

THE CITY THEATRE COMPANY

ARDEN OF FAVERSHAM

A Domestic Tragedy - Anonymous

The Cast.

Arden.....J. Kevin Smith
Alice.....Bridget Farias Gates
Mosbie.....Nolan Blair
Franklin.....Laura Ray
Michael.....Cody Jenkins
Susan Courtney.....Bailey Parker
Greene.....Victoria Barton Rosenthal
Black Will.....Beau Paul
Shakebag.....Nathan Ford
Mistress Reede.....Lorin Craft
Clarke.....Levi Gore
Lord Cheney.....Robert Stevens
Bradshaw.....Ameer Mobarak

The town of Faversham. Anytime.

* * * * *

“Gentlemen, we hope you’ll pardon this naked tragedy wherein no filed points are foisted in to make it gracious to the ear or eye. For simple truth is gracious enough, and needs no other glossing stuff.”

The play is divided into two acts. Each act is about forty-five minutes in length.

Special thanks to.

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Central Texas Live Theatre Mr. Rick Crowley Ms. Mary Ann Crowley
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The City Theatre
Twice Voted "Best Theater Company"
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Arden Cast and Crew.

J. Kevin Smith has spent the past 20 years behind the camera as a film and video producer, and is thrilled to be returning to the stage, making his first appearance at The City Theatre. In days long past, Kevin appeared in Austin and around Texas with roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *1776*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and *Noises Off*. He's appeared in Sharanya Rao's short plays *Pants and Perceptions* and *Thou Shalt Not Waiver*, and wrote and directed the one act play *You're Perfect! You'll Do* for Frontera Fest in 2013.

Bridget Fariás Gates is the full time Artistic Director at the EmilyAnn Theatre (voted Best Theatre in Central Texas 2014 and Best Theatre in Hays County 2014), where she directs and teaches drama classes and camps. She has worked professionally with ZACH, Austin Shakespeare, Scottish Rite Children's Theatre, The Baron's Men (Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Dol Common in *The Alchemist*, Hecuba in *Trojan Women*), Poor Shadows of Elysium (Cleopatra), Last Act (Company Member, Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*, directed *Peer Gynt*), Different Stages (most recently Vixen in *Dracula*), San Marcos Spotlight Theatre (Fantine, *Les Miserables*), and with City Theatre (directed 7 shows, most recently *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940s*). Bridget studied abroad with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, England for two summers, and has won several acting awards. She is represented by DVA Talent for modeling, acting, and voice work. So much appreciation to Andy for all he does for Austin theatre, and unending love to Kevin and Rosalind, the joys of her life.

Nolan Blair is making his City Theatre debut in *Arden of Faversham*. He was most recently seen as Rico in Theatre Synesthesia's production of *Pontiac Firebird Variations*. Nolan is a recent graduate of Texas State University (*B.F.A. Theatre – Performance & Production*), where he received two Irene Ryan nominations for his performances in *Medea* (Jason) and *A Behanding in Spokane* (Carmichael).

Laura Ray is a graduate of St. Edward's University and has appeared on stages in and around the Austin area since 2005. Some of her favorite roles include Agnes in *Agnes of God* (City Theatre; B Iden Payne nomination for Best Ensemble); *The Assistant in Cardigan* (Frontera Fest Long Fringe); Clio, Muse of History in *Sing Muse* (The Vortex; B Iden Payne winner for Best Cast); Mary Tilford in *The Children's Hour* (Different Stages); Megan Powers in *Changelings* (The Vortex); and Frenchy in *Grease* (Emily Ann Theater). Laura would like to thank Kevin, cast and crew for this awesome experience, as well as, her family and Heath for their continual love and support.

Courtney Bailey Parker is on the verge of completing her PhD in English Renaissance literature at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. This is her first show with The City Theatre. Originally from the Atlanta area, she has appeared in regional productions of *Little Women the Musical*; *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *The Wedding Singer*. This summer, she'll play Hermione in *The Winter's Tale* with Something for Nothing Theatre Company here in Austin.

Beau Paul is in his second production with CTC, having recently appeared in *Bus Stop* in March. He has also appeared in Different Stages' production of *Dracula*, Austin Shakespeare's production of Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love*, and Different Stages' *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Other cast credits include, *Run for Your Wife*, *Metamorphosis*, and *Uncle Vanya*. He studied Acting and Directing at Southwest Texas State (now Texas State University).

Victoria Barton Rosenthal is pleased to be back at City Theatre, where she most recently performed in *A Man for All Seasons*. She has studied with LAMDA and Guildhall in London, has appeared in productions across the UK including *4:48 Psychosis*, *Heartbreak House*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and has several screen credits including a stint as a CBBC presenter. She has also worked with the RSC, and behind the scenes on several West End productions, and plays an active role in the Austin Arts community. Victoria would like to thank the cast and crew of *Arden* for helping to bring the show to life.

Nathan Daniel Ford is an actor, musician, and recent Austin transplant. Originally from Starkville, MS, he earned a BFA in Acting and Musical Theatre from the University of Mississippi. Notable university credits include *RENT* (Mark), *The Laramie Project* (Kaufman, McKinney, etc), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He has appeared with TEXAS! Musical Drama and recently premiered the musical *Debate Team* with Silver Key Theatre. Upcoming productions include *Dogfight* (Austin Theatre Project), *Postville* (Last Act), and *Twelfth Night* (Present Company). Love to his family and to his girlfriend Corinna for her constant support and inspiration.

Lorin Craft recently graduated with a BFA in Theatre from Texas State University. This will be her first production with the City Theatre Company. Some of her past roles at Texas State include a staged reading of her one woman show *My Chemical Imbalance*, Ensemble in *Medea's Children: Experimental Theatre*, Sheila in *The Boys Next Door*, and Receptionist in *Waiting*. Her past roles in Wimberley include Muse/Drum majorette in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and Cornelius/Soothsayer in *Cymbeline*. Lorin would like to thank everyone involved with *Arden* for all of their hard work and her family and friends for their never ending support.

Cody Jenkins is a graduate from Texas State University and is excited to be making his City Theatre. His recent credits include: The Man in *RENT*, Max in *Lend Me A Tenor*, Quintus/Goth2 in *Titus Andronicus*, and Phillip in *Orphans*. Cody has studied Shakespeare in London and Stratford Upon Avon with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). He is a Company One and Company Two member of The Performing Arts Project (TPAP), as well as being a member of the Broadway Theatre Project (BTP) for many years. He would like to thank all of his professors at Texas State, his family, and close friends for their support and love in what it is he loves to do. "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard" - Winnie the Pooh

Levi Gore is a graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from West Texas A&M University and has appeared on many stages in and around the Austin. Most recently he was seen in City Theatre's production of *A Man For All Seasons*. Past roles include City Theatre's productions of: *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Caesar*, and *The Eight Reindeer Monologues*. In addition, he has been featured in The Baron's Men performances of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Lysistrata*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Other works include *Iphigenia 2.0*, (KACTF Regional Finalist) *The Dumb Waiter*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Tartuffe*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Macbeth*, *Peer Gynt*, and *It's Called The Sugar Plum*. Levi is thrilled to be working with such a fine and talented Arden cast and crew.

Robert Stevens has been appearing on Austin stages for the past 25 years. He most recently played Dr. Gerald Lyman in City's production of *Bus Stop*. Past roles at City Theatre include Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Launce in *This Spring of Love*, and Lord Montague in *Romeo & Juliet*. Other notable roles include Hieronimo in *The Spanish Tragedy* with The Baron's Men; Ragueneau in *Cyrano*, and Corin in *As You Like It* with Austin Shakespeare; Robert began acting at UT's Shakespeare at Winedale program in 1991, and has since appeared in 24 of Shakespeare's 38 plays. He has a Master's in Liberal Arts with a focus on Medieval English Literature. He would like to dedicate this performance to his dear departed wife, Madeline Vincent.

Ameer Mobarak is thrilled to be in his second production at City Theatre. He made his City Theatre debut earlier this season playing Roger Hopewell in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. He was most recently seen as Aslan in *Narnia: The Musical* (The EmilyAnn Theatre). Some favorite roles include The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* (EmilyAnn), Rozenkrantz in *Hamlet* (EmilyAnn), The Creature in *Young Frankenstein* (Wimberley Players), Marius in *Les Miserables* (Spotlight Players), and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* (The Baron's Men). He is excited to be performing with this great cast that includes his friend and mentor Bridget. He would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support, and give a very special thank you to the most wonderful lady in his life. Thank you Hannah.

Kevin Gates (Production Director) is thrilled to be directing at City again following his multiple award-winning *Macbeth*. Kevin holds an MA from Texas State University, where he teaches Theatre History. Although some might question the wisdom of directing one's wife in a play about a woman who murders her husband, I will let the dice fall where they may. She didn't convince me to kill myself when we played Antony and Cleopatra together, so it'll probably be fine.

Andy Berkovsky (Artistic Director) is a drama graduate of Sam Houston State and a three-time Austin B. Iden Payne nominee for Outstanding Director (*The Boys Next Door*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Agnes of God*.) Andy began City Theatre in 2006 and has directed *Frozen*, *Into the Woods*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Cabaret*, *Reckless*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Rumors*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Come Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* and *Steel Magnolias*. He has been involved in theatre arts as performer, director, choreographer, designer, and teacher for over thirty-five years and has worked with Texas theatre companies The Hilton Dinner Theatre, Theatre under the Stars, Stages, and Miller Outdoor Theatre. He has directed on the stages of the UT Bass Concert Hall, SHSU, West Texas A&M University and Victoria College. He has taught classes and workshops at SHSU, West Texas A&M, Austin Lyric Opera, and is twice honored as a Texas state champion director in one-act play competition. He was recently honored as 2015 Best Director by the Central Excellence in Live Theatre Awards. Andy is thrilled to serve as Artistic Director and to work with such outstanding theatre professionals in Austin.

Congratulations to City Theatre!

Winner of three 2015 Central Texas Excellence in Theatre Awards

Best Production – *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

Best Direction – Andy Berkovsky, *Love Alone*

Best Actor in a Play – Kirk Kelso, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

Winner of three 2015 Broadway World – Austin Awards

Best Play – *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

Best Direction of a Play - Matthew Burnett

Love! Valour! Compassion!

Best Leading Actor in a Play – Kirk Kelso

Love! Valour! Compassion!

Arden – Alice – Anonymous

Arden of Faversham was published in 1592. The play was based on an actual murder that occurred in 1551, and was so sensational that Raphael Holinshed saw fit to include a lengthy account of it in his *Chronicles*, a text which provided the source material for such plays as *King Lear* and *Macbeth*. Instead of a story about kings and crowns, though, *Arden* is the story of an unfaithful wife who plots with her lover to murder her husband. The two engage various bumbling accomplices who fail spectacularly to kill Arden. One way to justify its inclusion is the fact that murder of a husband by a wife was punishable under the Treason Act of 1351. The king is to the husband as the subject is to the wife. Unsurprisingly, murder of a wife was not such a serious crime under medieval law.

The first three editions of the play were printed anonymously. It has sometimes been attributed to William Shakespeare, or variously to Thomas Kyd or Christopher Marlowe (who seems to me an unlikely candidate, given the play's focus on, and portrayal of, Alice). Indeed, the use of metaphor and rhetorical devices in parts of the play do seem Shakespearean and there are some interesting textual parallels between Mosbie and Alice, on the one hand, and Macbeth and Lady Macbeth on the other.

This play is notable for another reason. I find the treatment of Alice to be astonishing. She unquestionably participated in the murder of her husband (in reality, she stabbed him multiple times and then partied afterwards). Despite her guilt in what would have been viewed as a particularly monstrous crime, the author takes great care to treat her as favorably as possible.

American audiences are likely to miss the play's political context. Arden's receipt of the Abbey lands displaced many tenants and took away the social support system for many people in the area. Arden became incredibly rich at the expense of his poorer neighbors. Despite this facet of the play, the story of Arden's murder could be ripped from today's headlines. Accordingly, I've seen fit to set this in a modern period. Aside from the need to deliver letters, I think everything in the play still rings true.

I hope you enjoy watching the play as much as I enjoyed working on it.

– Kevin Gates, Director

Production Crew.

Production Director – Kevin Gates

Assistant Director – Molly McCarty

Costume Design – Bridget Farias Gates

Set and Construction – Andy Berkovsky and Levi Gore

Light Design - Chris McKnight

Sound Design – Kevin Gates

Sound and Light Board Operator – Sebastian Garcia

Scenic Painting – Jennifer Cunningham

House and Box Office Management – Kate Knapek

Publicity Design – Omar Phoenix

Show Photography – Aleks Ortynski

A special show thanks to Kirkwerks Studio and the Wimberley Players.

The 2016 City Theatre Spring and Summer Season

The Glass Menagerie, Little Shops of Horrors,
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by Deborah Salem Smith

October 2 - 18

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

by John Bishop

October 23 - November 15

Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

November 20 - January 3

The Boys Next Door

by Tom Griffin

January 15 - February 7

A Man for All Seasons

by Robert Bolt

February 12 - March 6

Bus Stop

by William Inge

March 11 - April 3

Arden of Faversham

by William Shakespeare?

April 29 - May 22

Pageant, the musical

by Bill Russell, Frank Kelly, Albert Evans
and Robert Longbottom

May 27-June 19

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

June 24 - July 17

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

July 22 - August 14

Little Shop of Horrors

by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken

August 19 - September 11

All shows are pending with City Theatre scheduling and royalty rights availability

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