

sumner high school theater department presents



William Shakespeare's

King Lear

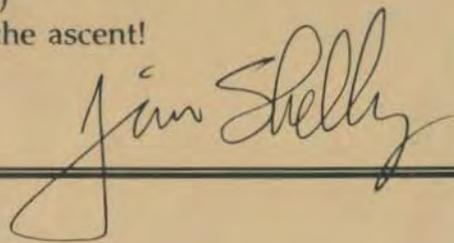
tickets \$5⁰⁰

spangenberg theater

thurs, fri, sat, march 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 7³⁰pm wed march 13 3¹⁵pm

Of all the peaks to climb, why attempt the vertiginous Mount *Lear*? It was certainly not choice number one for our itinerary this year, but as a result of a truly dangerous grassroots campaign of revolutionary student effort, plans to scale more easily attainable mounds were set aside and we decided to see how the world looked from the top... and as from any great precipice the view is spectacular, humbling, and almost overwhelming. (And of course thrilling...Imagine coming to rehearsal each day to work on this!) Madness posing as reason, reason as madness, images of sight and blindness interchanging... "In a world of lust, cruelty, and greed, with extremes of wealth and poverty, man reduced to his essentials needs not wealth, nor power, nor even physical freedom, but rather patience, stoical fortitude, and love; needs, perhaps, above all, mutual forgiveness, the exchange of charity and those sacrifices on which the gods, if there are any gods, throw incense..." (Kenneth Muir)

Thanks for joining us on the ascent!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Shelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right corner of the page, overlapping the bottom edge of the main text box.

The Gunn Theatre Department Proudly Presents

The Tragedy of
KING LEAR

by William Shakespeare

Director

Student Director

Fight Choreographer

Set Design

Lighting Design

Costume Design

James Shelby

Kate Julian

Mark Phillips

Julian Davis

Samuel Anderson

Jeremy Katz

Susan Altstatt

There will be a ten-minute intermission.

Please, no food, drinks, or flash photography in the theatre.

MUSICIANS

Hammer Dulcimer
Harp
Percussion

Becca Schneider
Margaret Cohen
Mark Phillips
Johanna Rochester

CREW

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Master Carpenter
Light Board Operator
Key Grip
Construction Laborers

Lynne Ellis
Matt Kiesner
Kate Brauman
Abe Heifets
David Coffman
Kara Blitz
David Coffman
Lynne Ellis

Light Brigade

Phill Gragg
Abe Heifets
Erin Jacklin
Matt Kiesner
Jacob Lehrbaum
Nick Junkerman
Claire McCabe
Malena Fitting
Maya Haptas
David Kramer
Katie-Jo Melena

Set Dressing

Ann Altstatt
Julian Davis
Tamar Gubins
Kate Julian

Costumes Captain
Properties Boss
Make-up

Ann Altstatt
James Holloway
Mary Heather Cogar
Emily Lessard

Poster
House Managers

Ann Altstatt
Naomi Hamburger
Erin Jacklin

Program

J. Ebenezer Merlin

PLAY SYNOPSIS

for the Shakespeare-impaired

I,i Intending to divide his kingdom amongst his three daughters, King Lear asks each to proclaim her love for him. Cordelia refuses, and is disinherited. When Kent protests Lear's rash actions, he is banished. The King of France, one of Cordelia's suitors, chooses to marry her despite her lack of a dowry. Lear announces that he will keep a hundred knights and live with Goneril and Regan by turns.

I,ii Edmund, the bastard son of Gloucester, plots to displace his legitimate brother, Edgar. By means of a forged letter, he tricks Gloucester into thinking that Edgar seeks Gloucester's life.

I,iii Goneril is irked by the riotous behaviour of her visiting father's knights. She instructs her steward Oswald to be so negligent that the King will complain to her, thus giving her an opportunity to confront him.

I,iv Kent returns in disguise to serve Lear. Goneril reduces the number of Lear's knights, thereby driving him into a fury and inducing him to prepare for departure to Regan's palace. Goneril sends Oswald ahead to find Regan and apprise her of the situation.

I,v Lear sets out for Regan's palace with his Fool. He sends the ahead the disguised Kent with a letter for Regan.

II,i Edmund contrives the appearance of an assault on himself by Edgar, and sends the frightened Edgar into flight. Gloucester condemns Edgar to death and makes Edmund his heir. Regan and Cornwall arrive at Gloucester's castle in an attempt to avoid Lear.

II,ii Upon his arrival at Gloucester's castle, the disguised Kent abuses Oswald. Kent is consequently placed in the stocks, an indignity to the King's messenger intended to humiliate Lear.

II,iii The hunted Edgar appears in a wood, and disguises himself as "mad Tom o'Bedlam" in order to stay alive.

II,iv Upon arriving at Gloucester's castle, Lear is enraged to find his messenger stocked. Upon Goneril's arrival, she and her sister claim that Lear needs no knights. When each daughter says that he may stay with her only if he dismisses all his knights, an enraged Lear rushes into the storm. Cornwall, Regan and Goneril proceed to lock Gloucester's castle against Lear.

III,i Searching for Lear on the heath, Kent meets a Gentleman who reveals that Lear and the Fool are alone in the storm. Kent informs the Gentleman that the King of France and Cordelia are sending forces to England to rescue Lear. Kent sends the man to Dover to convey messages to Cordelia.

III,ii Lear rages against the terrors of the storm while the Fool begs him to return to his daughters for shelter. When Kent finds them, he leads them to a hovel.

III,iii Gloucester reveals to Edmund the receipt of a letter describing the French expedition to avenge Lear, information which Edmund resolves to impart to Cornwall at once.

III,iv Lear, Kent, and the Fool discover Edgar in the hovel, disguised as a madman. Gloucester arrives in search of Lear and conducts all of them toward his castle.

III,v Edmund informs Cornwall of Gloucester's decision to help Lear, and of the incriminating letter from France. In return, Cornwall makes Edmund Earl of Gloucester and vows his revenge.

III,vi In his madness, Lear imagines that Goneril and Regan are on trial before a court of Edgar, the Fool, Kent, and himself. Gloucester arrives with word that Lear's death is plotted, and urges that Lear be rushed to Cordelia at Dover.

Intermission

III,vii Cornwall sends Edmund and Goneril to tell Albany that the French have landed. Calling Gloucester a traitor, Cornwall puts out Gloucester's eyes. Cornwall is fatally wounded when a servant tries to stop him.

IV,i The blind Gloucester is led across the heath by an old man. There they encounter the disguised Edgar, who agrees to lead Gloucester to the cliffs of Dover where he may commit suicide.

IV,ii Goneril arrives at her husband Albany's palace, and is fiercely rebuked by him for her treatment of Lear.

IV,iii Kent reaches the French camp near Dover, and discusses Cordelia's love of Lear with a Gentleman.

IV,iv In the French camp, Cordelia orders a search party for Lear.

IV,v Oswald arrives at Gloucester's castle with a letter from Goneril for Edmund, but Regan, jealous of her sister, states her intention to marry Edmund. She asks Oswald to dissuade Goneril from pursuing Edmund, and to kill Gloucester, if he should encounter him.

IV,vi Edgar tricks the suicidal Gloucester into believing that he has jumped from a great height but was saved by a miracle. Lear enters criticizing the hypocrisy of humankind, only to run off when Cordelia's search party comes upon him. Oswald appears and attempts to kill Gloucester, but is slain by Edgar, who finds upon him Goneril's letter urging Edmund to kill Albany.

IV,vii In the French camp, Lear awakes and is reunited with Cordelia.

V,i As Edmund and Regan prepare for battle, Albany and Goneril arrive, the latter beside herself with jealousy for her sister. The disguised Edgar gives a letter to Albany which will reveal Edmund's villainy.

V,ii Cordelia's French army is defeated, and Edgar returns to report that Gloucester, who has been waiting by the battlefield, must fly for his life.

V,iii Edmund sends Lear and Cordelia to prison and clandestinely condemns them to death. Albany confronts Edmund and Goneril with their treachery against him. Edgar arrives in disguise and claims the privilege of combat with Edmund, whom he mortally wounds. Regan dies of Goneril's poisoning, and Goneril does away with herself after Edmund's vanquishing. A howling Lear enters bearing Cordelia's body. While Albany makes plans to restore the former king to his throne, Lear dies.

Special Thanks!

Suzy Brown

Kenneth Collier

Brian Euje and the California Theatre Center

Richard Lane and the Academy of the Sword

Joe Melena

Susie Philips

Theron Pritchett

Jorgen Wedseltoft