



G E N I U S

Jane Anger

October 16 -19, 2025

Marlene Boll Theatre

Or, the lamentable comedie of Jane Anger, that cunning woman, and also of Willy Shakespeare and his peasant companion, Francis, yes and also of Anne Hathaway (also a woman who tried very hard)

BY TALENE MONAHON



Thank you Carla Walker-Miller of Walker Miller Energy Services,
Marla Donovan, Marguerite Barrett, Angelique Power and Leslie
Ann Pilling for your support!



CONTENT WARNING

Jane Anger contains mature language, sexual humor, and adult themes.

This production is recommended for audiences 17 and older.

Viewer discretion is advised.



Run-time is 90 minutes with no intermission.



Please silence cell phones.



Photography and video are strictly prohibited.

Director's Note

by Sam White, Founding Artistic & Executive Director

For the past 13 years, Shakespeare in Detroit has dedicated itself exclusively to the works of William Shakespeare. From our humble beginnings as a grassroots effort called Shakespeare Against Cancer in 2012, to our groundbreaking Othello in the park the following year, every production we've mounted has been rooted in the Bard's canon.

But this time, we're changing things up.

With Jane Anger by Talene Monahon, we step boldly into new territory — what I like to call “Shakespeare-adjacent” work. Written during the pandemic of 2020 — an experience we all shared — Jane Anger brings Shakespeare to the stage once again, but this time, he's not the lead. The spotlight belongs to Jane.

Jane Anger was a real historical figure, though her precise identity remains uncertain. In Monahon's clever and courageous reimagining, Jane becomes the “Dark Lady” of Shakespeare's sonnets — a cunning

woman, a self-taught survivor, and a genius. She does what she must to endure a world that underestimates her. She never apologizes for her confidence, her audacity, or her sensuality. She speaks truth to power, refusing to be silenced in a society that seeks to keep women in their place.

Despite the barriers of race, gender, class, and a lack of formal education, Jane doesn't lean on those challenges as excuses. She leans into her brilliance. She takes a book gifted by the queen, teaches herself to read and write, and fights her way — sometimes literally, with a rapier — through London's chaos and plague to survive.

I see reflections of Jane's resilience in my own community. Like her, so many of us have had to rely on our ingenuity and courage just to persist. In a time when the voices of marginalized people are being threatened or erased, Jane Anger feels especially vital — a reminder of what happens when a woman claims her voice and refuses to apologize for her power.

I want to thank everyone who has supported

Shakespeare in Detroit through every stage of our evolution — from our early grassroots days, to our work in parks and site-specific spaces, to our educational program, Shakespeare STEAM, and now to this exciting new chapter as we expand beyond the Bard. Our mission has always been rooted in community, and we couldn't do this without you.

A special thank you to Morgan Breon, Creative Director of our I Am A Genius campaign, inspired by the wit and spirit of Jane Anger. For the past eleven weeks, this campaign has celebrated women in Detroit who embody genius in their own unique ways. Their portraits, created by photographer Chuk Nowak, are on display through October 25th at the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit. I invite you to visit the exhibit and learn more about these remarkable women — and about us — at shakespeareindetroit.com.

Thank you to our brilliant cast, crew, and everyone who poured their hearts into bringing this Michigan premiere to life. Now, sit back and enjoy a night of laughter, wit, and maybe even a little shock. But most of all, I hope you leave inspired to embrace your own

brilliance — to live, as Shakespeare once wrote, “to thine own self be true.” Jane certainly does. And while she may not always know how her efforts may end, she continues to forge ahead. And I hope the same for all of us gathered here now.

— *Sam White*

Director, Jane Anger

Character Breakdown

JANE ANGER

A cunning woman — healer, writer, and survivor. Bold, brilliant, and unapologetically outspoken, Jane Anger is determined to protect herself and her livelihood in a world that underestimates her. Often referred to as “the Dark Lady” of Shakespeare’s sonnets, she’s witty, sensual, and fiercely intelligent. She leans on no one but her own genius.

FRANCIS SIR

Shakespeare’s peasant apprentice. Naïve yet insightful, Francis is a companion to William during the plague and an aspiring actor. He’s curious and dutiful while also ambitious and trying to find his big break.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The Bard himself, though not as we've come to know him. In quarantine during the plague, he's egotistical, anxious, and creatively blocked. Beneath his vanity, however, lies a man struggling with irrelevance, haunted by his own insecurities.

ANNE HATHAWAY

Shakespeare's long-suffering wife, appearing unexpectedly in London. Sharp, sarcastic, and endlessly resilient, Anne brings both comic relief and emotional depth as she confronts her famous husband—and Jane—with truth, rage, and wit.

About the Play

Set during the plague in 1606, Jane Anger reimagines Shakespeare's world as he writes, or attempts to write, *King Lear* (E-A).

It's a fierce, funny, and feminist farce about art, authorship, and the audacity to speak one's truth.

Cast

Anna Maria Morris* as Jane Anger

Andrew Huff* as William Shakespeare

Michael Lopetrone* as Francis Sir

Meaghen Quinn as Anne Hathaway

Production & Creative Team

Producer / Director / Set Designer: Sam White

Playwright: Talene Monahon

Production Stage Manager: Sarah Ackerman*

Production Assistant: Julianna Gonzalez

Substitute Production Assistant: Tia Spicer

Costume Designer: Sarah M. Oliver

Lighting Designer: Megan O'Brien

Sound Designer & Off Stage Voice: Kennikki Jones-Jones

Fight Choreographer: Steve Xander Carson

Intimacy Choreographer: Kandace Crystal

Dialect Coach: Deric McNish

Wardrobe Manager: Toni Davison

Scenic Construction: West End Studios

House Manager: Amber Walters

Publicity: PublicCity PR

Photographer: Chuk Nowak

Videography: Kameron Donald (Breyko)

Theatre Manager: Seth Amadei

*The Actor or Stage Manager appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



Anna Maria Morris*



Andrew Huff*



Michael Lopetrone*



Meaghen Quinn



Sam White



Sarah Ackerman*



Sarah M. Oliver



Megan O'Brien



Kennikki Jones-Jones

CAST & CREW



Kandace Crystal



Toni Davison



Deric McNish



Steve Xander Carson



Julianna Gonzalez



Talene Monahon



Morgan Breon

CAST & CREW

Sarah Ackerman* (Production Stage Manager)

Sarah Ackerman* is elated to join the Shakespeare in Detroit team! Recent PSM credits include Jesus Christ Superstar (Fulton Theatre), Fat Ham (Detroit Public Theatre) and The Cook-Off (Nashville Opera). She holds a BFA from Michigan State University and teaches all aspects of theatre at Stoney Creek High School, freelances as a scenic painter, makeup/wig designer, guest lecturer, and vocalist. Proud member of Actors Equity. Many thanks to Mom, Dad, Charlie, and Sam White. @_sarahackerman • sarahmackerman.com

Steve Xander Carson (Fight Choreographer)

Steve Xander Carson is delighted to continue his work with Shakespeare in Detroit. He has fight choreographed their youth summer conservatory productions like Hamlet, Julius Caesar, and Macbeth. Recently he choreographed The Play That Goes Wrong and Little Murders at Wayne State University, and looks forward to working on their productions of Seven Guitars and Paradise Lost. He earned his BFA at Wayne State and continues his training with the Society of American Fight Directors.

Kandace Crystal (Intimacy Director)

Kandace Crystal (she/her) is thrilled to work with Sam and the entire SiD team! A San Diego-based, multi-hyphenate theatre maker, Kandace hopes to continue advocating for safe spaces and reducing harm in our industry. Select intimacy credits include: A Midsummer Night's Dream (The Old Globe), Ripped (Loud Fridge), and Spring Awakening (Oceanside Theatre Company). IG: @KandaceCrystal

Toni Davison (Wardrobe Manager)

Toni Davison (she/her) is a Metro Detroit-based costume designer and technician who uses garments to tell stories. A dedicated educator, she's passionate about teaching sewing and design while highlighting their transferable skills. Toni thanks Shakespeare in Detroit for the opportunity to serve as wardrobe manager and extends love to her husband, Darrell, for his constant support, and to her children, who continue to inspire her creativity and dedication.

Julianna Gonzalez (Production Assistant)

Julianna Gonzalez is beyond thrilled to join Shakespeare in Detroit for Jane Anger. Her recent credits include stage managing for Shakespeare Royal Oak, Matrix Theatre, and Planet Ant. She is also a member of The Extra Mile Playwright's Theatre group. Her BA in Drama and English is from Vassar College. She sends gratitude and love to the Jane Anger team — and her wife, Jen, always.

Andrew Huff* (William Shakespeare)

Andrew Huff is delighted to make his debut with Shakespeare in Detroit in Jane Anger. Andrew studied at Wayne State University performing at The Hilberry and Bonstelle theatres. He also teaches theatre at Detroit School of the Performing Arts. His most treasured role is Dad to his beloved daughters Addi and Alex. Andrew would like to thank Sam and Shakespeare in Detroit for producing this extraordinary play. He dedicates this show in memory of Gillian Eaton.

Kennikki Jones-Jones (Sound Designer and Off Stage Voice)

Kennikki Jones-Jones is a multi-award-winning filmmaker who obtained a MFA in Film Production and Directing from Florida State University's Film School. She has works in education, film, and theatre. Currently, she operates Crabby Bull Production, Heads the Film Department for The Obsidian Theatre Festival, and is an adjunct professor at Wayne State University and the U of D Mercy. Her love for sound design allows her to explore the many ways sounds shape how we receive and interpret the stories we tell.

BIOS

*Member of Actor's Equity Association

Michael Lopetrone* (Francis Sir)

Michael Lopetrone is thrilled to be back in Detroit with SiD. Stage credits include Hamlet (Shakespeare in Detroit), Eight Nights (Detroit Public Theatre), Texas Gothic (Theater for the New City), Death of a Salesman (Flint Repertory Theatre), and Hidden (Chain Theatre). Film credits include Famous in Michigan and Thick Air. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University. A New York-based actor, Michael is always proud to call Michigan home.

@MichaelLopetrone

Deric McNish (Dialect Coach)

Deric McNish is honored to be part of the Jane Anger team. A voice and speech specialist, McNish serves as Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Theatre at Michigan State University, where he mentors the next generation of theatre artists. He holds an MFA from Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House and a PhD from the University of Colorado Boulder. dericmcnish.com

Anna Maria Morris* (Jane Anger)

Anna Maria Morris is delighted to join Shakespeare in Detroit for Jane Anger! Her stage credits include The Capacity to Love, Little Shop of Horrors, PANTO Wonderful Wizard (Stages) and Alley All New Festival (Alley Theatre). Her film credits include Dick Control and Alien Abduction. Anna Maria holds a BFA in Theatre from Sam Houston State University. She dedicates this performance to her late parents, Anthony and JoAnn. Instagram: @annamariamorris

Talene Monahon (Playwright)

Talene Monahon is an award-winning actor and playwright whose works include Jane Anger, How to Load a Musket, and Frankie & Will. Her plays have been produced Off-Broadway and regionally, earning acclaim for their wit, feminist perspective, and inventive takes on history and art.

Megan O'Brien (Lighting Designer)

Megan O'Brien is a New York City-based designer. She previously designed Hamlet and Julius Caesar with SiD's summer youth conservatory program and is excited to be joining the design team for this professional production. She earned her MFA in Lighting Design from Wayne State University and her BA from Eastern Connecticut State University.

Sarah M. Oliver (Costume Designer)

Sarah M. Oliver is Associate Professor of Costume Technology & Design at the University of Michigan. Oliver has designed and built costumes for theatre, dance, opera, and musical theatre from the Los Angeles Opera to the New York City Opera. Her work has been seen in England, France, Spain, Hong Kong, Canada, China, and the Bahamas. Recent design credits include La Bohème, Music Academy of the West; and No Other, Lyon, France. sarahmoliver.com • @sarah_m_oliver

Meaghen Quinn (Anne Hathaway)

Meaghen Quinn is an Actor, Intimacy Director, and Drama Professor. She holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Pennsylvania State University and a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from the University of Windsor. She is grateful to the cast and to Sam, and her SiD team, for fostering a collaborative environment for exploration and creativity. Meaghen also salutes women like Anne and Jane for their courage and resilience in continuing to “try hard” in the face of adversity.

BIOS

*Member of Actor's Equity Association

Sam White (Producer, Director, Scenic Design)

Sam White is the Founding Artistic and Executive Director of Shakespeare in Detroit. A former The Old Globe Directing Fellow and Stratford Festival Michael Langham Conservatory alum, her Stratford production of Alice Childress' *Wedding Band* was praised by The New York Times critic Jesse Green as Tony-worthy. Featured by the BBC and Forbes, Sam continues to champion inclusive, rigorous storytelling that celebrates genius, resilience, and women's voices onstage and beyond.

Special thanks to **Heather Cole** (Shakespeare in Detroit Admin), **Brandon Haugabook** (Sound Board Substitute), and **Tia Spicer** (Substitute Production Assistant).

Thank you to the LOVE Building (c/o Allied Media Projects and Scheherazade Parrish) and Matrix Theatre Company.

Gratitude to **Seth Amadei** for being so collaborative and accommodating, and **Andy Beresford** of West End Studios for your incredible carpentry and paint work, along with **Shannon Tidwell** for the high-level craftsmanship of our Tudor window.

I Am A Genius Campaign

Created by **Morgan Breon**, Shakespeare in Detroit's Creative Director, the *I Am A Genius campaign* celebrates 11 remarkable Detroit women whose brilliance mirrors the wit and courage of Jane Anger. Featuring photography by **Chuk Nowak** and video by **Kameron Donald** for Breyko, the series transforms lines from Jane Anger into powerful visual affirmations.

See the women featured in Shakespeare in Detroit's I Am A Genius campaign on display October 1 - 25, 2025 at Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit located at 905 Henry Street, Detroit, MI 48201.

HOURS: 11AM - 4PM

Admission is FREE.

Scan the QR code on the next page to meet our modern-day geniuses.



ABOUT OUR TEAM

SEE GENIUS

SCAN



SCAN

SEE GENIUS

About Shakespeare in Detroit

Founded in 2012, Shakespeare in Detroit (SiD) began by bringing the power of classical performance to children and families in hospitals across the city. A year later, SiD made history with Detroit's first-ever Shakespeare company, becoming the city's only professional theatre company dedicated to Shakespeare and classical works.

Since then, thousands have experienced SiD's bold, high-caliber productions in parks, theatres, and unexpected spaces, all grounded in community, equity, and excellence. SiD's educational initiatives include Shakespeare STEAM, fusing arts and STEM learning in Detroit classrooms, and a Summer Conservatory that has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to local teens.

Led by founder and director Sam White, a nationally recognized changemaker featured by the BBC, Forbes, The Guardian, and The New York Times, SiD has earned support from the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, the Walters Family Foundation, the Erb Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Kresge Foundation, Gilbert Family Foundation, PNC Bank, Skillman Foundation, Hollywood Casino at Greektown, DTE Energy Foundation and others over the years.

With intentional, timely productions and deep community roots, Shakespeare in Detroit continues to elevate storytelling, opportunity, and excellence in the city it proudly calls home.



ABOUT US

Individual donations are vital to sustaining Shakespeare in Detroit's mission during this pivotal moment. As a community-rooted nonprofit, SiD relies on the generosity of individual supporters to bridge the gap between grant funding and the true cost of producing bold, high-quality theatre. Every contribution—large or small—helps pay artists, provide scholarships for youth, and ensure accessible performances for Detroit audiences. Your support keeps local theatre thriving, equitable, and alive for generations to come.



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