

2026

Sept. 11 - Oct. 3

program

west
chester
play
house



OTHELLO



BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

SEPTEMBER 11 -
OCTOBER 3, 2026

DIRECTED BY CHRIS ARUFFO

LA County
**ARTS &
CULTURE**

kentwoodplayers.org | 310-645-5156

OTHELLO

written by William Shakespear

Christopher Aruffo
Director

Richard Conolly
Assistant Director

Patricia Butler and Ben Lupejkis
Producers

Nick Unquera
Associate Producer

Sanwise Aaron
Original Music Composer

Douglas Vasquez
Choreographer

Daniel Kruger
Costume Designer

Hahnah Jackson
Lighting Designer

Tony Pereslete
Set Designer

Shawn K. Summerer
Sound Designer





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

XX
director





CAST

(ALPHABETIC BY ACTOR'S LAST NAME)

Hollis Andrews

Brooke Arnold

Vince Balzano

Casey Braxton

David Choi

Katrina Gaedcke

Georgi Goldberg

Sean Grant

Devin Guinee

Adrian Heidemann

Jacob Helfgott

Sydney Lanae

Kila Logan

Forrest Lark

Chris Morrison

Eliseo Paiva

Mark Sandstrom

Emilia

Bianca

Roderigo

Othello

Officer

Desdemona

Iago

Cassio

Montano

Gentleman

Duke

Senator

Lodovico

Clown

Brabantio

Herald

Gratiano



MEET THE CAST



Georgi Goldberg – Iago

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and brought up in Estonia, Georgi moved to Los Angeles on the wings of a dream in 2024 to pursue his passion for Theatre & Film. He also loves spending time in nature, doing Yoga, and paddling out on his surfboard. Georgi is deeply grateful to all the friends, teachers, and fellow artists from whom he has received enormous support throughout his artistic journey, and is dedicating this performance to his family, whose “drive to the theatre” was a 12-hour flight from Europe. www.georgigoldberg.com



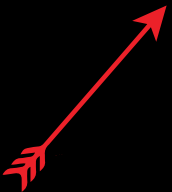
Casey Braxton - Othello

Casey started his career in Virginia community theaters with performances in Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*, Susan-Lori Parks's *Top Dog/Under Dog*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Then moved to New York, still spending most of his time in the theater doing plays like Stephen Adly Guirgis's *The Motherf\$cker With the Hat* and Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen's *The Exondated*. His TV credits include appearances on *Law and Order: SVU*, *FBI: International*, *Billions*, *Manifest*, *All American*, and *Zero Day* with Robert Deniro. Casey dedicates this performance to his beautiful family: his superstar wife, Meg; his late Braxton; his wonderful son, Teddy Braxton; and his mother, Gladys Braxton, and late mother-in-law, Betsy Sahagian.



Katrina Gaedcke - Desdemona

Katrina Gaedcke, while still spiritually a Texan, has wholeheartedly embraced the city of Los Angeles as her home. Her passion for acting emerged from her love of psychology and her deep curiosity to experience perspectives outside of her own (or wait, was it the other way around?). Off stage and behind the scenes, you can find Katrina getting purposefully lost on a hike, hosting girls' night, having deep talks with friends, or planning her next solo trip to the other side of the world. She also studies Brazilian Jiu Jitsu — because nothing sharpens your instincts for stage combat like learning to escape a triangle choke. Katrina is represented by Bankston Talent and continues to hone her craft in scene study class at the Howard Fine Acting Studio. Though she has Instagram deleted 95% of the time (too much else to do), feel free to follow @katrinagaedcke



MEET THE CAST



Hollis Andrews – Emilia

Hollis Jane Andrews is absolutely thrilled to be making her debut with the Kentwood Players as Emilia in *Othello*. Previous credits include: *The Good Doctor* (ABC), *iCarly* (Paramount Plus), *Better Things* (FX), and *Mike Tyson Mysteries* (Cartoon Network). She also starred as Frieda Ovitz in the off-Broadway production of *The Lilliput Troupe*. When not performing, Hollis can be found playing Dungeons and Dragons, reading Greek mythology, and obsessing over her two cats: Trinket and Sally. She wants to thank the entire cast and crew for making this an absolutely incredible experience. She also wants to thank her family and friends for their never ending love and support. Opa!



Sean Christopher Grant - Cassio

Sean Grant is honored to make his Shakespeare debut as Michael Cassio in *Othello*. While his primary passion is acting for film, this production has deepened his appreciation for classical theatre and challenged him to grow as an actor and storyteller. Sean is incredibly grateful to the cast, crew, and director for creating such a supportive, collaborative, and inspiring rehearsal process. He believes great performances are built on empathy, curiosity, trust, support, and a commitment to truthful storytelling. Thank you to his family, friends, and everyone who has encouraged him along the way. It has been an honor to work alongside such a dedicated cast and crew, whose passion, hard work, and encouragement have inspired him every day. Sean hopes you enjoy the performance as much as he has enjoyed being part of the team bringing it to life.



Chris Morrison - Brabantio

A graduate of the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago, Chris' past appearances with Kentwood Players include *42nd Street*, *Baskerville*, and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. A lifelong music nerd, Chris has curated exhibitions celebrating the life & works of numerous artists including Frank Sinatra, Leonard Bernstein, and The Beatles. His work has been featured at the Lincoln Center (NYC), Kennedy Center (D.C.), Woody Guthrie Center (Tulsa), The Beatles Story Museum (Liverpool), Skirball Center (L.A.), and GRAMMY Museums (Los Angeles & Mississippi).

MEET THE CAST



Vince Balzano - Roderigo

Despite popular demand, Othello marks Vince's return to the stage after a sixteen-year absence, so...we shall see how this goes! In a previous life, Vince also appeared in (among others): *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Black Comedy*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *All in the Timing*; *Harvey*; *Rumors*; *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (twice!); **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and (for better and worse) *Caroline, or Change*. When he is not treading the boards at Kentwood, Vince can be found watching movies with friends and walking his dog. Fond thanks to the cast and production team for making this a truly delightful return to theater. And as always, love to his parents and sister for their encouragement.



Devin Guinee - Montano

Devin Guinee is an actor here in Los Angeles. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Devin received his Bachelor of Arts in Theater, Emphasis on Acting, at UCLA. Some of his recent works include: *The Time of Your Life*, playing the role of Krupp, *Pictures of Willy*, originating the role of Cal, and *Pardners*, playing the role of Jedediah. Devin is so grateful to be making his Kentwood Players debut and hopes you enjoy his rarely featured dance moves. To find out more about Devin Guinee, please feel free to visit his website, devinguinee.com. Devin would also like to dedicate his performance to his late mother, Susan Guinee.



Kila Logan - Lodovico

Kila Logan is a screenwriter and actor from Honolulu, Hawaii. Whether on stage or on screen, he feels most at home finding a way to bring new life to characters and stories that speak to him.



MEET THE CAST



Jacob Helfgott - Duke

Jacob has been involved in theatre since the Aerospace Players produced *Brigadoon* (2009). Past roles include Rolf in *The Sound of Music* (2022), Lancelot and Tim in *Spamalot* (2023), and a ballplayer in *Damn Yankees* (2025). He has also performed in various roles for Manhattan Beach Community Church, such as a pastry chef in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2024), Morris Delancey in *Newsies* (2025), and Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof* this past spring. Outside of theater, he works as a tutor in English and math and enjoys hockey.



Brooke Arnold - Bianca

Brooke is delighted to make her debut with the Kentwood Players in *Othello* as Bianca! Brooke is a West Hollywood-based actress with a B.F.A in Theatre with an Emphasis in Acting from Texas Christian University. Her previous theatrical credits include Annie Cannon in *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson, Eunice Hubbell in *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, and Ensemble in *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo and Juliet* with Trinity Shakespeare Festival. Her two cats are named Puck and Romeo - due to her love of Shakespeare.



Adrian Heidemann - Gentleman

Adrian Heidemann is a Swedish actor based in Los Angeles. He has appeared in independent films including *Reckless* (2025) and *The Lemonade Stand*, as well as the television series *The Price of Yesterday*. Classically trained in theater, Adrian studied at the UCLA Extension Acting Certificate Program, continues his training at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, and is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts in Theatre Arts at Santa Monica College, with plans to continue toward a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre after transferring to a four-year university. Passionate about truthful, character-driven performances, he enjoys exploring complex dramatic roles while continuing to work in both film and theater.



MEET THE CAST



Mark Sandstrom - Gratiano

Mark grew up in Westchester. He attended a performance at the Playhouse in elementary school, and 30 years later -- after traveling the world and moving back -- has rediscovered the magic of this place. Mark helps lead an engineering team at an educational non-profit. Outside of work, his main activity is rock climbing, and he recently picked up ice skating and ballet. He is excited to support the production of *Othello* as Gratiano and a dancer in the ensemble. Will theater be another love? We'll see! This is Mark's first production.



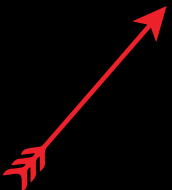
Sydney Lanae - Senator

Sydney was born and raised in the Bay Area. There, they earned their degree in performing arts and made their way to LA for acting. Since moving to LA, they have starred in 2 different classical plays, including *Julius Caesar*, where they played Tribonius/Clitus, and *Tartuffe*, where they played Dorine. Sydney is a trained dancer, singer, & musical theater actor alongside their film & commercial experience.



Forrest Lark - Clown

Forrest Lark is thrilled to be making his Kentwood Players debut in *Othello*. This performance is especially meaningful, as it marks his first time back on stage since the pandemic. Forrest is the founding theatre educator at Valor Academy Middle School, where he has spent the past three years teaching and directing young artists. His greatest joy is watching his students discover the magic of theatre. Favorite previous roles include Pandarus in *Troilus and Cressida* (UCLA TFT), Fleance in *Macbeth* (Sierra Repertory Theatre), Lucio in *Measure for Measure* (Murphys Creek Theatre), and Johnny in *American Idiot* (Merced College). This performance is dedicated to his incredible Valor students and his UCLA colleagues, whose continued passion for performance inspired his return to the stage. He'll continue that Shakespearean journey this November as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Twin Flame Creative Collective.



MEET THE CAST



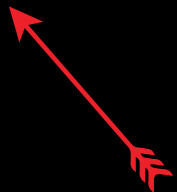
Eliseo Paiva - Herald

Eliseo Paiva is thrilled to join the Kentwood Players as the Herald in *Othello*, marking his debut with the company. Originally from Lima, Peru, Eliseo is an actor, singer-songwriter, and producer currently based in Los Angeles. His previous stage credits include *Dinner With The MacGuffins* (El Camino College) and *Spring Awakening*. On screen, he has appeared in *Tai Loy*, *Paralelos*, and other independent film and music video productions. He is currently training under actress Gloria Garayua while pursuing Commercial Music studies at El Camino College. As the founder and lead vocalist of the indie rock project *Ellen Pub*, Eliseo has performed internationally and is proud to serve as an official Voting Member of the Recording Academy. He is deeply grateful to his family, friends, mentors, and the Kentwood Players for this opportunity, and hopes you enjoy tonight's performance.



David Choi - Officer

David Choi is thrilled to return to the stage with Kentwood Players. He previously appeared as Prince Florizel in *The Winter's Tale* with the Seoul Shakespeare Company and is currently studying in the Master Teachers program at the Ruskin School of Acting. Offstage, David is a photographer and DJ. He thanks his wife, Ting, for her endless patience, and dedicates his performance to his late sister, Suzy.





MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Christopher Aruffo – Director

Chris has performed in and directed plays in the US, the UK, and Canada. He is the author of *A Rational Guide to Verse*, offering a new approach to classical texts. His TEDx talk, explaining why people talk with an accent, can be seen on YouTube.

Richard Conolly – Assistant Director

Richard has been making theatre for decades and is delighted to be wrestling with Shakespeare again. Notable roles in England have included Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Brighton Fringe and Banquo in *Macbeth* at Lewes Castle. On returning to Southern California, Richard became a resident company member of the Archway Theatre Company, where he appeared in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo & Juliet*. He has also appeared in several comedies at Theatre Palisades as a kind of Rent-a-Brit. This production of *Othello* has allowed him to indulge his equal love of working backstage. Many thanks to Chris for having him and his broken ankle aboard. Richard has been a member of the studioLA, a scene study class, since 2018, where he has also served as Technical Director for the last three years. Instagram: @rc_actor

Doug Vasquez – Choreographer

Doug is thrilled to be a part of this exciting production. Doug has enjoyed a prolific and long career in the Theater. He has directed and choreographed over 125 Musical Theater productions from Los Angeles to Boston and beyond, most recently being Kentwood Players' highly successful production of *42nd Street*. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama from UCI and earned his Masters Degree in Directing from Rutgers University. He would like to thank this incredible cast for their hard work and imaginative creative process.



Sanwise Aaron – Original Music Composer Bio



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Ben Lupejkis – Producer

Ben Lupejkis has served in numerous board positions during his 28+ year membership with Kentwood Players: president, publicity chair, treasurer, and now production manager. One of his duties as production manager is to match producers with directors, as he has done with Pattie, Nick, and Chris for *Othello*, and to find new people who may wish to learn how to produce plays with us (hint, hint). In addition to PM, Ben also sings, dances, acts, directs, and designs sets. Notable productions he's directed include *Most Happy Fella*, *Parade*, *The 39 Steps*, *Mame*, *Sister Act*, and *All My Sons*. You may wish to mark your calendar for his next venture as director, Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, to play March-April 2027. He wishes many broken eggs to the cast, creatives, and production staff for this classic of Shakespeare's canon.

Patricia Butler – Producer

Patricia Butler has served as co-producer with Lori Marple Pereslete on Kentwood's 2018 production of *Sister Act*. She acted as producer/writer on San Francisco musical productions – *La Mome Piaf*, *Blues People*, *Ka-Ra-Zy for Gershwin*, and *The Lady and The Sparrow* with her long-time collaborator, Scott McKenzie. She is thrilled to work with the dedicated and uber-talented production crew, including the fabulous Nick Unquera and best friend and partner - "Da Man" - Ben Lupejkis.

Nick Unquera – Associate Producer

Nick Unquera is excited to serve as Associate Producer for *Othello*, his first time working on a production team at Kentwood Players. Previously, he has appeared on the Kentwood stage in *Urinetown* and *42nd Street*, making this new role an exciting opportunity to contribute differently. He is grateful for the chance to be part of *Othello* and would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.

Roy T. Okida – Stage Manager

Roy has stage managed here at the Westchester Playhouse for many shows, including *Lost in Yonkers*, *All My Sons*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Avenue Q*. When he is not backstage, you may have seen him on the stage in *42nd Street*, *Producers*, and *9 to 5*. He hopes you enjoy this rendition of Shakespeare's *Othello*.

Tony Pereslete – Scenic Designer

This job is fun. I've done many sets for theater and movies. It's always fulfilling to turn amorphous wood, paint, and fasteners into a magic space for performers. Please enjoy *Othello*.





MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



George Kondreck – Master Builder

George has worked in set design and construction with The Kentwood Players since 2012. He has served as Master Builder for several productions, most recently *Guilty Pleasures*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Urinetown*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, and *Misery*. He directed *Native Gardens* in 2022 and *Dial M for Murder* in 2019. Also in 2019, he appeared in *Blithe Spirit* as Dr. Bradman. Previously, he was in *Big Fish*, *Mame*, *Mr. Potcher's Holiday*, *Ragtime*, *Oliver*, and Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*, which he also directed.

Lori Marple-Pereslete - Set Decoration

Lori joined Kentwood in 2001. She has served on the Board of Directors as Production Manager twice, as House Manager, and was Properties Mistress for more than 15 years. Through the years, she has decorated many Kentwood productions, including *Significant Other*, *Once on This Island*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Big Fish*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Wait Until Dark*. Lori also produces and enjoys searching for props. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Shawn K Summerer – Sound Designer

An 18-year member of the Kentwood Players, Shawn previously designed the sound for *By The Way Meet Vera Stark*, *The Producers*, *All My Sons*, *Mame*, and *The 39 Steps*. Additionally, he has designed and built the sets for *Next to Normal*, **Steel Magnolias*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *California Suite*, **Young Frankenstein*, and *Pippin*. He has also directed four shows at Kentwood, including *She Kills Monsters*, *Dracula*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Into the Woods*, and currently serves as President of the Kentwood Players Board of Directors.

Michele Goffeau - Property Head



Michele has enjoyed working with Kentwood on *Othello*. She has recently done props for *Crossing Delancey* at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills and *Guilty Pleasures* at Kentwood. She has also been seen in the ensemble for the Aerospace Players production of *Shrek*. Other performances include ensemble roles in community productions of *Oklahoma* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Thank you to the cast and crew for a wonderful experience, and she hopes you enjoy the show.



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Daniel Kruger - Costume Designer

Daniel started with Kentwood Players in 2015 and has worked on 24 shows, both on and offstage. *Othello* is the ninth show he has costumed for Kentwood Players. He hopes that you enjoy the show.

Hahnah Jackson - Lighting Designer

After years as a booth operator, Hahnah is excited to get the chance to design. Many thanks to Lou, Howard, and Zahra for extending a friendly KW welcome during *Guilty Pleasures*, and to Michael for his mentorship and patience. Hahnah most recently served as co-producer of *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and director of *Towards Zero* at Theatre Palisades, where she also volunteered as booth operator and costumer before the Palisades fire. She works as a post-production supervisor at Allen Media and enjoys going to Six Flags and writing in her spare time. She's thankful to Dario and her family for their love and support.

Chris Farina - Photography

Veteran photographer Chris Farina covers a full range of events, specializing in high-end celebrity entertainment, conventions, corporate, publicity, and advertising with over 30 years of experience and hundreds of satisfied and repeat clients. Based in Los Angeles, Farina is represented by Getty Images (with 8,000+ images on file) and is known for his meticulous standards of quality and professionalism. Published worldwide, his clients are always in demand for his services.





PRODUCTION TEAM

Position
Position
Position
Position

NAME
NAME
NAME
NAME

SPECIAL THANKS XX

WORK SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Hollis Andrews, Brooke Arnold, Christopher Aruffo, Iris Avedon, Vince Balzano, Pattie Butler, Doug Carlson, David Chiu, Sheldon Cohen, Jamie Dawley, Michele Goffeau, Samuel Goldman, Kelly Gov, George Gov, Sean Grant, Grant Guinee, Ben Hess, Hannah Jackson, Patty Jarvis, George Kondreck, Daniel Kruger, Dario Fagnani, Forrest Lark, Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male, Melvin Miller, Chris Morrison, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida, Jeremy Palmer, Doug Pascale, Lori-Marple Pereslete, Tony Pereslete, Gloria Plunkett, Mark Sandstrom, Richard Santilena, Chani Schwarz, Julia Sison, Shawn Summerer, Michael Thorpe, Megan Unquera, Nick Unquera, and Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson

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UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

January 15 – February 6, 2027

Constellations

by Nick Paine

Directed by James Rice

March 12 – April 3, 2027

Ken Ludwig's Shakespeare in Hollywood

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Ben Lupejkis

May 7 – June 5, 2027

The Prom

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Book by Bob Martin and Chad Beguelin

Directed by Elijah Green

MONTH XX – MONTH XX, 20XX

SHOW TITLE

by AUTHOR

Directed by NAME

MONTH XX – MONTH XX, 20XX

SHOW TITLE

by AUTHOR

Directed by NAME

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AND SHELDON HARNICK



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MUSIC DIRECTION BY ELIZABETH A. SUMMERER
CHOREOGRAPHY BY ALISON BOOLE
PRODUCED BY JEREMY PALMER AND SHAWN SUMMERER

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