and for creating a caring and creative environment onstage and off for such a cruel plot. They would like to thank Shae for being the "best brudder" they could ever have, and to especially thank Sandy Boynton for everything she's done supporting them in their theatrical journeys.

Kyra Fitzgerald (Lavinia in *Titus*) - Kyra is thrilled to join the WKP family this summer! Hailing from Cambridge, NY, she has performed with theatre companies across the region including Hubbard Hall, Fort Salem Theater, Schenectady Light Opera Company, Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park, and Bennington Community Theatre. Productions include: *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Miep Gies), *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Rosa Bud), Into the Woods (Lucinda), Othello (Emilia), Peter and the Starcatcher (Molly Aster), The Crucible* (Ann Putnam), *Love's Labours Lost* (Holofernes), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Montague), a virtual reading of *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), and the opera *L'elisir d'amore* (Chorus). All my love (and hands) to Erin and Cate for their direction and support on this journey.

Shae Fitzgerald* (Luciana in *Comedy*, Demetrius in *Titus*, Associate Costume Director, Company Manager) was born and raised in Schenectady, NY, and still calls that city home. After four years at Schenectady High's Blue Roses Theatre Company, Shae received a BFA in Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, specifically training at Stella Adler Studio of Acting. A love of Shakespeare, sewing, making music, and collaborative arts is what initially drew Shae to WKP in 2018. Shae has appeared in numerous productions with WKP, and can always be found in the wardrobe department. Shae is also a member of NorthEast Theatre Ensemble, and has worked locally both onstage and as a designer with such companies as Troy Foundry Theatre, the Irish American Heritage Museum, Classic Theatre Guild, and more. Beyond theatre, Shae is a respite worker with teenagers with disabilities, and serves on the board at Congregation Gates of Heaven, a Reform Jewish synagogue in Schenectady, as well as on the steering committee of Schenectady Community Ministries, a local interfaith food justice organization. Shae sends thanks to all involved in these productions, the best girlfriend (Maeve), and a wonderful supportive family.

Jenae Gayle (Aaron in *Titus*) is a performing arts-based teaching artist grateful for the opportunity to work with Will Kempe's this summer. A former South Bronx high school history teacher turned arts administrator, she is dedicated to creating platforms for young people, women, and artists of color to showcase their talent. Her current creative, professional, and academic pursuits investigate the legacy of American Slavery on parenting in the Black community; inspired by her exploration into mindful parenting as the mother of three beautiful souls. She is a board member of Creative Action Unlimited and engaged with the CAU's Social Justice Artist Collective. You can follow her work at metacocomom.com. A heartfelt thank you to Erin, and the entire cast, for making this awkward Black girl feel welcome!

Lila Grace (Stage Manager of *Titus*) - Lila is thrilled to join WKP for her first production with them! Usually she can be found onstage (Molly - *ACT's Peter & the Starcatcher*, Bianca - *Taming of the Shrew*, Ronette - *TCT's Little Shop of Horrors*) or behind a piano to music direct, but this time the script called her name, and she was powerless but to take notes on it. She'd like to thank Victoria, for sparking her love of Shakespeare, Laura Darling for, well, existing, Shae for being a mythical faerie creature, and welcoming her into the fold, and of course Matéo, her ever patient and supportive partner, for always having snacks and snugs when she comes home, and listening to her nerd right out about weird classical text things.

Michael A. Lake* (Season Producer, Technical Director) is an artist and theater maker that has appeared in many stage and film productions throughout the Capital district of NY. He is a co-founding member of Will Kempe's Players serving as the company's Producing Technical Director, and works closely with Creative Action Unlimited, most recently in the film production of "The Climb." Other recent credits of his include the '17, '18, '19, and '22 WKP Seasons, *Tell Me That You'll Not Forget Me* (Black Theater Troupe/Siena College), *Fireflies, Ben Butler*, and *The Normal Heart* (CCT) to name just a few. Michael would like to thank his family for their unwaivering support.

Imzak Mohamed* (Antipholus of Ephesus in *Comedy,* Martius, Caius, and Aemilius in *Titus*) is thrilled to be a member of Will Kempe's Players! "The stage is my home" is one phrase that resonates deeply with him. Having worked on various productions over the years for a number of companies, on- and off-stage, he has discovered that he really enjoys the process of storytelling. Stories move people. They learn, they laugh, they cry, they live, all through stories. What humanity experiences today has the potential to become the next play, and that really gets Imzak inspired and motivated to perform.

Rachel Moore* (Adriana in *Comedy*, Tamora in *Titus*, Wardrobe and Armory Team) A hardcore Shakespeare nerd, Rachel hopes to see every one of the Bard's plays performed live, and act in them, too... even the bad ones. Focusing on Shakespeare and Early Modern literature for both a BA and an MA, she is thrilled to put this education to use with WKP. Rachel is also a Morris dancer, cosplayer, and costumer. This summer, "I've got lady parts!"

Erin Ouellette (Director of *Titus*) is an optimistic-pessimist with big feelings and a compulsion to tell stories. They pursue their storytelling as an actor, director, musician, visual artist, and burlesque performer. They are one of the co-founders of TwoPenny Nerdlesque, and have worked with numerous theatre and film companies throughout the northeast. Apart from their artistic endeavors, Erin is especially fond of their family, using singular they/them pronouns, and speaking in the third person. Erin is beyond grateful for all of the people who strove and struggled to make this show happen, for the cast and Team Titus for all of their beautiful vulnerability and bravery, and for the audiences who become part of the story every performance.

Eleah Jayne Peal (Fight Choreographer for *Titus*) is elated to be joining the production team of *Titus* after choreographing fights for WKP's production of *As You Like It* last summer. Eleah works as a fight choreographer, movement coordinator and education artist for various area theatres. She works at Russell Sage College as both adjunct professor of Stage Combat and Makeup for the Stage and as administrative support for the theatre department. Congrats to this entire company on handling such a heavy show and for taking care of each other, both on and off the stage.

Cameron Richardson (Stage Manager of *Comedy*) is a student at Russell Sage College currently studying Theater. His many theater roles include the following college productions: Conrad (*Stupid F***ing Bird*), Ghost of Christmas Present /assistant sound designer (*A Christmas Carol*), Announcer/Potter/Uncle Billy/Ernie (*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*) and he Stage Managed for a production of *Calvin Berger*. His high school roles include: Dr. Gibbs (*Our Town*), Leonard Aster (*Peter and the StarCatcher*), Judge Gaffney (*Harvey*), and Pulitzer. (*Newsies*) His most recent role was in *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, which Sage brought to many schools this past May. He would like to thank all of the wonderful people in the WKP for their kindness and generosity during this process.

Shane Sczepankowski* (Marcus Andronicus in *Titus*) is an active member of the theatre community here in upstate NY. Having moved back to NY after spending nearly 10 years in VA earning Master's degrees in Shakespeare and Performance, Shane is proud to be making theatrical waves in his hometown once again. Inspired by the art of Original Practices Shakespeare, Shane has worked hard finding his niche, a place where he is embracing personal growth while simultaneously being afforded the opportunity to educate any and all who may be interested. Shane has training in basic stage combat, Early Modern text analysis, and a number of stage acting practices. When Shane isn't working as a Senior Company Member, you can find him developing playwriting workshops for local students, conducting week-long Shakespeare camps, and teaching theatre for after-school programs. His busy schedule and passion for the arts are both unwavering constants in his life and he wouldn't change a single second.

Catherine Seeley (Assistant Director/Fill-in Actor/Dramaturg/Wardrobe Team for *Titus*) - This is Cate's 3rd venture with Will Kempe's Players, previously appearing as Audrey in *As You Like It*, and a guard in *Hamlet*. This show checks off just one more show in the long list of endeavors that she has conquered with her partner (in crime). She and Erin also produce a nerd-themed burlesque show, when there isn't a pandemic, by the name of TwoPenny Nerdlesque. Thank you to the cast and team for their work, their hearts, and their dedication to our exploration into the human experience under unimaginable circumstances.

Michael Sinkora* (Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy*, Saturninus in *Titus*) has been a company member of Will Kempe's Players since its fledgling days in 2017. He currently acts as the cooperative's Finance Director in addition to his creative contributions. Some past credits with Will Kempe's Players include Benedick (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Oliver (*As You Like It*), Sir Andrew Aguecheek (*Twelfth Night*), and Horatio (*Hamlet*). Michael is a Schenectady native and currently resides in Troy, NY. He throws this one out to Ben Sinkora. Hi, Ben.

Dan Smirlock* (Egeon in *Comedy*) is spending his second summer with WKP, having played both Dukes in *As You Like It* last season. He has also appeared in productions by Confetti Stage and Circle Theater Players. He occasionally writes plays of his own, some of which other people—among them Confetti Stage, Albany Civic Theater, Glimmer Globe Theater (Cooperstown), and Round The Bend Theater (Saugerties)—have liked well enough to produce and perform. In October, Confetti Stage will present his play "Musical Chairs" as part of its annual Confetti Fest one-act play festival. Dan prepared for his current role by being the father of male twins, though his are decidedly non-identical. He resides with them in Delmar, along with his saintlike spouse Mary Martin and a small, neurotic white dog.

Devin Trager* (Balthasar/Merchant in *Comedy*, Bassianus, Messenger, Second Goth in *Titus*,, Wardrobe Team) It's really a wonder this one ended up here. I mean, he's not even from here! Though he is now, so perhaps we should cut him some slack. He used to travel here to perform in shows at Steamer 10, as well as previous seasons with Will Kempe's. But now his commute is much shorter, and we can't get rid of the guy. At least he's having fun.

Ash Visker (Angelo the Goldsmith in *Comedy*, Lucius in *Titus*) is a recent graduate from Purchase College who concentrated in performance, dramaturgy, and medieval history. She returned to her hometown in upstate NY after working on Twelfth Night (Viola) with the Prague Shakespeare Company earlier this year, and will be opening a production of Julius Caesar (Brutus) in Stratford, CT later this summer with the Glow Worm Collective and the Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford. She discovered the Will Kempe's Players website the same week that she returned to the US and was ecstatic to audition for, work with, and ultimately befriend so many amazing creators. She is grateful for the experiences she's had working with WKP and looks forword to continuing her passion of delving into classical text while adding a few new tools to her tool-belt from this process. She wants to thank her family for all of the in-between-rehearsal meals and puppy-sitting nights they've gifted: Words cannot express my love and appreciation!

Andrew Vroman* (Titus Andronicus in *Titus*) - Andrew hails from Canajoharie, NY. He would like to express his admiration and thanks to the cast and team for their kindness and wonderful spirit. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support. He is grateful to be involved with the telling of this difficult story.

Lauren Wicks (Duke of Ephesus in *Comedy*, Mutius and Young Lucius in *Titus*) is very excited to be on stage performing Shakespeare again. This is Lauren's first season with WKP, and it has been a fantastic experience. Lauren has done productions with Steamer 10 Theatre, The Cue Theatre, Two of Us Productions, Sand Lake Center for the Arts and at Averill Park High School. Some favorite productions include *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (Susan), *Macbeth* (Banquo), *Into The Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince/The Wolf), *Number The Stars* (Annemarie), and *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Klub Performer). Lauren is excited to be headed to SUNY Purchase in the fall for both visual arts and theatre. When not on stage Lauren can usually be found painting, sketching, singing, or with a camera. Lauren would like to thank their family for all the support and everyone who helped make this show as incredible as it is.

*member of WKP Cooperative

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Will Kempe's Players Cooperative is a registered worker-owned theatre cooperative based in Troy, NY. | www.willkempesplayers.com