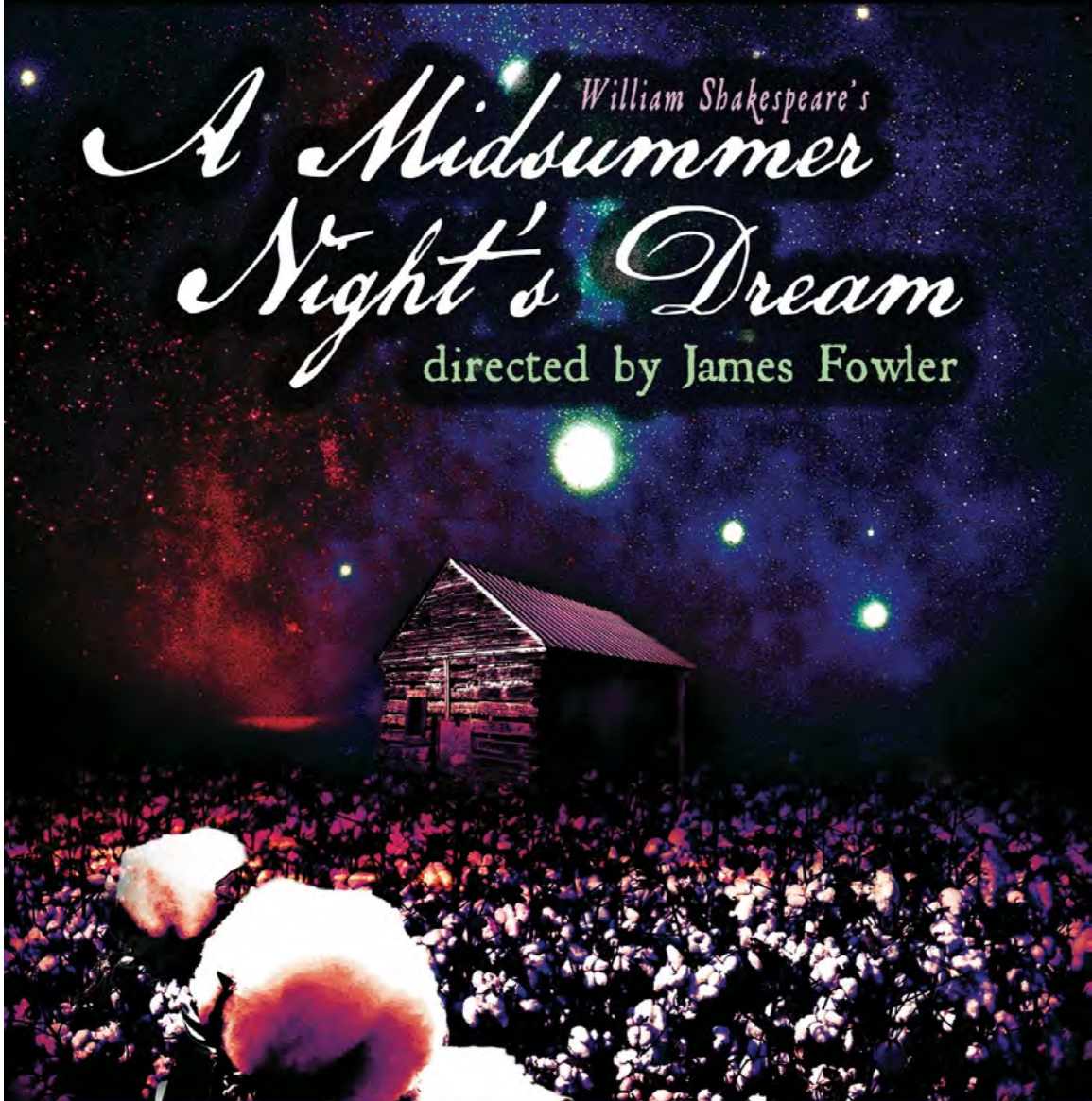


Open Fist Theatre Company presents

*William Shakespeare's*  
*A Midsummer*  
*Night's Dream*  
directed by James Fowler



Fri-Sat 8PM & Sun 7PM  
\$25 tickets at [openfist.org](http://openfist.org)



This production is made possible in part by a grant from the California Arts Council



This presentation is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the LA County Dept of Arts & Culture

**openFist**  
theatre company



**presents**

## **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

Featuring:

Devon Armstrong\* • Bryan Bertone • Malik S. Bailey • Sandra Kate Burck • Phillip C. Curry •  
Syanne Green • Erica Mae Mcneal • Heather K. Mitchell • Nick Mizrahi • Anna-Laurie Rives\* •  
Debba Rofheart • Ash Saunders • Michael A. Shepperd\* • Monazia Smith • Azeem Vecchio  
Ann Marie Wilding • Dylan Wittrock • Alexander Wells\*

Scenic Design  
**Jan Munroe**

Costume Design  
**Mylette Nora**

Lighting Design  
**Gavan Wyrick**

Sound Design  
**Nayla Hull**

Properties  
**Ina Shumaker & Bruce Dickinson**

Scenic Artist  
**Stephanie Crothers**

Choreographer  
**Faith Knapp**

Production Stage Manager  
**Jennifer Palumbo\***  
**John Dimitri**

Vocal Arrangements  
**James Fowler**

Fight Choreographer  
**Nick Mizhari**

*Publicist*  
**Lucy Pollak**

**Production Manager Amanda Weier**

**A special thank you to Justin Eick for original choreography of the lover's quarrel.**



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**Mission**

Open Fist Theatre Company is a self-governing community of theatre artists who believe in the transformative imperative of inclusive and collaborative theatre. Dedicated to expanding social awareness through art, we seek, through diverse voices and artistic visions, to celebrate difference, nurture empathy and advance social change.

**Board of Directors**

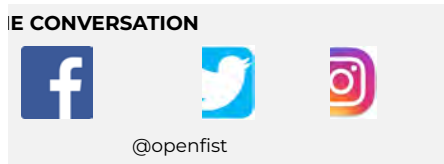
Martha Demson, Richard Michael Knolla, Christopher Lore, Schuyler Mastain, Charles Otte, Malhar Pagay, Katie May Porter, Catie Saralegui, Ina Shumaker

**Company Staff**

Artistic Director..... **Martha Demson**  
Associate Artistic Director / Co-Production Manager..... **Amanda Weier**  
Managing Director..... **Katie May Porter**  
Co-Production Manager / Facilities Manager ..... **Art Hall**  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Associate ..... **Carmella Jenkins**  
Literary Manager..... **Barbara Schofield**  
Marketing & Social Media Manager ..... **Debba Rofheart**  
Membership Manager..... **Beth Robbins**  
Financial Director ..... **Richard Michael Knolla**  
Education Director ..... **Laura Richardson**  
Outreach Director ..... **Dionna Veremis**

**Our Members**

Hetty Abbott, Lane Allison, Christine Avila, Bryan Bertone, Phillip William Brock, Sandra Kate Burck, Spencer Cantrell, Christopher Cappiello, Stephanie Crothers, Carolyne Crotty, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickinson, Prescilia Esparolini, Lori Gambero, David Gironda Jr., Art Hall, Laura James, Carmella Jenkins, Caroline Klidonas, Richard Michael Knolla, Tim Labor, Elizabeth Lande, Sherry Larson, Dylan Maddalena, Derek Manson, Ben Martin, Schuyler Mastain, Angel Miguel, Jan Munroe, Jennifer Palumbo, Rod Menzies, Heather Mitchell, Amy Moorman, Scott Mosenson, Ethan Niven, Tom Noga, Jason Paige, Stevie-Jean Placek, Katie May Porter, Tina Preston, Laura Richardson, Anna Laurie Rives, Beth Robbins, Scott Roberts, Debba Rofheart, Jade Santana, Judith Scarpone, Barbara Schofield, David Shofner, Ina Shumaker, Casey Sullivan, Janine Venable, Dionna Veremis, Amanda Weier, Alexander Wells, Ann Marie Wilding, Jennifer Zorbalas



# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

## Cast of Characters

Theseus .....	Bryan Bertone
Hippolyta .....	Heather K. Mitchell
Philostrate/Puck .....	Monazia Smith
Egeus .....	Alexander Wells*
Hermia .....	Sandra Kate Burck
Helena .....	Anna-Laurie Rives* Ann Marie Wilding
Lysander .....	Dylan Wittrock
Demetrius .....	Devon Armstrong* Nick Mizhari
Oberon .....	Phillip C. Curry
Titania .....	Ash Saunders
Peaseblossom/Fairy/Starveling/Moonshine.....	Syanne Green
Cobweb/Snout/Wall .....	Erica Mae Mcneal
Moth/Snug/Lion .....	Azeem Vecchio
Mustardseed/Flute/Thisby .....	Malik S. Bailey
Peter Quince (a British Abolitionist) .....	Debba Rofheart
Bottom.....	Michael A. Shepperd*



\* Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Some years back, when I was co-directing a traditional production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a line jumped out at me that I hadn't much noticed before: "That would hang us, every mother's son." As my work continued on this predominantly white production, and as I sifted through more of the text, I became obsessed with the idea that maybe William Shakespeare's writing held space for more than tradition. Upon further reflection, I began to realize that this play lent itself beautifully to the world of unseen enslaved African people. I was stunned to discover how well this concept worked with the text. It made sense that the fairies, unseen to the lovers, are invisible to the plantation owners around them because they are enslaved. I imagine African slaves on the plantations as people who, despite horrendous hardship, carried magic. In this production, we're able to see their magic played out in the lives of the people around them who don't ever see them. In many ways, I believe that this may be Puck's dream we are experiencing until faced with the brutal reality and reminder of life for the enslaved in 1855 Athens Georgia. As a black director, actor, and producer, I, like many others have been subject to the often unconscious bigotry of the white theatre practitioners for whom we have worked. The resilience and unmatched efforts of the BLM movement have, of late, made space for fresh narratives, and for the non-traditional retelling of classic stories in the theatre at large. Yet, despite the efforts of many to diversify opportunity in the American theatre, too often, there still remains great resistance. Fortunately, when I pitched a diverse retelling of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the Open Fist Theatre's artistic staff, they were thrilled with the concept and we got to work right away.

As you can imagine, the pandemic offered me generous amounts of time to research exactly how to re-tell this timeless classic: I pored through the pages of the Bard's text; I watched just about every production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* there is, and I sought out historical references that have been invaluable. This production is set in the Antebellum South circa 1855. For many of my non-BIPOC friends, this setting was challenging and in some ways too dangerous to attempt. But I have chosen to rely on the language of the text, the brilliance of my people, and the God of my own understanding, to guide me on this journey to honor my ancestors. I pray that this story blesses you. I would like to thank and give honor to my mother and father Myra and Jason. I love you both so very much! I dedicate these performances to the many black men and women who fought against injustice yesterday, and to those who still fight today! Enjoy the show!

- James Fowler

***Special Thanks to...***

***Faith Knapp, Martha Demson, Amanda Weier, Nick Mizrahi, Mary Jo Kirwan, Myra Sommers Fowler, John Dimitri, Barbra Schofield, Beth Robbins, Carmella Jenkins, Jan Munroe, Nayla Hull, Mylette Nora, Gavan Wyrick, Jen Palumbo, Bruce Dickinson, Ina Shumaker, Stephanie Crothers, Justin Eick, Lucy Pollak, Robert Greenfield & the Warner Brothers Prop House, Matt Richter, and The Open Fist Theatre Company.***



## The Cast



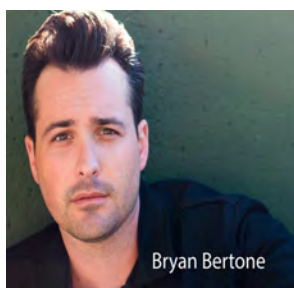
**Devon Armstrong** (*Demetrius*) is a director, actor, and immersive theater creator ("It's Alive", "The Assassination of Edgar Allan Poe") from Los Angeles. He founded the Downtown Repertory Theater Company in 2009 and has produced or directed over 30 plays, and 5 feature films. He's grateful to Open Fist and James Fowler for

the opportunity to perform with such a talented cast and crew! IG: @devondarmstong



**Malik S. Bailey** (*Musterseed/Flute/Thisby*) was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and studied acting at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles. He recently directed a short film, but has been craving the stage and is excited to return to live

theatre!



**Bryan Bertone** (*Theseus*) is grateful to be back in the theater with such a fantastic cast and crew, and for a decade performing with Open Fist. Previous Fist credits include: In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play, Never Swim Alone, Early and Often, Short

Ends, Foote Notes, Welcome to Your Alternative Reality, Under Milkwood, All Night Long (as Polar Bear, his most poignant work yet), Last Call, and Ghosts. Other favorites include- Los Angeles: Closer, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, A Flea in Her Ear, It's a Living, The Fire Room, The Four of

Us, and Light up the Sky. San Diego: History Boys, The Little Dog Laughed. Orange County: The Lion in Winter. Hollywood Fringe: Lydia Trueblood, the Black Widow of the Atlantic Coast (also performed at Edinburgh Fringe), Nilbog: The Musical Parody of Troll 2, Unreal City. Bryan can also be found hanging around town with his neurotic dog Garth, helping good people in the artistic community obtain mortgages, and on Instagram @baron\_von\_boredom.



**Sandra Kate Burck** (*Hermia*) grew up on the Big Island of Hawaii where the very first play she ever saw was, in fact, A Midsummer Night's Dream. This experience allowed her to not only fall in love with

Shakespeare but also put the role of Hermia at the top of her list of "Dream Roles." She could relate to Hermia, as she was also short, feisty, self-assertive, and independently-minded (albeit 6 years old). A couple of decades later, having not grown much since then, Sandra is beyond thrilled to finally cross this role off her bucket list! She would like to thank James Fowler and The Open Fist Theatre Company for this incredible opportunity to come back home to the theatre and spend the summer in Athens, Georgia, and of course all of you for coming to see the show! Some of her favorite stage credits include Dancing at Lughnasa (Rose Mundy), The Miracle Worker (Annie Sullivan), Little Woman (Jo March), and Anne of Green Gables (Anne Shirley). Theatrical credits include The Middle

(ABC), Rush Hour (CBS), and Key and Peele (Comedy Central).



**Phillip C. Curry** (*Oberon*) is thrilled to return to the Open Fist stage for this exciting production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A heartfelt thank you to our superb design and tech team for enabling this "Dream" to be realized. And thank you all for coming out to support live theater.



**Heather K. Mitchell** (*Hippolyta*) migrated over from the Bonnie banks of Scotland. Having recently graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, she is extremely excited to perform in her first show with Open Fist Theatre Company. IG: @heatherk\_mitchell



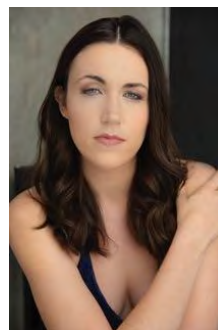
**Syanne Green** (*Peaseblossom, Starveling, Moonshine*) This is Syanne Green's first show at Open Fist. She has recently graduated from AMDA College with her BFA and is thankful for the opportunity to perform fresh out of college. She has enjoyed working with the cast and crew and looks forward to future endeavors with Open Fist.



**Nick Mizhari** (*Demetrius/Fight Choreographer*) Nick is honored to be a part of this production with such outstanding and talented people. He is currently working as an acting and stage combat teacher at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts while continuing to pursue his acting career. Previous credits include Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet: An ASL Love Story*, Macbeth in *Shakespeareance*, Daniel in *Tribes*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, and Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. Nick would like to thank all of his friends and family for their continued support in everything he does.



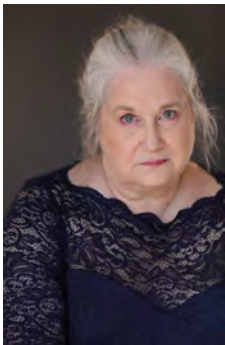
**Erica Mae McNeal** (*Cobweb/Snout/Wall*) Erica Mae is beyond excited to be a part of this reimagined *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is very grateful to her parents and friends for their continuous support in her career, and can not wait to see where this dream life takes her. IG: @\_ericamae\_



**Anna-Laurie Rives** (*Helena*) is thrilled to be making her debut at Open Fist Theatre as a company member. A Texas transplant, Anna-Laurie graduated from Southern Methodist University with a



BA in Art History and minors in French and Human Rights. She moved to Los Angeles after college to follow her real passion; acting. She has had the pleasure of playing Lianna in the world premiere of *Life Expectancy: A Play in Three Trimesters*, Sarah in *Wolf*, and Liberty in the Emmy-winning web series *Break A Hip*. She'd like to thank her friends, especially Elisa, Alizah, Cathy for their support, Karina, for her guidance, her parents for their inspiration and encouragement, and her fiancé, Mickey, for always being there for her, all the rides, pep talks, snack runs, and for being her best friend. Everyone enjoy the show!!



**Debba Rofheart** (*Peter Quince*) is an LA-based actor, a proud Open Fist Theatre Company (OFTC) member, and a Playground-LA company member. Before the plague, Debba was last seen on stage at OFTC's Rorschach Fest, and during quarantine Zoom theatre, she was seen in "The Book of Life," by Judy Klass, and as Jennet Jourdemayne, in 2nd Star to the Right's production of "The Lady's Not for Burning." And you can see her as Judy, in the film, "Emma Rose," now streaming on Amazon. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Florida. Thank you for coming and keeping live theatre alive.



**Ash Saunders** (*Titiana*) was born and raised in New York, more specifically Long Island. She has always been a super creative and

active child. It is the reason why she chose to pursue a career in the entertainment industry as a child. Ash further her study of the craft at Hampton University where she received her Bachelor in Performance Art. From there, she landed an internship in Los Angeles. And the rest is history. The deeper she journeyed into the entertainment industry, the deeper her love grew working not only on camera but behind the scenes as well. It is Ash's belief that one never stops learning. It is the reason she continues enlisting in programs that will further push her trajectory upward. Aside from acting, writing, and directing, she also enjoys other forms of creative expression. In her spare time, she enjoys DIY projects, cooking, and fashion design. Her life's motto is, "It's either a lesson or a blessing. Remember perspective is key". Ash's hope for her career is to continue making strides within the entertainment industry, and experiencing all that life has to offer. IG: @ash\_\_s



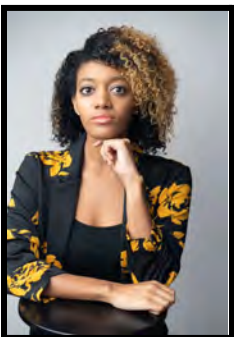
**Michael A. Shepperd** (*Bottom*) is very excited to be making his first appearance with Open Fist Theatre.

A few of his LA directing credits:  
The Boy From Oz (Ovation Award, LADCC Award, Best Director), Rotterdam (LADCC Award Best Production, Stage Raw award for Best Production (win) and Best Director, nom

West Addams, (LA Times Critics Choice), Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Director of the Year, Scenic Award, Broadway World nom, Best Director) The View Upstairs (Broadway World Award, Best Director) Sucker Punch, Too Heavy for Your Pocket (LA Times Critics Choice), The Next Fairy Tale, [title of show], Rent.

Acting roles include Matilda (Miss Trunchbull), The Producers (Roger DeBris; Ovation Award nominee), Fences (Troy; Ovation, LADCC Nominations), BootyCandy (LADCC nom, Ovation, Stage Raw Win), The Color Purple (Mister; Ovation award), Steel (Ovation Award), Master Harold and the Boys ( NAACP theatre award nom), The Producers(Ovation Award nom), Intimate Apparel (NAACP Theatre Award), Choir Boy (NAACP nom), and Shout Sister Shout. Broadway/Regional credits include: Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan, The Seafarer, Little Shop of Horrors, Caroline, or Change, Whipping Man.

TV: Bosch, Why Women Kill, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Soul Man, Hot In Cleveland, Wizards of Waverly Place, Monk, Criminal Minds, NCIS.



**Monazia Smith** (*Puck/Philostrate*) is Army Brat turned LA-based actress. She received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Acting in 2017 and has been working in local LA theatres and on camera ever since. She continues to train in acting and is even certified in stage combat. Monazia is very proud to be making history at

Universal Studios Hollywood as the first

Black person to perform as Master of Ceremonies in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

She's happy to return to Open Fist Theatre since her reading with "The Last Call". She has also appeared on screen in "Psycho Party Planner" (Lifetime) and "In Ice Cold Blood" (Oxygen) as well as on stage in the original musical, "Tesla the Musical". Monazia considers herself very fortunate with the life she has and thanks God for every opportunity to do what she loves and impact those around her. "I'm not trying to change the *whole* world. Just someone's world. That would be enough.

**Azeem Vecchio** (Moth/Snug) is an

actor, model, director, and writer originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. Azeem began acting in school and church productions at the age of 9, and in 2019 Azeem graduated with his BFA in Acting from AMDA College and Conservatory. Azeem also owns his own



production company known for creating still and motion pictures on relevant social topics. In addition, he has been a barber since 2010 and owns an active hair-cutting business.

IG: @azeemvecchio

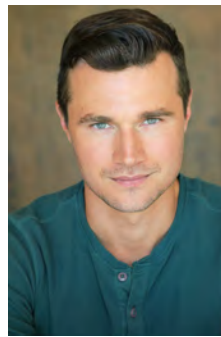


**Alexander Wells** (*Egeus*) has appeared in numerous critically acclaimed stage productions in Los Angeles. His most recent appearance with Open Fist Theatre Company was *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play*. He also appeared in *Rorschach Festival* in 2020. With *Son of Semele Ensemble: Love and Information*, *Slaughter City*, and *Sarah Ruhl's Melancholy Play*, *Our Class* and one-man show, *A Very Short History of the Second World War*. With *Classical Theatre Lab: Pinch in The Country Wife*, *Duke in The Comedy of Errors*, and directed *The Drag by Mae West*. *The New American Theatre: The Three Sisters*, *Taming of the Shrew*. He won an LA Weekly Award for Best Male Comedy Performance for *Fatboy*. Alex has also performed with *New Jersey Shakespeare Festival*.



**Ann Marie Wilding** (*Helena*) graduated with her BFA in Acting for the Stage and Screen at Azusa Pacific University. She's continued her education by studying Shakespeare at Independent Shakespeare Company and Improv and TV Writing at Upright Citizens Brigade. Also a playwright, Ann Marie won the Bechdel Test Festival Best Short Play for her original short play *Lilies from Iron*. Last performing with Open Fist Theatre as Referee in *Never Swim Alone* and *Agnes in Dancing at Lughnasa*, previous credits also

include *Claire* in *Downtown Repertory Theatre Company's* world premiere of *It's Alive*, *Helena* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Maria* in *Twelfth Night*. Ann Marie is thrilled to return to the Open Fist Theatre stage to share in this storytelling with such a talented company, cast, and crew.



**Dylan Wittrock** (*Lysander*) TV: *Feud: Bette and Joan*, *Power*. Film: *The Long Weekend*, *A Mouthful of Air*. Theater: *The Red Dress* (Odyssey Theater), *Othello*, (*A Noise Within*), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Edward II*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romero and Juliet*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. This is Dylan's first production with Open Fist. He is thrilled to be performing with other Arts High alumni James Fowler and Devon Armstrong.

## The Creatives

### **William Shakespeare** (Playwright)

#### **James Fowler** (Director)

Fowler's directing credits include The Fantasticks at Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Music Man at Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Romeo and Juliet at L.A.'s historic Pico House, and A Midsummer Night's Dream at Sierra Madre Memorial Park. As an acting coach, he developed acting methods currently used by actors around the world. He has coached and worked with actors including Vivica A Fox, Derek Klena, Joe Mantegna, Khandi Alexander, William Forsythe, and Corbin Bleu, among others. His work has been recognized by the California State Senate, California State Assembly, and the NAACP.

#### **Jan Munroe** (Scenic Design)

has been a member of OPEN FIST for the last decade during which time he appeared as SHU-FU in GOOD WOMAN OF SZECHUAN, a vampire in MAD FOREST, and a ghost in John O'Keefe's GHOSTS. He also directed and designed O'Keefe's DON'T YOU EVER CALL ME ANYTHING BUT MOTHER and ALL NIGHT LONG for OPEN FIST as well as designing/building Playwrights'Arena's A HIT DOG WILL HOLLER at the Skylight. As an actor, he has appeared numerous times on TV (This Is Us, Criminal Minds, Brooklyn 99), in movies (A Few Good Men, Catch Me If You Can, Ford V Ferrari), and on stage. He is currently in the cast of DETAINED at the Fountain Theatre. His early childhood memoir THE DEMENTIA COOKBOOK: What I remember before I forget (available at LULU.COM.) was published in June 2021. He is a recipient of eleven L.A. Weekly and Drama-Logue awards, an Ovation Award, two NEA Theatre

fellowships, a CAC "New Genre" fellowship, and a Rockefeller Playwright's fellowship.

#### **Stephanie Crothers** (Scenic Artist)

Stephanie is a painter and actress and has been a member of the Open Fist Theater Company since 2013. As a self-taught artist, Stephanie began drawing the moment she learned how to hold a pencil. In 2015, she started her own company designing yoga mats from her abstract watercolor art and has since taken her skills to broader canvases as a muralist and scenic painter. Her recent stage painting credits include OFTC's 2022 production of IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY, and Anne Kenney's LAST CALL. You can also spot her murals on AirBnBs across Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley. She is thrilled to be back as the Charge Scenic Artist for this visionary production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM, and looks forward to her next project

#### **Gavan Wyrick** (Lighting Design)

Gavan Wyrick is a Los Angeles-based lighting designer for plays, musicals, and everything in between. Recent credits include: Foursome Productions, God of Carnage; Desert Theatricals, James and the Giant Peach, A Funny Thing Happens on the Way to the Forum; IVRT, World Goes 'Round. Gavan is also an instructor and resident lighting designer for Azusa Pacific University's Department of Theater Arts. Website: [gavanwyrickdesign.com](http://gavanwyrickdesign.com)

#### **Nayla Hull** (Sound Design)

Nayla Hull is a Sound Designer creating out of Long Beach, CA. She's an Alumna of California State University of Los Angeles. She's an artist of many hats from acting to rapping. The self-taught composer has released original compositions for her first design project on all streaming platforms. She is an

award-winning Sound Designer receiving a Legacy Award from the Kennedy Center. She loves music and continues to learn to create, design, and share her musical creations with the world.

**Faith Knapp** (*Choreographer*)

Faith Knapp graduated with her BFA in Acting from the University of Central Florida in 2020. Faith has choreographed for many theatres in Florida and California and is an SAFD-certified actor combatant. Faith has trained with Desean Terry at the Last Acting Studio and Sydney Walsh at the BGB Studio. Faith has performed at many theatres across the country and her most recent film, "Outdone," debuts in June. Faith is represented by The Wayne Agency and managed by Scot Reynolds.

**Myllette Nora** (*Costume Design*)

"Musical Fools", "Dancing at Lughnasa" "In The Next Room" are a few of her shows that she has the pleasure of doing with Open Fist! Ovation Award and NAACP Theatre Awards for best costumes, listed in the honors edition of The Cambridge Registry of Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women, works worldwide her credits consist of television, film, video, and stage, and was seen nightly on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and now "You Bet Your Life" with Jay Leno and Kevin Eubanks, and weekly on "Jay Leno's Garage". The famed artist Synthia St. James noted Mylette as being the inspiration for her world-renowned painting "Ensemble" which graced the cover of the best-selling novel "Waiting To Exhale" by Terry McMillan. Mylette's designer lines are, doggie wear, [www.FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com](http://www.FromTheHeartDoggieWear.com), heirloom dolls, "My Mind's Eye", and now face mask by, Mylette!

**Bruce Dickinson and Ina Shumaker**

(Props Design)

Began designing props and set pieces for the Open Fist Theatre Company over 20 years ago. Specializing in creating realistic fake foods and period set dressings, some of their favorite past shows include: James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Doo Doo Love*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. *Carpe diem*.

**Jennifer Palumbo** (*Stage Manager*)

Jennifer is absolutely delighted to be back at Open Fist following the abrupt shutdown of 2020 and grateful to be part of this project with these amazing designers, artists, and storytellers! OFTC credits; *SOLDIER DREAMS*, *RORSCHACH FEST*, *NEIL SIMON'S MUSICAL FOOLS*, *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*, *LAST CALL*, *ALL NIGHT LONG*, *UNDER MILK WOOD*, *DeLEARious*, *THE GARY PLAYS*, and *MAD FOREST*. Career highlights: *THE COLOR PURPLE* with Greenway Arts Alliance; Katori Hall's *THE MOUNTAINTOP* at The Matrix, and at MLK50 in Memphis, TN, with Hattiloo Theatre; *SUPPLIANT WOMEN* at the Getty Villa with Rogue Machine.

**Martha Demson** (*Artistic Director*)

Highlights of Demson's award-winning career with the Open Fist Theatre include: As a producer: *Neil Simon's Musical Fools* (Simon, Swann, West); *Anna in the Tropics* (Cruz); *All Night Long* (O'Keefe); *The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union* (Greig); *How to Explain the History of Communism to Mental Patients* (Visniec). As a director: The Ovation Award-winning *PAPA* (deGroot); *Casanova* (Congden), *Abingdon Square* (Fornes), *Escape from Happiness* (Walker), *The Existents* (Taylor); *Dear John Mayer* (Shoshana Bean / Eydie Faye); *BOTH: A Hard Day's Silent Night*.



Education: Yale University and Sanford  
Meisner's 2-year master class.