
FULL CIRCLE PLAYERS

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Special Thanks

THANK YOU to all of you for the support of Full Circle players . For which, without your help this production would not be possible! Sponsorship helps pay for productions and opportunities to bring new works and new visions of ancient works to Riverside community and beyond.

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Wendi and Matthew Johnson

FULL CIRCLE PLAYERS

present

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

BY

William Shakespeare



Directed by
Wendi Johnson

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MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Director	Wendi Johnson
Assistant Director	Sarah Kristen Gibbon
Stage Manager	Adrien Gibson
Executive Director	Matthew Johnson

THE CAST

Rebecca Reber	Mrs. Alice Ford
Janette Valenzo	Mrs. Meg Page
J Kay Weldon	Mr. Frank Ford
Jason Crewes	Mr. George Page
Kit Fugrad	Falstaff
Bridget Rivera	Anne Page/ Nym
Adam McMorris	Fenton/ Pistol/John
Jared Sandoval	Dr. Caius
Jeremy Mercado	Slender
Valerie Lopez	Mistress Quickly
Macy Weinfurter	Pastor Gwen Evans
Elise De Anda	Robin Jane Rugby
Sarah Gibbon	That Girl!!

The Kids: Ford Children: Nora and Nadea
Page Children: Ally and Jordan

Tech:	
Lights	Adrien Gibson
Sound	Wendi Johnson
Sound Technician	The Box Theatre
Set /Prop Design	Gwen Harris
Hair and Makeup	Percilla Lawson
Graphic Design	Ashley Santana

Adam Mc Morris—Fenton, Pistol, John

Adam McMorris is grateful to be performing with Full Circle Players for the first time here in Riverside, where he was born and raised. As live theatre slowly returns, he is thankful for the opportunity to dive back into his love of Shakespeare with this group, as well as in both Shakespeare in the Vines' recent production of *The Taming of the Shrew* and the upcoming *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Fullerton College, where he studies acting. He would like to thank you for helping support local theatre during these tumultuous times.

Bridget Rivera—Anne Page, Nym

Bridget Rivera is incredibly excited to be playing the roles of Anne Page and Nym. Her past credits include: *Cybil* (The Altruists), *Sophia* (Wilderness), and *Ghost of Christmas Past* (A Christmas Carol) to name a few. When not on stage, she is often focused on her schooling, spending time with her family, and making cringe-worthy puns. (You could say her favorite type of play is a word play.) Bridget would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew of this production, as well as her theatre teachers who taught her well. To stay up to date with her projects, follow her at @BridgetKRivera on Instagram.

Jeremy Mercado—Slender

Jeremy Mercado is excited to be playing Slender in the Full Circle Players' production of *Merry Wives of Windsor*, with such a wonderful and talented cast and crew. Jeremy graduated from California State University, Fullerton, with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in acting, in 2017. Some of his favorite past rolls include Mr. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Professor Callahan in *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and Roderigo in Full Circle Players' production of *Othello*.

Macy Weinfurter—Gwen Evans

Macy is excited to be a part Full Circle Players production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor" as well as their return to the stage! This is her third time working with Full Circle Players, the first time playing the role of Chrysothemis in the 2020 online reading of "Elektra" and the second time being apart of the 2021 New Works Play Festival. Macy has spent a summer training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts' Shakespeare Summer School in London, England. Afterwards, she spent a year in New York City training at Atlantic Acting School's Full-Time Conservatory program. She is excited to be at UCSD where she is majoring in theatre and minoring in art history. She would like to thank her dog, Sam, for being the best boy and her friends for their continual love and support.

Elise De Anda—Robin Jane Rugby

Elise de Anda is excited to be a part of Full Circle Player's production of *Merry Wives of Windsor*. This is her third comedic play, and she is beyond thrilled to share this lighthearted story with a live audience. Her most recent credits include Elaine Harper in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Lord Willoughby in *Richard the Second*, a Witch in *Macbeth*, and Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*. She is thrilled to be given the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing group of Thespians. She would like to thank her amazing family who supports her with all of her endeavors.

Sarah Gibbon—Assistant Director

Sarah Kristen Gibbon is a local actor, stage manager, director and producer. She graduated from California State University, San Marcos with a Bachelor's Degree in Visual and Performing Arts, with an emphasis in Theater. Sarah has 20 years of theater experience ranging from stage to backstage and now to the virtual stage that we know as "ZOOM". She also has 7 years of comedy sports/improv know-how and was last seen playing with PseudoRandomNoise in Temecula, a regional improv troupe. Sarah is now an active producer and board member and the founder of Vaga-

Adrien Gibson—Stage Manager

Adrien Gibson is excited to be doing another production with Full Circle Players. She was the stage manager for *Othello* and *A Christmas Carol* and the lighting designer for *Othello*. She currently is attending Cal Poly Pomona working towards a bachelors in Technical Theatre. Adrien is thankful to be doing Theatre once again and with her favorite Director Wendi Johnson. She would like to thank Wendi for every opportunity she has bestowed onto her and hopes to continue to work with Wendi. She would like to thank her mom for always being there for her and always supporting her choices. And she hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Percilla Lawson—Hair and Makeup

Percilla is excited to be back and kicking in the theater again! Percilla is both make-up artist and actor attending Fullerton Community College's theatre arts program with an emphasis in acting. She has love for both on stage and off stage and is absolutely over the moon, to be able to currently be doing both at the moment with Full Circle Players' *Merry Wives of Windsor* as hair and makeup crew and Fullerton College's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hippolyta/Titania. She thanks Wendi for this great opportunity and is so excited to get those brushes moving again and create some magic!

SYNOPSIS

Rebecca Reber—Mrs Alice Ford:

Rebecca is a classically trained actress who began studying and performing Shakespeare at a young age. She studied theater at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal State Northridge. Her most recent roles include Goneril in King Lear (2018) and Lady Macbeth in Macbeth (2017) with Shakespeare in the Vines. Other roles with Shakespeare in the Vines

include Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream (2010), Lady Macbeth in Macbeth (2010), Kate in The Taming of the Shrew (2008), Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet (2008), and Mrs. Ford in The Merry Wives of Windsor (2007). Before moving to the Inland Empire, Rebecca spent summers with the Central Coast Shakespeare Company and the Ojai Shakespeare Theater Festival in such roles as Ariel in The Tempest (1998), Celia in As You Like It (1997), and Bianca in Taming of the Shrew (1993). Rebecca is very excited to be performing in her first Full Circle

Players show!

Janette Valenzo: - Mrs Meg Page

Janette Valenzo is a bilingual queer Chicana actor, poet, teaching artist, tarot reader, and mental health advocate. She is ecstatic to be working with Full Circle Players! She was last seen as

Olivia in "Twelfth Night" at Ophelia's Jump Productions 2021 Midsummer Shakespeare Festival. She's been published in several literary journals, currently teaches with Story Pirates and UCLA, and writes a monthly career Tarotscopes column for Powerful Latinas Rising. She attends USC for a Master of Education in School Counseling and holds a BFA from NYU Tisch. She's a Swiftie who really enjoys getting lost.

For more on her work, visit www.janettevalenzo.com.

J Kay Weldon—Mr Frank Ford

J. Kay Weldon is an actor, writer, and comedian most known for his work in classical theatre. J. Kay received his degree from the Los Angeles Film School and has most recently been seen performing in his garage, living room, and kitchen as comedy clubs and theatre were relegated to Zoom. J. would like to extend his thanks to Full Circle Players and everyone else that has given artists an opportunity to stay busy during this last year.

Jason Crewes—Mr George Page

Jason is super excited to be returning to the stage as George Page in Shakespeare's The Merry

Wives of Windsor. A L.A.M.D.A. Diploma recipient, IITL Nominee and Theatre / Psychology Major from CBU, Jason has had a love for the Theatre since the 5th Grade when he first played the Prince in The Princess & the Pea. Other favorite shows include Guys & Dolls (Nathan Detroit), Comedy of Errors (Dromio), Our Town (Stage Manager), The Crucible (John Hale), The Nerd (Willum Cubbert), You Can't Take it With You (Grandpa Vanderhoff), Greetings! (Andy Gorski), The Secret of Chimneys (Sptd. Battle), and Dial M for Murder (Max Halliday). He would like to thank the fantastic cast & crew for all their hard work, Wendi Johnson for her help, guidance, and giving him this opportunity to do what he loves, and above all his wife and children for all their love and support.

Kit Fugrad—Falstaff

This is Kit's first dance with Full Circle Players, though he is no stranger to Shakespeare or local area theatre. Kit has been involved in dozens of productions up and down California, from performing in devised theatre pieces on the Dell/Arte stage in Blue Lake on down to directing Shakespeare down in Coronado. He received a BA in Theatre Arts from UCR and is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Education with the hope to one day inspire young actors to create art for generations to come.

Valerie Lopez –Mistress Quickly

Valerie Lopez is excited for all to come and see, 'Merry Wives of Windsor'. Having the opportunity to work creatively with everybody on this project is something she has been very joyous about working on. Having just finished working on 'King Lear' for over a year and a half to be able to come back and create more work in Shakespeare is something that Valerie looks forward to. She hopes that everybody that is coming to see the show enjoys the time spent with our production. She wants to thank her mom most of all for putting up with her having late night rehearsals. Enjoy the show!

Jared Sandoval—Dr Caius

Jared is beyond excited to get back into theatre after being apart from people for so long. You may have seen him previously at The Box as Cassio in Othello. He is currently pursuing a degree in acting. He would also like to thank his girlfriend for all of her support and help with his French.

ACT I

*At the Garter Inn, Falstaff, low on money, discloses his resolve to pursue the wives of two wealthy merchants, Page and Ford. When he refuses to pay his companions, Nim, Pistol and Robin, they decide to tell the husbands of Falstaff's plot.

Later, Slender proclaims that he is angry at Sir John Falstaff over a personal dispute. Gwen Evans, the local parson, attempts unsuccessfully to calm him down. She suggests that Slender pursue the young Mistress Anne Page. Slender confronts Falstaff, who confesses to his wrongdoing.

Mr and Mrs Page throw a cocktail party to welcome Falstaff to town. Falstaff delivers his love letters to each of the wives.

The wives meet and compare their letters and find that they are identical. They decide to teach Falstaff a lesson. To begin, they invite him to come to Mistress Ford's house when her husband is out golfing with his friends. Pistol, Robin and Nim inform Mr Ford, and Page of Falstaff's intentions.

The jealous Ford, distrustful of his wife, decides to catch her in her infidelity. He disguises himself as a man called Mister Brook, seeks out Falstaff, and declares his love for Mistress Ford. He bribes Falstaff to pursue her on his behalf. Falstaff agrees before disclosing that a meeting is already arranged. This makes Ford even angrier at his wife.

Parson Evans has befriended Slender, who now seeks the love of Page's daughter Anne. Anne, meanwhile, is already meeting with the gentleman Fenton in secret since her father disapproves of him. Anne's mother hopes that the French doctor Caius will become Anne's husband. When Caius learns of Slender's rival suit, he challenges Parson Evans to a duel. Mistress Quickly sets different meeting places to confuse the antagonists. Eventually, they are persuaded to make up their differences.

When Falstaff reaches Mistress Ford's house, he begins his flirtation. But he is interrupted when Mistress Page announces that the menfolk are returning. They convince Falstaff to hide in a large laundry basket, and he is carried out to the river while Ford ransacks the house in search of him. The delighted wives decide to repeat the trick (especially after seeing the reaction of the jealous Ford)

ACT II

Despite being tipped out on a muddy river bank during the previous trip, Falstaff is persuaded to accept by Brook, who is the disguised Ford. Like the first occurrence, he is interrupted by Ford's return. This time, however, the women convince Falstaff to disguise himself in the clothes of a servant's elderly aunt while Ford searches the contents of the linen basket. It turns out that Ford hates the elderly aunt that Falstaff is impersonating, and he begins to beat Falstaff out of the house, much to the delight of the wives.

Successful in their attempt, the wives reveal the hoax to their husbands. Page suggests Falstaff should be publicly humiliated to stop his seduction attempts on honest women. They arrange one last prank for the entire community to put on.

Merry Wives of Windsor,