

*The York Shakespeare Project Presents*



*Shakespeare's*  
**CYMBELINE**

The York Shakespeare Project Presents its 34<sup>th</sup> Production:

# Cymbeline, King of Britain

by William Shakespeare

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, York

Director: Ben Prusiner

Stage Manager: Annemarie Chave

Costume Designer: Cat Hudspeth

Costume Assistants: Nikita Lund & Joanna Rowling

Set & Props: Roxanne Spence

Set Assistants: Emrah Ozan & Alp Yazıcı

Production Assistant: Rosie Day

Music Director & Composer: Richard Morris

Music Coach: Grace Baird

Fight Director: Neil Tattersall

Fight Captain: Thomas Leadbeater

Movement Director: Edenamiuki Aiguobasinmwin

Assistant Director & Percussionist: Terry Ram

Dramaturge: Erin Shannon

Photographers: John Saunders & Phil Neath

Sketch Artist: Lynne O'Dowd

## Music List:

*Rose Red* – folk song, origins obscure

*April is in my mistress' face* – Thomas Morley (c. 1594)

*Kit hath lost her key* – lyrics by Anonymous (c. 1568), setting by Glyn Morrow

*Fear no more* – lyrics by Shakespeare (c.1610), setting by Richard Morris

*Weep o mine eyes* – John Bennet (c. 1599)

## Cymbeline – The story so far

Some twenty years before the play starts, a British nobleman, Belarius, was wrongly exiled for treason by Cymbeline the King of the Britons. He took his revenge by stealing the king's two sons, Guiderius and Arviragus.

Since that time Cymbeline has remarried. His second wife is determined that her son, Cloten, should marry the king's remaining child, his daughter Imogen. The princess has, however, to her father's fury, secretly married Posthumus Leonatus, an orphan brought up at court by the king. The play begins immediately after Cymbeline's sentence of exile on Posthumus.

Meanwhile, the Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar, has sent his general, Caius Lucius, to demand a renewal of tribute from the Britons. If Britain doesn't pay the tribute, there will be war...

- Ian Wood, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History, University of Leeds



### Director's Note

*Cymbeline* has always been one of my favourite Shakespeare plays, with intricate poetry and dramatic situations that push characters (and performers) beyond what they thought possible. The plot and tone fluctuate wildly, the time period oscillates from the Renaissance to Ancient Rome, and in a moment love turns to despair while camaraderie turns deadly. For Shakespeare's original audience, however, none of this would have been a contradiction. This is a play all the more thrilling because it has both passion and humour, lust and love, history and serendipity. Our hope is that setting the play in an 'original' setting will free the energy that its original audience felt, and help us recapture it, together.

We know that in Shakespeare's time the London companies would tour right here to York. While there aren't specific records about *Cymbeline*, the traditional guild hall setting gave us the opportunity to explore what any touring show might have looked like. The Renaissance aesthetic also allowed us to explore the play's fraught gender roles, as Shakespeare's original company would have been all-male, with boys and men playing all the parts. We are presenting the play with a mixed-gender company portraying strict male and female roles, exploring definitions of gender in Shakespeare's time and today.

Ultimately, *Cymbeline* is a thrilling, funny, and poignant play that gets performed all too rarely in its full glory. We hope you enjoy it!

-Ben Prusiner



**Elizabeth Elsworth**  
King Cymbeline & Jupiter



**Rosy Rowley**  
The Queen & Morgan (Belarius)



**Bronte Jane Hobson**  
Princess Imogen



**Emma Scott**  
Posthumus Leonatus



**Carrie Morrison**  
Prince Cloten, Roman Captain,  
British Soldier

	<p><b>Diana Wyatt</b> Pisanio</p>
	<p><b>Mic Errington</b> Philario, General Caius Lucius</p>
	<p><b>Jim Paterson</b> Iachimo</p>
	<p><b>Thomas Leadbeater</b> Lord, Dutchman, Polydore (Guiderius)</p>
	<p><b>Sonia Di Lorenzo</b> Lord, Spaniard, Cadwal (Arviragus)</p>



**Daniel Thrace**

Lady, Frenchman,  
Roman Captain, British Solider



**Glyn Morrow**

Musician, Doctor Cornelius,  
Ghost of Posthumus' Father



**Karen Frodsham**

Musician, Lady,  
Ghost of Posthumus' Mother



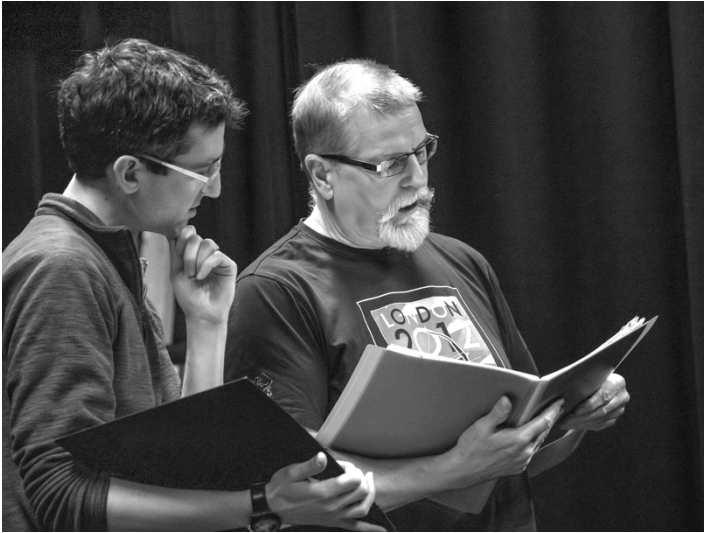
**Tracey Rea**

Musician, Lady, Messenger,  
Ghost of Posthumus' Brother



**Beverley Foster**

Musician, Messenger,  
Soothsayer Philharmonus,  
Ghost of Posthumus' Brother



### **Special Thanks**

Annabel Amy, Paula Bella, Jay Bitterman, Anne Born, Nik Briggs, Tony Froud, Jeremy Muldowny, Ian Murphy, Tim Perry, Terry Ram, Pauline Rourke, Dave Thirlwall, Mike Tyler, Sam Valentine, Jim Welsman, and the Committee of the York Shakespeare Project.



Founded in 2001, The York Shakespeare Project set itself a goal of performing all of Shakespeare's plays in York over the next twenty years. We are only three plays away from completing our goal – will you lend a hand? We are doing our first-ever crowd funding campaign. Learn more at [www.gofundme.com/cymbeline](http://www.gofundme.com/cymbeline)