



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE  
ARCHIVE**

PROGRAM

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

2011

**Directors:** Victoria Reinsel and Charlene V. Smith

**Artistic Director:** Charlene V. Smith

**Resident Dramaturg:** Claire Kimball

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# What, Lamb! What, Ladybird!

conceived and performed by Charlene V. Smith  
directed by Victoria Reinsel



Think you know Juliet? Think again. Shakespeare's brilliant heroine is too often sidelined by the masculine world she inhabits, but this one-woman show puts Juliet center stage.

[www.capfringe.org](http://www.capfringe.org)

This production is presented as a part of the 2011 Capital Fringe Festival, a program of the Washington, DC non-profit Capital Fringe.

JULY 7 TO 24, 2011  
**CAPITAL  
FRINGE  
FESTIVAL**  
*festival of the performing arts  
in washington dc*

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### Special Thanks to:

The Fridge DC, David London, The Electric Maid ([www.electricmaid.org](http://www.electricmaid.org)), Joshua Engel, The Rude Mechanicals, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Sean Eustis, and Kevin Hollenbeck

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Brave Spirits Theatre presents

William Shakespeare's

# The Two Gentlemen of Verona

directed by Victoria Reinsel & Charlene V. Smith



**June 16 - 25, 2011**

**The Fridge DC**  
**516 8th St, SE -- Rear Alley**  
**Washington, DC**  
**[www.thefridgedc.com](http://www.thefridgedc.com)**

## The Cast (in order of appearance)

Valentine .....	Jonathan Lee Taylor
Proteus .....	Jeremy Lister
Speed .....	David F. Zimmerman, Jr.
Julia .....	Victoria Reinsel
Lucetta .....	Charlene V. Smith
Antonio .....	Ian Blackwell Rogers
Pantino .....	David F. Zimmerman, Jr.
Silvia .....	Charlene V. Smith
Launce .....	Ian Blackwell Rogers
Turio .....	David F. Zimmerman, Jr.
Duke .....	Ian Blackwell Rogers
Host .....	Jonathan Lee Taylor
Eglamor .....	David F. Zimmerman, Jr.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

## Cast Biographies

**Jeremy Lister** (Proteus) THEATRE: *The Resurrectionist King* (Dr. Selden Crow) at Active Cultures; *Private Lives* (Victor Prynne) at Washington Shakespeare Company; *Goodbye Love...* (Patrick, Romulus) at Tenth Muse Productions; *The History Boys* (Ensemble) at Studio Theatre; *Art* (Yvan) at Source Theatre Company; *The Elephant Man* (Porter) at Virginia Stage Company. TRAINING: BS in Psychology and Minor in Theatre from Old Dominion University; Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

**Victoria Reinsel** (Julia) THEATRE: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Titus Andronicus* (Lavinia), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Anne Page, William, Rugby), *Henry IV, Part I* (Lady Mortimer, Peto) at American Shakespeare Center; *Julius Caesar* (Soothsayer), *Twelfth Night* (Ensemble, u/s Maria) at Orlando Shakespeare Theater; *Cymbeline* (Arviragus, Helen) at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company; TRAINING: MFA & M.Litt in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in Performance from Mary Baldwin College/ American Shakespeare Center; Shakespeare & Co. [www.victoriareinsel.com](http://www.victoriareinsel.com)

**Ian Blackwell Rogers** (Duke, Launce, Antonio) THEATRE: *The Winter's Tale* (Leontes) at Shakespeare Factory Players; *A Thing for Redheads* (Peter) at Calliope Arts/DC Fringe; *Jack the Ticket Ripper* (Playwright) at Georgetown Theatre Company/DC Fringe; *The Insect Play* (Otakar, Parasite, Ant), *The Chairs* (Orator, Old Man understudy), *The Plague* (Prefect), and *Public Enemy* (Robert) at Scena Theatre; *Scaramouche* (Leandre, Fencer) at Washington Shakespeare Company; *Our American Cousin* (Lord Dundreary), *The Stage-Struck Yankee/Victorian King Lear* (Curtis, Edmund) at New Old Theatre.

**Charlene V. Smith** (Silvia, Lucetta) THEATRE: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice) at the Shakespeare Factory; *Macbeth* (Witch 1, Porter) at Push/Pull Theatre Company; *Measure for Measure* (Isabella), *Julius Caesar* (Portia), *The Spanish Tragedy* (Director) at Rude Mechanicals; *Picnic* (Millie) at Spotlighters Theatre; *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Helen) at Silver Spring Stage; World Premieres of John Moriogello's *Jack the Ticket Ripper* (Julie) at Georgetown Theatre Company and *A Thing For Redheads* (Jessie) at Calliope Arts. [www.charlenevsmith.com](http://www.charlenevsmith.com)

**Jonathan Lee Taylor** (Valentine) THEATRE: *The Merchant of Venice* (Bassanio), *Henry V* (Henry), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio) at Maryland Shakespeare Festival; *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian) at Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; *Hamlet* (Osric) at Folger Theatre; *1776* (McNair) at Olney Theatre Center; *Gianni Schicchi* (Doctor, Notary, Servant) at Georgetown Theatre Company; *Crimes of the Heart* (Barnette) at Firebelly Productions. UPCOMING: *Stop Kiss* (Peter) at No Rules Theatre Company. TRAINING: BFA in Musical Theatre from the Hartt School.

**David F. Zimmerman, Jr.** (Speed, Turio, Pantino, Eglamor) THEATRE: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Raganeau u/s), *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus/Syracuse u/s) at Folger Theatre; *Women Beware Women* (Sordido) at Constellation Theatre Company; *Merry, Happy...What?* (David) at The Hub Theatre; *Romeo and Juliet* (Tybalt, Apothecary), *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Michael, Host, Pompiona), *All's Well That Ends Well* (1 Lord Dumaine, Gentleman), *Christmas Carol* (Fundraiser 1, Businessman 1, Plump Sister, Rent Man) at American Shakespeare Center. [davidzimmermanjr.webs.com](http://davidzimmermanjr.webs.com)

## Directors' Note

On January 26, Rocco Landesmen, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, told our community that there was not enough demand for the nation's theatrical supply: "There are too many theatres," he claimed. On February 28, we formed Brave Spirits Theatre. Some see it as foolhardy to start a theatre company in this economy and in this city. We prefer to think of it as brave. It is because of these circumstances that we feel especially blessed by the support we have received from our families, friends, and colleagues, and for your patronage today. One never becomes an artist due to a desire for safety. But when you head out onto that limb, it's comforting to know that many people are there to help you keep your balance.

We initially picked *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* because it seemed to be the easiest of Shakespeare's plays to do with a cast of six. Neither of us had ever worked on the play before, though we had read it and seen it. We were not prepared for how it would capture our hearts and our imaginations. This play has all the elements of his "greater" works: strong female characters, engaging clowns, and heart-felt soliloquies. Shakespeare has written a romantic, funny play, but he's also not afraid to challenge us with the darker aspects of human nature. What's stronger than loyalty? Is it worth crossing the bounds of friendship for love? Or crossing the bounds of love for friendship? How terrible does an action have to be to be unforgivable? Shakespeare confronts us with these hard questions, and refuses to give us the answer. The play wraps up, yes, but we can't help but feel uncomfortable at the end. Some people like their Shakespeare wrapped up with a bow. We feel that, much like life, his plays are never that neat.

We wanted to note that though we are listed as co-directing this piece, it truly has been ensemble-driven. Jeremy, Jonathan, David, and Ian have been a pleasure to work with and it is their creativity, dedication, and talent that have resulted in the production you are seeing. We could not have hoped for four better actors to partner with in our first venture.

Thank you so much for being here,  
Victoria Reinsel & Charlene V. Smith