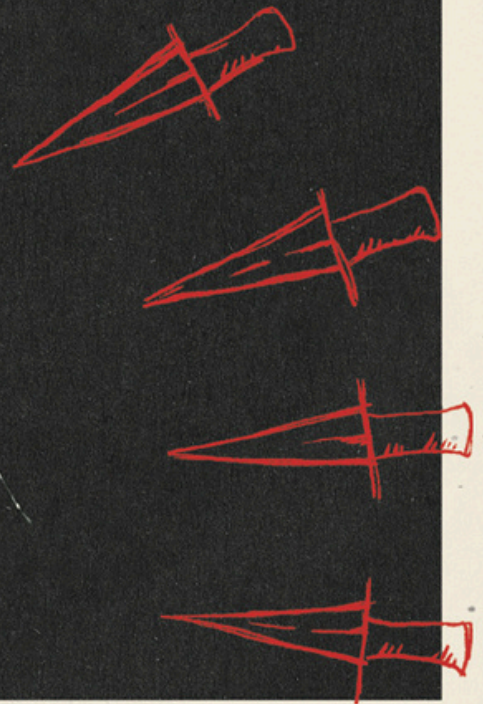


QUEENSLAND SHAKESPEARE ENSEMBLE

# JULIUS CAESAR



NOV 7 - 24  
AVALON THEATRE



The Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble acknowledges the traditional Indigenous owners and custodians of the lands on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to their Elders, ancestors, and descendants, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, acknowledging that their sovereignty over these lands has never been ceded.



## ABOUT QSE

**VISION** | Transforming communities through creativity.

**MISSION** | QSE exists to:

- Powerfully share epic stories with live audiences
- Provide world class training opportunities to actors and non-actors
- Support creativity in contexts and communities where it has been historically excluded
- Nurture an ensemble of artist managers that drive the company's activities and works together to develop their skills on stage and off

Performing Shakespeare demands the cultivation of the whole self in the service of the communal enterprise, and as such is the ideal vehicle for this exploration. Although the Ensemble performs the works of other playwrights and authors, Shakespeare will always be the home from which we travel.

## CAST



Angus Thorburn – Casca, Messala  
Dom Tennison – Soothsayer, Publius, Pindarus, Strato, Citizen, Soldier  
Frances Marrington – Mark Antony  
Leah Mustard – Portia, Popilius, Clito, Citizen, Soldier  
Liliana Macarone – Marcus Brutus  
Lillian Duggan – Julius Caesar, Octavius Caesar  
Meg Bennett – Decius Brutus, Titinius, Dardanius, Citizen, Soldier  
Mikala Crawley – Calpurnia, Trebonius, Lucilius, Citizen, Soldier  
Rebecca Murphy – Caius Cassius  
Riley Anderson – Lucius, Cinna, Volumnius, Citizen, Soldier  
Scott Mair – Metellus Cimber, Lepidus, Servant, Messenger, Citizen, Soldier

## PRODUCTION TEAM



Rob Pensalfini – Director, Sound Designer  
Kylia Davies - Production Manager  
Cameron Grimmett – Stage Manager  
Harmony Barath – Costume Design & Construction  
Brigitte Bennett – Set and Prop Design & Construction  
Tim James – Lighting Design  
Brooklyn Pace – Multimedia Design  
Paris Lindner - Assistant Stage Manager, Lighting Operator  
Eric Broome - Front of House Manager  
Meg Bennett - Fight Captain  
Liliana Macarone, Rebecca Murphy, Angus Thorburn - Assistant Directors  
Seol Choo - Costume Assistant  
Music performed by PVCaesar: Riley Anderson, Liliana Macarone, Frances Marrington, Leah Mustard, Angus Thorburn.  
Music composed by: Rob Pensalfini, Liliana Macarone

## QSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Rebecca Murphy - President  
Kylia Davies - Treasurer  
Rebecca Slater - Secretary

***“Politics is the entertainment division  
of the military-industrial complex.”***  
**Frank Zappa**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Just for fun, I googled 'democracy under threat'. If you've wondered whether it is, or are convinced that it is, you're certainly not alone. It's a popular sentiment at the moment.

Yet this year we've had city council and state elections, and just now the most globally significant and closely-followed election perhaps ever. Early next year we'll vote federally. After sport, politics takes up the biggest share of news bandwidth. With so much democracy around us, our voices must be more influential than ever, right? Go Lions!

Populism thrives when a society's values become worn or fractured. There's often a widespread sense of disenfranchisement, that 'nobody speaks for me'. Folks rally around a charismatic leader who tends to dodge policy and ethics in favour of a promise to stand up for ordinary people by force of their personality. It often relies on appeals to a golden era of prosperity and freedom, and leaders model themselves on legendary figures. It doesn't sound despotic, rule by what the 'ordinary people' want, but there's no clear line between that and tyranny of the majority. With a populist 'strong-man' at the helm, it's a short step from there to autocracy in the name of the people. Caesar seizes power, pun intended.

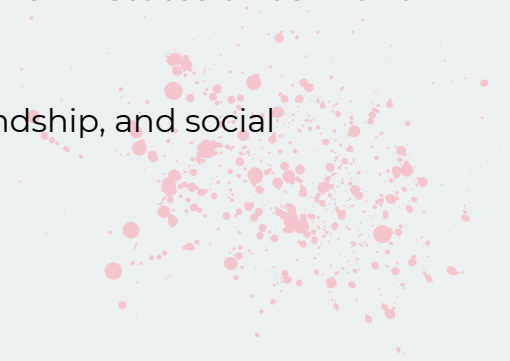
But nothing material ultimately withstands time. The fall of a tyrant leaves a vacuum. If a government organised around core values doesn't emerge quickly, the vacuum will be filled by the next strong-man. Pick your team.

Rule by values, however, faces its own challenges. Factionalism. Disagreements over small points of philosophy can become entrenched, and hobble any real change. Brutus tells us that duty and honour are the highest values, while Cassius values friendship and love. Both ultimately want the same thing, but slight differences between their moral values prevent them from being as effective as they can. Brutus weaponizes honour, Cassius weaponizes love. Can a fractured alliance of ethical partners stand up against the cult of personality? Is a broad alliance based on similar though not identical values even possible?

The belief that we currently live in a crisis of leadership has some sway. The battle of Philippi, which takes up the second half of Julius Caesar, is remembered historically for its poor leadership on both sides. Yet it ultimately signalled the end of the Roman Republic and ushered in autocracy.

***"How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown?"***

Please enjoy our meditation – our collage – on leadership, friendship, and social engineering.



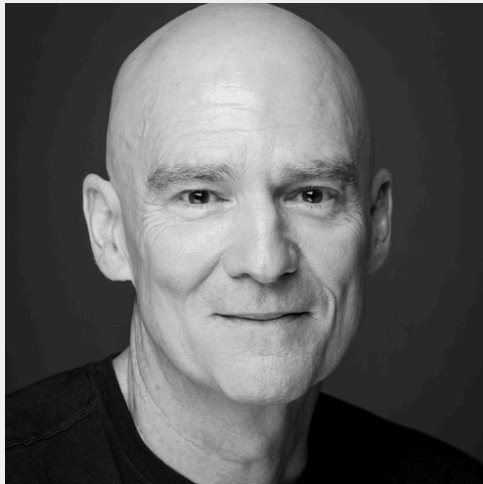




## Angus Thorburn

Angus is an actor and director in Brisbane, and this is his 5th year in the QSE Core Ensemble. His previous training and performances with QSE include the Apprenticeship and *Henry IV Part 1* in 2019, *Macbeth in the Dark* in 2020, *Romeo & Juliet* in 2021, *The Rover* and *Macbeth* in 2022, and *The Penelopiad* in 2023 and *Tartuffe* earlier this year, which he was also Assistant Director for. Other than acting, Angus directed his own Shakespeare production of *As You Like It* in his parents' backyard. He participated in the La Boite

Assembly Program last year as a director, where he helped create a 10-minute performance about a friendship between a girl and her skog-bear.



## Dom Tennison

Dom has been performing for over 12 years.

He has most recently appeared as Dr Jekyll/Mr Hyde at Sunnybank Theatre in 2024. Also, as Jacob Marley's Ghost in *Ebenezer*, Darth Vader in *Bard Wars*, Charlie 'the Duck' in *One Man, Two Guvnors* and Leonato in *Much Ado About Nuthink* at Brisbane Arts Theatre in 2022-23. Some dramatic roles over the years have included Leo Bailey in *Mr Bailey's Minder* (Centenary Theatre Group 2020), Martin Dysart in *Equus* (Brisbane Arts Theatre 2016) and Roo in *Summer of the*

*Seventeenth Doll* (Villanova Players 2015).

This is Dom's first production with the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble.



## Frances Marrington

Frances Marrington is an actor, entertainer, teacher and facilitator with a passion for deep listening to stories of heart connection. Her performing credits include: *Tartuffe*, *The Penelopiad*, *The Blood Votes*, *Shakespeare's Shorts*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and *As You Like It* (QSE); *A Convict's Hope* (Folly Games); *The Odyssey*, *Gaia and Zeitgeist* (Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre), *Swan Lake* (Qld Ballet); *The Ship That Never Was* (Round Earth Theatre); *Sad Bird Boy* and *Other Tales of the City*, *Eight Days*

(theatre of decay); and *Picasso's Women* (Chapel Off Chapel). Film / TV credits: *Harrow Series 2* (Hoodlum Entertainment), *Bloody Hell* (Eclectik Vision), *Watch Me* (Scopofile Productions) and *Purge* (David King Media). She is currently an associate artist with the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, a performing member of Red Thread Stories Playback Theatre and a teacher at the Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre.



### **Leah Mustard**

After completing the Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship Programs, Leah is excited to play with the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble in 2024. In 2022, Leah graduated with a Bachelor of Arts/Secondary Education from the University of Queensland and completed her Honours program in 2023. She has recently been seen in *Tartuffe* (Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble), *The Penelopiad* (Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble), *Macbeth* (Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble), *As You Like It* (Thunderbear Productions for Anywhere Theatre Festival),

*Judgement Day* (Short + Sweet Festival) and *The Bald Soprano* (University of Queensland). As an artist, Leah is interested in the intersection between education and theatre, as well as making classical texts more accessible to young people.



### **Liliana Macarone**

Liliana has considered QSE her artistic home for many years. A multidisciplinary artist, her QSE acting credits include: *Tartuffe* (Cleante), *The Penelopiad* (Penelope – Matilda Award Nomination), *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *The Rover* (Moretta), *Henry IV Part I* (Henry IV), *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (Gertrude), *The Blood Votes* (Mrs Reibe/Mrs Patterson), *The Winter's Tale* (Camillo), *Twelfth Night* (Orsino), *Shakespeare's Shorts* – (Bottom, Mercutio/Friar, Polonius/Horatio, Macduff/Witch2/Murderer).

A singer/songwriter, Liliana composes for and performs in the QSE Band. Recent Music Director credits: *The Rover* (QSE), *Monster's Mother* (Anywhere Festival), *Ladies Write Letters of Lemony Love* (Melbourne Fringe), *Shakespeare's Shorts* (QSE).

A workshop facilitator and performance coach, her QSE Facilitating work includes: Shakespeare Prison Project, Young Actor's Shakespeare Intensive, Youth Justice Project, Theatre Games with QSE! and Raising Voices. Other Facilitating includes: University of Queensland, Access Arts, InsideOutside Theatre, and Sweet Adelines Australia (Regional Education Faculty).



### **Lillian Duggan**

Lillian has over 20 years' experience as a professional actress. Prior to attending LAMDA, Lillian worked extensively in Ireland, appeared in many theatrical performances along with appearing on TV, Film and Radio including such TV shows such as *FairCity* and *CrimeStoppers*. She also produced and acted in many productions whilst running her own Theatre Company in Dublin (Driftwood). Lillian trained at LAMDA enjoying such roles as Varvara Mihailovna in *Summerfolk*, Portia in *Merchant of Venice*. Lillian went on to appear in numerous productions in London and round the

country (UK) such as *Dancing at Lughnasa*, in the Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. Lillian has appeared on *Crimewatch* for the BBC and many films, including *Conspiracy of Silence* which won a few awards, numerous short films and even animation. Lillian is also a voice over artist in Dublin, London and recently Brisbane. Since joining QSE Lillian has appeared in *Shakespeare's Shorts* and as Madame Pernell in *Tartuffe*.



### **Meg Bennett**

Meg is a Brisbane based artist who began her infatuation with theatre and Shakespeare at a young age. After completing an unusual apprenticeship in 2020, 2024 marks her fourth year as a member of the Core Ensemble. Meg completed a Bachelor of New Media Arts (Performance) at James Cook University.

Her theatre credits include *Tartuffe* (QSE), *The Penelopiad* (QSE), *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*, *Macbeth* (QSE), *The Rover* (QSE), *Romeo & Juliet* (QSE), *Two Noble Kinsmen* (Skimble Skamble Fools), *Pulp*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Nunsense*,

*Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It* and *Hamlet*. She has also participated in workshops with the touring cast of *Cats* and *DanceNorth*.



### **Mikala Crawley**

Mikala has been with QSE since 2021 where she completed the Apprenticeship program. She then went on to become a portfolio manager for Marketing/Events starting in 2022, in 2023 completed the new Advanced Apprenticeship program, and in 2024 joined the Core Ensemble.

Mikala has performed some of Shakespeare's works including *The Tempest* (2016), *As You Like It* (2018) and *Henry IV Part 1* (2019) with New Farm Nash Theatre, *As You Like It* (2021) with Thunderbear Productions, *Much Ado About Nothing* (2022) with St. Luke's Theatre Society and *Macbeth* (2022) with QSE.

She also directed/produced a staged reading of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* for the 2022 Anywhere Theatre Festival.

Mikala's other theatre credits include *Medea* (2018) with Underground Productions and UQ's Classics and Ancient History Society, *Game of Tiaras* (2018) with Re-Act Theatre Group, (Strathclyde University's theatre society in Glasgow), *The Penelopiad* (2023) and *Tartuffe* (2024) with QSE.



### **Rebecca Murphy**

Rebecca is a Meanjin-based director, facilitator, and actor. A longtime Core Ensemble member, she is also QSE's General Manager. Her directing credits include *Tartuffe*, *The Penelopiad* (Matilda Award nomination for Best Ensemble), *The Rover*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Shakespeare's Shorts*, and *Bogga*.

As a performer with QSE her credits include Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth* and *Macbeth In The Dark*), Nurse (*Romeo & Juliet*), Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*), Mary (*Mary Stuart*), Tamora (*Titus*), Ariel (*The Tempest*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's*

*Dream*), and Julia (*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*). Other credits include *Tales of Rain*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *LovePuke*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

QSE facilitating work includes Speaking Shakespeare in Your Own Voice, Young Actor's Shakespeare Intensive, Raising Voices, and Shakespeare Prison Project. She has also taught at the University of Queensland, NIDA Open, Brisbane Drama Studio, Tropical Arts, Underground Productions, and ABCN.





### Scott Mair

Scott is a Brisbane based actor, who has always had a deep love and passion for performing. After completing high school, Scott studied acting at the Australian Performing Arts Conservatory (APAC) graduating with a Bachelor of Screen and Stage. Since then, Scott has performed on stage in festivals such as the Anywhere Festival and the Brisbane Fringe Festival, and appeared in short films that became award winners in international film festivals, even snagging an award or two for himself. In 2024 Scott joined The Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble as an apprentice, earlier this year he appeared as Valere in *Tartuffe*.



### Riley Anderson

Riley was a 2023 QSE Apprentice. He also performed with QSE in *The Penelopiad* in 2023. Prior to this his training included a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) at QUT, Backbone Youth Ensemble (2018), and Queensland Theatre Youth Ensemble (2015 – 2016).



### Rob Pensalfini

Rob was one of QSE's founders and has been Artistic Director since 2001. His directing credits for QSE include *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *The Blood Votes*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. His acting roles including Coriolanus, Benedick, Sir Toby Belch, Richard III, Shylock (2011), Prospero, Titus Andronicus, Leontes, Falstaff, Macbeth, and *Tartuffe*. Rob also composes and plays music for many of QSE's productions.

Rob directed QSE's Shakespeare Prison Project from 2006 to 2019, and has directed eight inmate productions, and published *Prison Shakespeare: for these deep shames and great indignities* in 2016 (Palgrave). Rob is also Associate Professor in Linguistics and Drama at the University of Queensland. He has published numerous books and articles on aboriginal languages, and half a dozen articles on theatre and actor training. He is one of only nine people in Australia certified by Kristin Linklater to teach the world-renowned Linklater voice method and now trains other teachers. He has performed and/or taught professionally with Pilgrim Theatre (USA), Shakespeare & Company (USA), Zen Zen Zo, Power of Will, and the Queensland Theatre Company. Rob was inducted as an Arts Queensland Culture Champion in 2013. Rob is a member of MEAA (Equity).

***“Give them bread and circuses and they will never revolt.” Juvenal***





### **Cameron Grimmitt**

Cameron Grimmitt (She/They) is a Meanjin based creative currently studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama), with a minor in Scenography, at QUT. In high school, they completed their Grade 8 AMEB Drama and Performance, and Trinity College Singing exams. More recently this year, they completed their apprenticeship with QSE. She has been involved in multiple shows both on and off stage - highlights including 'Mad Hatter' in *A Night With The Villains* (Mira Ball Productions, 2024), 'Olive Ostrovsky' in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Savoyards, 2023), 'Hope

Cladwell' in *Urinetown* (Crescendo Theatre Company, 2022), Assistant Stage Manager for *Calander Girls* (Shoebox Theatre Company, 2022), and Stage Manager for *Hedonism's Second Album* (Left of Right Theatre Company, 2023).



### **Paris Lindner**

Paris is a Brisbane-based emerging creative. Her first foray into stage management was with Underground Theatre Company, as SM for '*The Birth of Rugby League*' (UTC, 2023). Credits and positions outside of stage management include the 2023 Actor Apprenticeship with Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, and a range of other student and independent theatre roles. Paris has enjoyed stepping behind the scenes in the past year and building on her holistic understanding of how theatre comes together and all of its moving parts. She has loved working with QSE to stage this production and she looks forward to

sharing the world of *Julius Caesar* with audiences!



### **Brigitte Bennet**

Brigitte Bennet is an emerging theatre practitioner who specialises in Stage Management and Set Design. Previously, she has Stage Managed Sparrowland Short Film Festival, Set Designed & Realised *Prospect Terrace* with PIP Theatre, *Venus In Fur* and *Psycho Beach Party* with The X Collective, and performed a variety of other live event and theatre roles too numerous to list. Their business, BrigitteVTheatre, has recently expanded to include event coordination, and draws from a talented pool of local contacts to ensure each show or event is the best it can be.



### **Tim James**

Timothy is a lighting designer/operator based in Meanjin. Previous work includes *Tartuffe* (QSE), *The Penelopiad* (QSE), *Macbeth* (QSE), *The Boys* (Pip Theatre), *Beginning* (Moonspark Productions), *The Father* (hARTspace), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* (Vena Cava).

***“If we can have a genocide live-streamed during the Super Bowl and say nothing, there’s no challenge in the coming years that we won’t fail.” Frankie Boyle***



***“Sports persuades people to put their own vital interests second, maybe third, to the misadventures of athletic strangers... It has succeeded in giving the largest number of people the illusion of action in front of them, while simultaneously reducing them to the least movable degree of inertia.” Richard F. Shepard***

***“Drunken sports fans rioting sends one kind of message, the [political] protest sends another. The former lets us know the massive narcotizing effect of professional sports is, shall we say, ‘in full effect’; the latter lets us know the medication is wearing off...” Samir Chopra***



***“Welcome, my son  
Welcome to the machine.  
What did you dream?  
It’s alright, we told you what to dream”  
Roger Waters***





**We are excited to announce that auditions for QSE's 2025 Core Ensemble, Apprentice Program and Advanced Apprentice Program will be held on the afternoons of the 30th November and 1st December 2024, with call-backs 6-11pm Monday 2nd December.**

**Applications must be received by 5pm on November 22nd.**

**For more info go to [qldshakespeare.org/auditions](https://qldshakespeare.org/auditions) or email [info@qldshakespeare.org](mailto:info@qldshakespeare.org)**



The Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble gratefully acknowledges the support of:

**MAJOR PARTNER**



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND**  
AUSTRALIA

**DESIGN PARTNERS**



Thank you to our Community Partners at CommuniFY, Australian Red Cross, Brisbane Youth Service and Arafmi; Our fabulous UQ Secondment Student Ziggy; Paul Smith and Media and Production Support at UQ; Our wonderful volunteers Sarah, Beatriz, Bek, Tom, Dudley, Patrick, Ellie, Helen, Matt, Dean, and Finn



**Stay In Touch:**

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