

The Graduate Dramatic Society presents

Othello

*But I will wear my heart
upon my sleeve*

I am not what I am.



The Graduate Dramatic Society
presents

William Shakespeare's
Othello

Adapted and Directed by
Thomas Dimmick

The Graduate Dramatic Society respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we perform this show, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

Act 1

Before Othello begins, Roderigo has been pursuing Desdemona, a Venetian noblewoman. She hears from Iago that Desdemona has secretly married his General, Othello. Iago bears a grudge against Othello for being overlooked for promotion. Instead, Othello chose Cassio. Iago urges Roderigo to tell Senator Brabantio, Desdemona's mother, knowing she will dislike having Othello as a son-in-law. Late at night, Iago and Roderigo wake Brabantio with the news and Brabantio angrily goes after Othello. Officers interrupt, summoning Brabantio to an urgent Senate meeting. The Senate is concerned about a Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Brabantio interrupts the council, claiming vengeance against Othello. Othello is already there because he has just been put in command of the forces to repel the Turks. Othello explains how his stories of military prowess have helped him earn Desdemona's love. Afterwards, Desdemona reinforces the tale and defends her marriage. Her mother disowns her, and Desdemona goes with Othello on his campaign, going with Emilia, Iago's wife.

In Cyprus, Montano and his soldiers greet Cassio, Iago, Desdemona, and Emilia. Othello soon arrives with news that the war is done. A night of celebration is proclaimed. Roderigo confesses doubts about wooing Desdemona, but Iago calms her down. He urges Roderigo to challenge Cassio to a fight, since (as Iago claims) Desdemona is actually falling in love with her. Iago gets Cassio drunk, and Roderigo incites Cassio's anger. Montano is attacked during the altercation. Othello is angered and blames Cassio, stripping her of her recently conferred officer status.

The next day, Iago convinces Cassio to ask Desdemona for help in regaining her post. When Cassio asks, Desdemona innocently agrees. Meanwhile, Iago has sown seeds of jealousy in Othello's mind, suggesting that Desdemona is overfond of Cassio. With no reason to suspect Iago of bad intentions, Othello begins to watch his wife.

Act 2

Othello becomes angry when Desdemona cannot find the first gift he gave her, a handkerchief. But Desdemona had not lost the handkerchief. Iago had instructed Emilia, his wife, to take it. Iago then hid the handkerchief where Cassio would find it. When Desdemona urges her husband to reconsider Cassio's demotion, Othello gets jealous and suspects her of infidelity.

Iago continues to inflame this jealousy. He encourages Othello to overhear and misinterpret, part of a conversation between Cassio and her lover, Bianca. Othello orders Iago to kill Cassio. Desdemona cannot understand Othello's change of attitude towards her. Othello even strikes her in the presence of her uncle, Lodovico, who has arrived as an ambassador from Venice. As she prepares for bed, she talks with Emilia, singing to relieve the distress she feels at losing the trust of her husband.

Meanwhile, Roderigo has begun to suspect Iago is not quite the friend he seems. Still, Iago persuades her to attack Cassio that night so that she may court Desdemona. In the fight that ensues, Iago goes undetected and wounds Cassio. He then enters again as himself to accuse and kill Roderigo for the act of wounding Cassio.

Othello comes to his sleeping wife's bedroom to murder her as punishment for her supposed adultery. His jealousy out of control, Othello confronts Desdemona. Emilia alerts the household, and Iago's machinations are uncovered. Othello realises he will be judged for his actions, and takes matters into his own hands.

Cast

Othello	Erik Bibaeff
Iago	Tadhg Scanlon
Cassio	Kryisia Wiechecki
Desdemona	Anna Weir
Emilia/Soldier	Grace Edwards
Roderigo	Tarryn McGrath
Lodovico	Grant Malcolm
Montano/Servant	Jarrold Buttery
Bianca/Soldier	Ruhama Rowe
Clown/Staffer	Patrick Downes
Brabantio/Soldier/Attendant	Meredith Hunter
Duke/Musician/Soldier	Sarah Thillagaratnam
First Senator/Soldier/Venetian	Ivy Halford
Second Senator/Soldier/Venetian	Astrid Dainton

Creatives & Crew

Director & Adaptor	Thomas Dimmick
Production Manager	Tony Petani
Stage Manager	Glynis Best
Lighting Design	Fiona Reid
Lighting Operation	Fiona Reid & Callum Hunter
Costume Design	Merri Ford

Special Thanks

UniTheatres, Barry Park, Taskforce Films, Playlovers, Irish Theatre Players, Jodee Bibaeff, Don Allen

Erik Bibaeff



Othello is Erik's fourth stage appearance having received the Yvonne Lynch Breakthrough Award at the 45th Annual Finley Awards for his portrayal of Hoke Colburn in Koorliny Arts Theatre's *Driving Miss Daisy* in 2019. Born in California to a Russian father and Mexican mother, Erik served in both the US Navy and Australian Army, along with the Western Australian Police Service. He has a Bachelor of Film from SAE Perth and is an avid filmmaker and cinematographer focusing on films that bring awareness to his work in the Homelessness Industry. Erik speaks fluent Spanish, is training to be a professional boxer, and is an avid tennis follower and player. He is delighted to be performing in this production.

Tadhg Lawrence



Having completed two years touring the world as one of the 'Young Irish Tenors' including a stint alongside Dolly Parton at her residence 'Dollywood' Tennessee, Tadhg went on to help develop another show *The Celtic Kings* while back in Ireland where that 'difficult to spell' name comes from. Alongside his B.Ed from Trinity College, Dublin, and a year in Kolkata, India, as an Education Coordinator he continued to add to his performance resume, working with RIAM, Dublin, The Estonian National Amateur Choir, and IWP, Perth, eventually arriving into the B.FA (Acting) at NIDA in 2017. Since then, he has appeared in a variety of theatre and film roles from *The Three Sisters* and *Richard II* to *Starstruck the Musical*, as well as ongoing roles with Breaksea, a multi-arts organisation based here in WA. Tadhg would like to thank the cast, crew, and audiences for welcoming him to his first show at the New Fortune. It has been an epic!

Krysia Wiechecki



Krysia has many years of acting experience on stage, film, and TV. After finishing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama Studies at Edith Cowan University, Krysia has acted on many stages in London, Prague, Perth, and Bunbury. Krysia spent 12 years as a Children's Presenter/Performer and Dance and Movement Teacher, running and creating stage shows and films during this time. She is also a Drama Tutor with IntotheMask Theatre and Education, and has recently directed her first children's show with this company. Krysia is very excited to be treading the boards again as Cassio in *Othello*, directed by Thomas Dimmick. Some past shows: *Private Lives* (Old Mill Theatre), *Between Wind and Water* (Agelink Theatre), *Yellow Belly* (IntotheMask Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Serial Productions), *Twelfth Night* (GRADS), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Garrick), *Noises Off* (Serial Productions), *Romeo and Juliet* (Old Mill Theatre).

Anna Weir



Anna is a native of Perth and is new to the community theatre scene. Previously she performed with various theatre groups while studying at Murdoch University, completing her degree in psychology. This is her first community theatre role, and she is grateful to have been given this opportunity by GRADS. She has enjoyed the process and is happy to be working as part of such a passionate and enthusiastic cast.

Grace Edwards



Grace has performed over a dozen Shakespearean roles over the last fifteen years, five of which were in GRADS productions on the New Fortune stage – Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III*, Benvolia in *Romeo & Juliet*, Dromio of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Feste in *Twelfth Night*. This also is her second time performing in *Othello*, having previously played Desdemona in Upstart Theatre Company's 2009 production. Some of her other past favourite roles include Ish in *Banging Denmark* and Hannah in *Arcadia* (Harbour Theatre); Eddy Graceton (Teddy) in *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)*, Miss Scarlet in *Clue*, and Vanda in *Venus in Fur* (Melville Theatre); Mr Wickham/Caroline Bingley in *Pride & Prejudice*, Joanna in *Present Laughter*, and Constanze in *Amadeus* (Old Mill Theatre); and Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* (Alexandra Theatre), for which she won the 2022 Finley Award for Best Actress in a Musical.

Tarryn McGrath



This is Tarryn's first theatre role since taking a break from community theatre to focus on her completing her bachelor of nursing degree. Before taking a break, she performed in the GRADS production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the New Fortune Theatre. Her other roles include Daphne in the Old Mill Theatre production of *Present Laughter*, Helen of Troy in Murdoch University's production of *Trojan Women* and various other community theatre roles over the last ten years. Tarryn has jumped into the role of Roderigo, excited to be working once again in the theatre with a wonderful group of people and acting alongside old friends.

Grant Malcolm



Blessed with an onstage kiss in his first high school play, Grant has never strayed far from the limelight. A Theatre Studies graduate from UWA, Grant has directed or appeared in more than one hundred productions for venues as diverse as the Blue Room Theatre, Rechabites Hall, the Entertainment Centre, the Dolphin Theatre, the Playhouse, Pioneer Village, classrooms, pubs, clubs, Perth Zoo, Atlantis Marine Park, and the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway. For GRADS, Grant first stepped in to assist with the *Miracle Worker* in the Dolphin Theatre in 1988. He has won numerous awards for direction and acting working with GRADS. In 1995 Grant directed the first in the current series of Summer Shakespeares in the New Fortune Theatre and has been thrilled to have the opportunity to guide the New Fortune Theatre Project performing monthly readings of Shakespeare. Grant is thrilled to work with Thomas Dimmick again after first working together on *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for GRADS in 2020.

Jarrold Buttery



Jarrold is the current president of Harbour Theatre. In recent years, for Harbour, he has directed the plays *Picasso's Women* and *The Ladies Foursome*, as well as appearing on stage in *Ghost Writer*, *Love Letters*, *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*, *On A First Name Basis*, and *Lunenburg* (all with Meredith). Alongside Kimberley Shaw, Jarrold was a founding member of Blak Yak Theatre, where he directed *The Campervan Tales*, *Heide's Last Hit*, *Men Behaving Badly*, and Terry Pratchett's *Mort*. Other performances include *God of Carnage* (Garrick Theatre), *Aladdin* (Playlovers), *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Old Mill Theatre), *A Clockwork Orange* (Life on Hold Productions), and *Present Laughter* (Roxy Lane Theatre). Jarrold is very much enjoying his role as "Third Spear Carrier from the Left" in *Othello*. There are no small roles.

Ruhama Rowe



Ruhama has had a lifelong passion for performing and appeared in her first productions while still in primary school. She completed a Performance Studies degree at Curtin University, where she enjoyed performing in many productions and short films. Since then, Ruhama has worked in theatre around Australia and in New York. She has been involved in varied performance formats, including an acoustic duo, and ongoing improvised live stream performances on Corsairs Cove. Ruhama has appeared in many productions in Perth with some recent credits including *Quiz*, *The Little Good Wolf*, *Things I know to be True*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Incognito*. She has frequently graced the New Fortune Stage in the Shakespeare readings and always looks forward to the chance to perform in this brilliant theatre.

Patrick Downes



Patrick has been involved in the Perth theatre scene for the last twenty years. He got his start with the WA Youth Theatre Company where he was mentored in performance and theatre-making. In a previous life Patrick performed, directed, produced, built sets, rigged lights, ran publicity, and was general manager of his own company Upstart Theatre Co. Some of Patrick's credits include: *The Zoo Story* (ITP), *Arcadia* (Harbour Theatre), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Roleystone Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Roleystone Theatre), *Henry V* (Blak Yak), *Othello* (Upstart Theatre Co.), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Upstart Theatre Co.). This will be Patrick's fifth time performing with GRADS, having appeared in *French Without Tears* in 2022, and his fourth time performing on the New Fortune stage. Previously appearing in *Richard III* (2023), *The Merchant of Venice* (2019), and *Macbeth* (2010).

Meredith Hunter



Past productions for Meredith include *Ghost Writer* (2013), *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* (2016), *On A First Name Basis* (2017), *The Ghost Train* (2019), *The Ladies Foursome* (2021), and *Lunenburg* (2023) – all at Harbour Theatre. Other plays include *Present Laughter* (Old Mill Theatre), *Kate's Story* (Life on Hold Productions), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (GRADS), *Present Laughter* (Roxy Lane Theatre), and numerous Fringe shows. Meredith has always wanted to play the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, and was excited when Thomas approached her about a powerful Shakespearean balcony scene. Nevertheless, she is thoroughly enjoying letting off some steam in *Othello*, but would like people to know that she's not nearly so shouty in real life.

Sarah Thillagaratnam



Sarah Thillagaratnam was Alex the Squire in *The Search For Merlin's Staff* (2022), and Bagheera the Panther in *Jungle Book The Musical* (2021). Sarah's recent Shakespeare productions include *Richard III* (2023) as the Bishop of Ely and Tyrell, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* as the Host of the Garter. Sarah took on the roles of Mrs Bennet and Miss Anne De Bourgh in *Pride and Prejudice* (2023); the Leader of the Amazon warriors in *Peter Pan* (2020); Kim Kardashian in *Cinderella the pantomime* (2021); and performed in *Dead By The Minute* (2021). Sarah has sung and performed in *The Mikado* (2019), *The Sorcerer* (2021), and *Oklahoma* (2017). She performed in *August Osage County* which won Best Play at the 2019 Independent Theatre Awards. Sarah has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Journalism and Film & TV, as well as a postgraduate qualification in Literature. Trained in singing, fencing, and Kung Fu. Sarah loves dogs, cartoons, and video games.

Ivy Halford



Ivy has performed in multiple productions across a variety of companies, from UWA Pantomime Society's *Snow White and the Deadly Sins* (2016), *Starsky and Hutch* *Ado About Nothing* (2017), and *Batman and Robin Hood* (2018), Platinum Entertainment WA's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2018), Hand in Hand Theatre Company's *Bare: A Pop Opera* (2018), and Harvest Rain Theatre Company's *Grease* (2019), to collaborations with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and WA Youth Theatre Company such as *Ngalaka Daa* (2020 & 2021) and Perth Festival's *Beside* (2021). *Othello* is Ivy's UWA GRADS debut.

Astrid Dainton



Astrid was cast in the role of Juliet in the GRADS production of *Romeo and Juliet* last year. She played Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Roxy Lane Theatre in 2022. She has performed with GRADS for two staged Shakespeare readings - as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Astrid has performed in numerous plays, musicals, and devised works with WAYTCO, PAANDA, and UWA Panto Society. She is qualified with a degree in Theatre and Journalism from Notre Dame and currently works at DADAA, creating theatre productions and running the band.

Director's Note

When Erik first messaged me at the end of 2022, I had not thought about *Othello* in a very long time. I had studied the text in high school but that was it. So the opportunity to direct a production of the show was definitely interesting.

Then I read the script again and I was blown away by how much of an easy read it was. I have worked on a number of Shakespeare's shows, and adapted them as well, and to help keep things relevant and moving, I found I needed a lot of editing. But with *Othello*, it came together so well that it only needed the smallest of changes.

This has been a really fun experience and that comes down to the people I have had the fortune of working with, both on and off the stage. Big thank you to the entire cast who put up with my constant interruptions and changing ideas. And to my crew and creatives who also put up with my constant interruptions and changing ideas.

I hope that you enjoy the show!

As much as one can enjoy a tragedy...



MARCH 2024

William Shakspeare's

AS YOU LIKE IT



JULY 2024

Caryl Churchill's

TOP GIRLS



NOVEMBER 2024

Sophocles'

ANTIGONE