

William Shakespeare's
MEASURE FOR MEASURE



Illustration: Nathan Herron

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* is a surprisingly modern play, a dark comedy that asks deep questions about self-knowledge, especially where it intersects with the uses and abuses of power.

The Duke, taking a sabbatical from ruling, gives over his power to Lord Angelo, who sets out to “clean up” The City, enforcing its long-ignored laws. Those caught up in Angelo’s net stand to lose their livelihoods and even their lives. Isabella, a young woman about to enter a convent, tries to save her brother’s life and is swept up in the political and personal issues of the much bigger world of power surrounding her. With the help of the disguised Duke – who’s come up with a brilliant plot to save the day – Isabella can make things right, using powerful mercy and inner strength on which her whole world hinges.

Measure for Measure has often been called a difficult or “problem” play because it’s an oddball comedy – one that deals with very serious issues, yet ends in marriages and an attempt at harmony and reconciliation. The play questions the meaning of true mercy and grace, personified in the character of Isabella, whose personal motivations may be hard for modern audiences to understand. However, in the age of #MeToo we can see how she’s exploited because of her youth, lack of experience, and inclinations toward spiritual purity. All of the characters in the play, including Isabella, must encounter and question their desire of finding simple solutions to situations which easily become more complicated once human behaviors – for better or worse – are drawn into the equation. Complex, off-kilter comedy is a style we’ve become much more familiar with nowadays, especially in our pandemic times. So maybe the play isn’t a “problem play” at all, but perhaps it just needed to find its time – and that time may be now.

— Joanne Zipay, Director

CAST

Duke: Austin Keefer
Angelo: Nathaniel Herron
Escalus: Clara Moos
Provost: Kelechi Imoh
Elbow: Basit Ahmed
Lucio: Andy Harmon
Isabella: Darcy Doyle
Claudio: Sam Carmichael
Julietta: Nicole Burns
Mariana: Abigail Bouska
Mistress Overdone: Heather Roberts
Pompey: Liam Bujnowski
Froth: Abigail Bouska
Francisca: Heather Roberts
Reporters/Vandals/Crowd/Understudies:
Sophie Helman and Lydia Williams

CREW

Director: Joanne Zipay
Assistant Director: Alexis Salmon
Technical Director/Scenic Designer:
Craig “Yo” Erickson
Assistant Technical Director/
Lighting Designer: Tom Hull
Costume Designer: Robin Armstrong
Costume Assistants:
Gentry Hare and Jessica Hirthler
Projections Designer/Operator:
Lucas Hampton
Music Composer/Director: Chris Morgan
Stage Manager: Breanna R. Gaddis
Assistant Stage Manager: Xavier Orozco
Lighting Board Operator: Cris Kobierowski
Sound Board Operator: Saan AlHassan
Film Designer/Desk Operator:
Preston Reynolds
Scenic Construction: Liam Bujnowski,
Preston Reynolds, and Pablo Rubealcaba
Graffiti Artists:
Nathan Herron and Nicole Burns

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Workforce–Fine Arts
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Associate Dean of Academic
Affairs and Workforce–Fine Arts
Shannon Kearns,
Theatre Department Discipline Lead
James Grim, Lab Assistant–Music
John Brewer,
Facilities and Plant Operations Manager
Cindy Duffer, Assistant to the Dean
Glenn Trueman,
Manager, Box Office and Marketing

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Directed by Joanne Zipay

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