University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

The Aquila Theatre Company

in

William Shakespeare’s

Julius Caesar

Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Director ................................................................................... Peter Meineck
Costume Designer ................................................................. Becky Lasky
Assistant Costume Designer .............................................. Tricia Barsmion
Lighting Designer ................................................................. Peter Meineck
Original Music ........................................................................ Dan Lipton
Movement ........................................................................... Desiree Sanchez
Production Stage Manager ............................................... Andrea Wales
Production Manager ............................................................. Nate Terracio

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The taking of photographs or the use of any kind of recording device is strictly prohibited.

The Aquila Theatre Company is the Professional Company-in-Residence at the Center for Ancient Studies, New York University, and a member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York.

The Aquila Theatre Company
4 Washington Square North, Rm. 452
New York, NY 10003
aquila@aquilatheatre.com
www.aquilatheatre.com

The Aquila Theatre Company’s production is part of Shakespeare in American Communities: Shakespeare for a New Generation, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest.
CAST (in order of appearance)
Flavius/Cinna/Messala ................................................................. Marc LeVasseur
Marullus/Decius/Titinius .............................................................. Teddy Alvaro
Julius Caesar ................................................................................ Reginald Metcalf
Casca ............................................................................................ Neil Hellegers
Calpurnia/Cassius ......................................................................... Stephanie Dodd
Marc Antony ................................................................................... Scott Drummond
Brutus/Cicero ................................................................................ Richard Sheridan Willis
Portia/Octavius ............................................................................... Gillian Wiggin

All other roles are played by the company.

PROGRAM

Scenes:

Julius Caesar
Act 1 Scene 1: A crowd in the streets of Rome.
Act 1 Scene 2: Caesar’s procession on the steps of the Senate.
Act 1 Scene 3: A storm on the streets of Rome.

Act 2 Scene 1: The orchard in Brutus’ house.
Act 2 Scene 2: The house of Caesar.
Act 2 Scene 3: A street near the Capitol.

Act 3 Scene 1: On the steps and the floor of the Senate.
Act 3 Scene 2: The Forum in Rome.

Act 4 Scene 1: A house in Rome.
Act 4 Scene 2: A military camp near Sardis, before Brutus’ tent.

Act 5 Scene 1: The plains of Philippi.
Act 5 Scene 2: The field of battle.
Act 5 Scene 3: A hill overlooking the battle.
Act 5 Scene 4: Another part of the battle.
PROGRAM NOTES

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him; The evil that men do lives after them, The good is oft interred with their bones…”

— Act III, Scene II, Julius Caesar

Aquila Theatre Company’s production of Shakespeare’s The Life and Death of Julius Caesar follows the rise and fall of one of the world’s most notorious leaders. Set in a world of political intrigue and strained domestic relationships, the production explores the moral and political dilemma of Marcus Brutus. Should he join the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar, conquering hero and his trusted friend? Or, should he allow one man’s tyrannical ambition to overcome the very ideals that Rome was founded upon? The choice that Brutus makes has the power to destroy the old world order and to ignite a fierce civil war.

Aquila’s production asks the audience to consider the price of democracy and freedom and the consequences that can befall a society when it is asked to defend its core beliefs.

BIOGRAPHIES

Aquila Theatre Company
www.aquilatheatre.com

“With precision, sensitivity and unity of ensemble, the Aquila Theatre Company articulates the human essence inherent in classical drama. Combining the techniques of British and American theater and following a philosophy of theatrical utilitarianism, Aquila believes that the greatest works should be seen by the greatest number.”

Aquila is a company of British and American artists dedicated to classical drama. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City. Aquila’s programs include:

A MAJOR ANNUAL NATIONAL TOUR: Aquila is the foremost producer of touring classical theater in the United States, visiting 60-70 American cities per year. Aquila’s 2007-08 tour consists of Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar and Joseph Heller’s stage adaptation of his novel Catch-22. Aquila presented Romeo & Juliet internationally in the summer of 2007 at Shakespeare Festivals in Neuss, Germany; Gyula, Hungary; and Gdansk, Poland; in addition to the Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece; and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Next season, the company will tour with Shakespeare’s Comedy of Errors and Homer’s Iliad.

PRODUCTIONS IN NEW YORK CITY: Aquila is a major part of New York’s theatrical landscape, producing a regular season of plays. This season Aquila has produced a staged
reading of Homer’s *Iliad* at Columbia University. Last season’s productions include James Kerr’s translation of *Prometheus Bound* and a staged reading of Homer’s *Iliad* at Classic Stage Company.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS: Aquila is dedicated to theater art as education with an extensive program of workshops, institutes, and a specialized company for young audiences. The Aquila Theatre for Young Audiences Company will be taking a special educational production of Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet* to New York City area schools in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Institute in the spring of 2008. The acclaimed Aquila education program is also being presented alongside the touring program, developing new and non-traditional audiences for exciting, excellent, and innovative classical drama. This past season Aquila started a program of teaching Shakespeare at the Frederick Douglas Academy in Harlem, New York City, culminating in a student production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The program will continue with this current school year.

COLLABORATIONS: Aquila partners with major American theaters in the presentation of its work, and collaborates with notable artists from other disciplines including dance, music, and opera. In recent seasons, Aquila has collaborated with choreographer Doug Varone on its New York production of *The Invisible Man*, with MidAmerica Productions on Cherubini’s opera *Medee* at Carnegie Hall and performed *Much Ado About Nothing* at the White House.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Peter Meineck** (*Aquila Artistic Director*) is originally from London and now resides in New York. He studied in the departments of Greek and Latin at University College London and worked extensively in London theater originally. He founded Aquila in 1991 and has since produced and/or directed 37 shows; written, translated or adapted 10; and designed lighting for 24. Peter is also a clinical professor of classics and ancient studies at New York University where he teaches Greek literature, ancient drama and classical mythology. He has also held appointments at Princeton University and the University of South Carolina. Books published by Hackett include: Aeschylus’ *The Oresteia, Aristophanes Vol. 1*, Sophocles’ *Oedipus Tyrannus, Theban Plays* (with Paul Woodruff), *Four Plays*, and Aristophanes’ *Clouds*. His *Oresteia* was awarded the 2000 Louis Galantiere Award by the American Translators Association. Peter has recorded several series of lectures for Recorded Books and the Barnes & Noble Portable Professor Series (*When Gods Walked The Earth, Classical Mythology: The Greeks, Classical Mythology: The Romans, Greek Drama*). He recently translated the opera libretto for Cherubini’s *Medee* performed at Carnegie Hall. His new translations of Sophocles’ *Ajax* and *Philoctetes* were published in September 2007. He also acts as a mythology consultant, most recently to Will Smith on the film *I Am Legend*.

**Teddy Alvaro** (*Marullus/Decius/Titinius*) is a graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he received a B.F.A. with honors after studying at the Meisner Extension, the Classical Studio, and the Experimental Theater Wing. Past credits include: Salvatore in *The Rose Tattoo*, Circle in the Square (Broadway); Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet* (*Aquila Young Audience Reading*); Longaville in *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, Theseus in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Cloten in *Cymbeline* (Neoclassical Ensemble); Valentine in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Baz in *A Bright Room Called Day*, King Peter in *Leonce & Lena*, and Charlie in *The Country Doctor* (Collegiate).

**Stephanie Dodd** (*Calpurnia/Cassius*) most recently appeared in New York where she starred in the Off-Broadway musical, *Murder Mystery Blues*, based on the early writings of Woody Allen. She has performed with Shakespeare & Company (*Much Ado About Nothing, The Taming of the Shrew*), Southwest Shakespeare (*Hamlet, Cyrano de Bergerac*), Summer Theatre of New Canaan (*Romeo & Juliet, A Muse in Love*), 78th Street Theatre Lab (*What is the Frequency, Kenneth?, Bombers Row — Edinburgh Fringe*), Inverse Theatre
Midnight Brainwash Revival, Abingdon Theatre, Queens Theatre in the Park, Renaissance Arts, Flying Ship Productions, Timberlake Playhouse and Beechwood Theatre Company. Stephanie dedicates each and every performance to Mom, Dad, Shelby, and Jordan.

Scott Drummond (Marc Antony) recently appeared as Achilles in Aquila’s staged reading of The Iliad. Other New York credits include: The New Group, Ensemble Studio Theatre and The Women’s Project. Regional credits: Arena Stage (Well), The Shakespeare Theatre (The Phantom Lady), La Jolla Playhouse (Mother Courage), Arden Theatre Company (Twelfth Night), New Repertory Theatre (A Skull in Connemara), Utah Shakespearean Festival (All’s Well That Ends Well) and Creede Repertory Theatre (Denver Critics Circle Nomination, Best Actor, Pan & Boone). Mr. Drummond is a recent graduate of UCSD’s M.F.A. Actor Training Program where his credits include La Dispute (directed by Darko Tresnjak), Arms and the Man, Measure for Measure and As You Like It.

Neil Hellegers (Casca) is an M.F.A. graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory in Providence, Rhode Island. He was recently seen in New York City in a staged reading of The Iliad for the Aquila Theatre Company as Zeus/Nestor. Some past roles include: Oberon in A Midsummer Night’s Dream with HonkBark Prods./Vital Theatre Co.; Pistol/Simple/Fenton in The Merry Wives of Windsor, Angelo in The Comedy of Errors, and The Dauphin in Henry V with The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival; Leopold Nettles in Largo Desolato at Columbia Stages in New York City; Floyd Knowles in The Grapes of Wrath at The Gamm Theatre in Providence; and various roles in Blue Box Productions’ ongoing downtown NY theater series Sticky. He was a finalist as Phil in Positive Self Talk!, in the 2006 Ten-Minute Play Festival at The American Globe Theatre, New York City. He would like to thank his family for all their love and dedication, and ADH, for everything.

Marc LeVasseur (Flavius/Cinna/Messala) is a B.F.A. graduate from New York University where he trained at the Meisner Extension, Classical Studio, and the Experimental Theater Wing. Previous roles include Coriolanus, Iachimo in Cymbeline, Tim in The Distance From Here, and Costard in Love’s Labour’s Lost. This is his first professional job in the theater after graduation and he would like to thank everyone who has helped him along the way. He would especially like to thank his parents for making this possible because of their love and support.

Reginald Metcalf’s (Julius Caesar) most recent roles include a singing angel in Tilt Angel at New Jersey Rep, a talkative bystander on Law & Order and a baseball player with a mother fixation at Manhattan Theater Source. He has appeared in regional theaters in Washington, D.C., Chicago, St. Louis and San Antonio. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Reginald has earned degrees from Northwestern University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Gillian Wiggin (Portia/Octavius) is a recent graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. Previous roles include: Imogen in Cymbeline, Silvia in Two Gentlemen of Verona, Quince in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Heidi in Fuddy Meers. Thanks to Mom and Dad.

Richard Sheridan Willis (Brutus/Cicero) has appeared in over 12 Aquila productions including such roles as Prospero in The Tempest, Jack Worthing in The Importance of Being Earnest, Claudius in Hamlet, Richard Mansfield/Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde in The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Atipholus twins in A Comedy of Errors, Peachy in The Man Who Would Be King, and Bottom in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. He recently played Praed in Mrs Warren’s Profession for the Denver Center Theater Co. Other productions include Night & Day at the Wilma Theatre, Friar Lawrence in Romeo & Juliet and Oberon in A Midsummer Night’s Dream for The Summer Theater of New Canaan. UK credits include Oleanna at the New Vic (2006) and work at Shared Experience, the New Victoria Theatre, the Peter Hall Company (West End), the West Yorkshire Playhouse, the Leicester Haymarket, Albery Theatre (West End), Battersea Arts Center (London), The National Theatre of Norway, Salisbury Playhouse, the Edinburgh Festival, Theatre Clwyd, the
Latchmere Theatre (London), Dundee Rep, the Channel Theatre Company and the British Actors Theatre Company. TV credits include Law & Order, Wycliffe, Maigret, Diary of a Nobody, Doctor Who, and Rebecca. Mr. Willis trained at RADA and has taught more than 50 Workshops for Aquila. He appears in the film The Big Bad Swim, recently released on DVD. More at www.richardwillis.org

**Nate Terracio** (Production Manager) has worked with the Aquila Theatre Company since 1997 in a variety of positions including General Manager and Production Manager. His nearly 50 Aquila productions include: Comedy of Errors, King Lear, Much Ado About Nothing (The White House) and Agamemnon (with Olympia Dukakis). Nate graduated from the University of South Carolina Honors College with a degree in chemistry and is a member of the Theatre Alliance of Louisville. He has also worked with Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, The Necessary Theatre, Cuartetango, and Infinite Bliss Yoga Studio.

**Andrea Wales** (Production Stage Manager) Most recent shows include: The Book Play (Fringe NYC), Alice in War (SPF), Baby Face, Mud Blossom, Hotel Oracle, (all at SoHo Rep/ Walkerspace) and Off-Broadway’s In The Heights (Production Assistant). Andrea is a recent graduate of Columbia University’s M.F.A. program.

The Artists in these productions are represented by AGMA, The American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO, the union that represents Artists performing here and in the fields of opera, ballet, modern dance and movement and choral presentations, as well as choreographers, stage directors and stage managers.

**Aquila Staff**

Founder & Artistic Director .......................................................... Peter Meineck
Aquila Associate Artists ................................................ Louis Butelli, Lisa Carter, David DelGrosso, Kenn Sabberton, Andrew Schwartz, Lindsay Rae Taylor, Richard Sheridan Willis
Production Manager .................................................................. Nate Terracio
Office Manager ............................................................................ Emma Xiao
Production Stage Manager ........................................................... Andrea Wales

Productions were rehearsed at New 42nd Street Studios, New York.