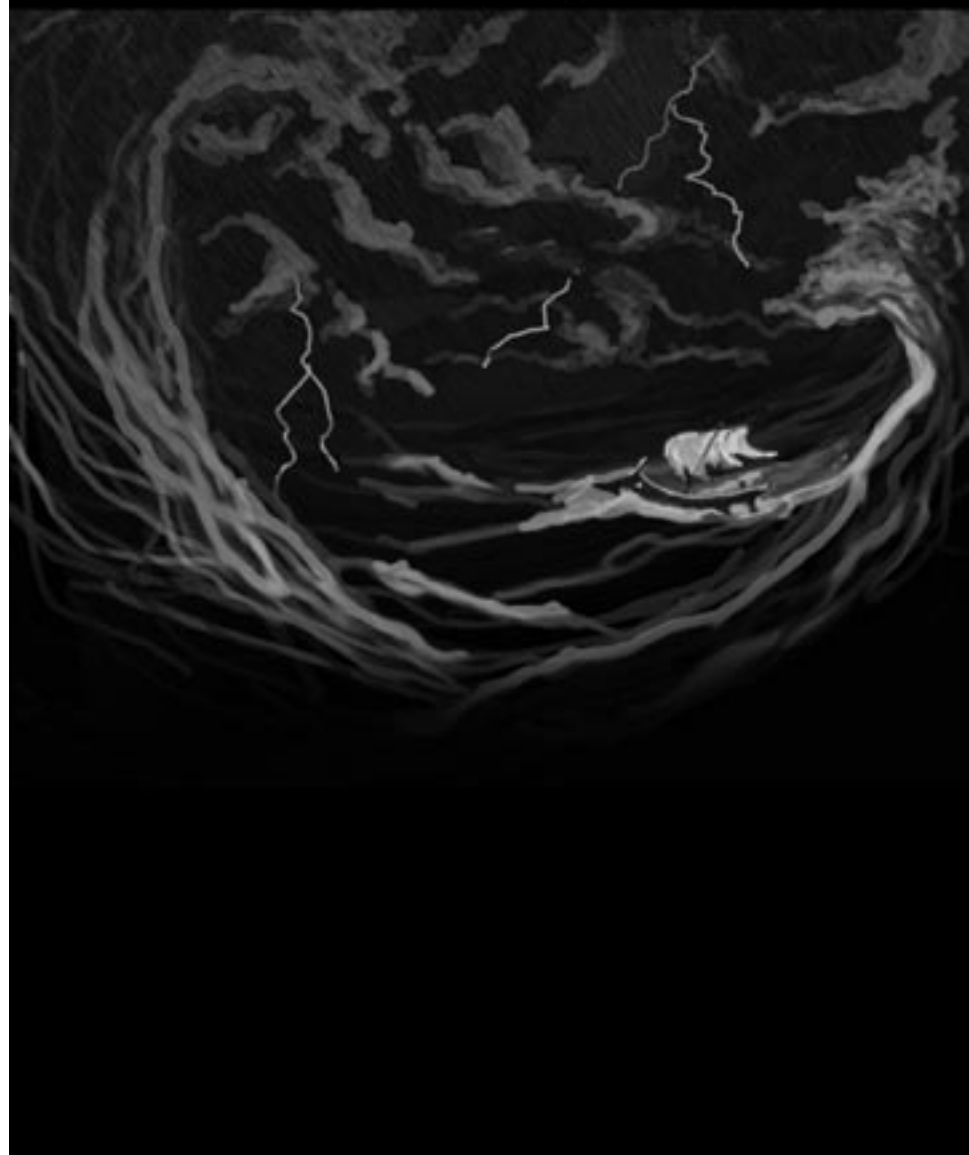


The Odyssey



Will & Company

Artistic & Administrative Staff

Artistic Director	Colin Cox
Managing Director	Sam Robinson
Associate Artistic Director National Tours	Fran de Leon
Associate Artistic Director Mainstage	Newton Kaneshiro
Development Director	David Carver
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The Producers Wish to Thank

Wendy Bernstein, Robin Lithgow, Joe Garber & Michael Ankney at Actors Equity Association, Dae McAllister and the staff of Palmdale Playhouse, Louisa at WE, The Cultural Affairs Department of the City of LA, Wilson High School, Belmont High School, and the students and teachers of the Los Angeles Unified School Districts.

Will & Company

Will & Company was started with a simple vision: actors reflecting their audience. The simplicity of this mission stops with the statement. Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the world with its different ethnicities, languages, physical abilities, political forums and socio-economics. To accurately represent the people of Los Angeles is to ask to represent the people of the world. And so Will & Company sought out members who would represent and reflect the City of Angels.

We strive for egalitarianism and unity in our artistic adventure. We look to present work that examine and challenge stereotypes of color, of creed, of ability, of gender. We want to provoke discussion, evoke emotion, incite action, encourage change. Can this be done by something as seemingly trivial as “entertainment”? Yes, we believe it can. If you can make them cry you can make them feel, if you can make them laugh you can make them think, if you can make them angry you can make them take action!

For decades the theatre has been the forum for new thought and outspoken ideas. Will & Company continues this tradition with classical work such as Shakespeare in an untraditional manner: we turned the whimsical comedy “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” into an earthy Native American spirit world with the backdrop of red rocks in Sedona, Arizona, we adopt a “color-full” approach to casting, embracing the growing population of multicultural families. We take Shakespeare from his old world English language and breathe new life with vigor and energy. We directly address issues of diversity with new works such as “Faces of America” and “Portraits of Courage” and tour them to throughout the college market. We awaken environmental consciousness by travelling to elementary schools with the interactive performances “Canopy” and “WaterCycle” showing our children the beauty of nature and clean cities. We cultivate tomorrow’s theatre-going audience and future actors with “Bring Students to the Theatre”, a program that holds special low-priced weekday matinees of our mainstage shows which feature local high school students alongside Equity actors. We entertain by showing people who they are.

As we face the future, we take stock of our accomplishments to ensure that our artistic statement still rings true: actors reflecting their audience. We seek actors who speak the languages of Los Angeles, from East L.A. barrios to Beverly Hills mansions, from community college students to Emmy award winners, we strive to search for those who understand our culture that reflects all cultures. “We few, we happy few”, continue in our journey, forcing ourselves to stand tall through success and failure so that we may continue in our craft and hope that through the years we find more who share in the vision and will help bring our art to more people, all the while, reflecting their audience.

Will & Company
at the Los Angeles Theatre Center
514 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90013
213-239-8777
<http://www.willandcompany.com>

The Odyssey

adapted by Newton Kaneshiro

The Cast (in alphabetical order)

Odysseus	Colin Cox*
Young Telemachus	Kieran Atticus Cox
Nausikaa	Jennifer Lynn Evans*
Polyphemus	Seth Laursen*
Hermes, the Narrator	Giovanni Jose Ortega*
Eurolychus	Mike Peebler*
Circe	Jennifer Seifert*
Athena	Minerva Vier*
Telemachus	Jeff Wiesen*
Calypso	Erin Williams
Aeoleus	Stephan Wolfert*
Penelope	Amanda Zarr

The Ensemble

Edward Acosta, Erica Beas, Johnny Biera, Henry Flores, Sasha Garza, Michael Henderson, Corina Lujan, Richard Martinez, Rosalia Mendez, Walter Piche, Itzel Rojas, Patricia Velasquez

Production Team

Director/Adapter	Newton Kaneshiro
Producer	Sam Robinson & Fran de Leon
Stage Manager	Lorely Trinidad
Assistant Stage Manager	Jennifer Lynn Evans
Lighting Design	David Toledo
Set & Graphic Design	Newton Kaneshiro
Master Carpenter	Declan Galvin
Costume Design	Vania Ozounova
Incidental Music	Peter Faraday-Smith
Wardrobe & Property Master	Lorely Trinidad
Prop Construction Assistant	Arnell David
Graphic Design	Newton Kaneshiro
High School Liaisons	Carey McDonald, Shanna Hughes & Danny Shock
High School Coordinator	Wendy Bernstein

The Odyssey is a professional production employing members of Actors' Equity Association. Taking pictures and/or making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden. Please check houseboards for any program changes. Ensemble Players are students of Belmont High School and appear with special permission from the Actors Equity Association.

*denotes members of Actors Equity Association

BIOGRAPHIES



Colin Cox (Odysseus) - has the distinction of having acted in, directed, produced and/or taught the entire canon of William Shakespeare. As a filmmaker Colin has produced and directed "Romeo & Juliet" (2000) and the documentary "The Rani of Jhansi". He began acting as a teenager in England, working with the National Youth Theatre. After teaching in Japan, Colin moved to Los Angeles and worked with several local companies until starting Will & Company in 1988. He has penned many stage plays including "Faces of America" with Fran de Leon, "The Mirror of La Mancha", "Not Without Right" (the story of Shakespeare's life & writings), and "American Voices". Most recently, Colin wrote and directed the critically acclaimed world premiere of "A Pebble In My Shoe: The Life & Times of John Shelby Sponge".



Kieran Atticus Cox (Young Telemachus) - is two years old and a student at the Nurture Preschool. He is a second generation Los Angeles native. "The Odyssey" marks Kieran's stage debut.



Jennifer Lynn Evans (Nausikaa / ASM) - is an actress and writer from Santa Monica, California. She holds a BA in Theatre from USC and has had the pleasure of studying theatre at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. Jennifer's credits include several independent films, most recently, "Shattered Day" which premiered at this year's Dances with Films Festival in Santa Monica. Jennifer is a proud member of Will & Company, touring with such plays as "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Don Quixote". She is thrilled to be performing as Nausikaa in "The Odyssey".



Seth Laursen (Polyphemus) - grew up in San Diego, CA and received a BA in Theater from UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. The Odyssey is Seth's second main stage show with Will & Company. He also played the Porter in last season's "Macbeth", and is involved in the educational touring program. Seth loves the arts, the beach, and baseball.



Giovanni Jose Ortega (Hermes) - is a graduate of UCLA's MFA Acting program. Recently, he was seen in the critically acclaimed Los Angeles premiere of "Dogeaters" (Playwrights Arena) and as Marcos in the World Premiere of the musical "Imelda" (EastWest Players). Theatre credits include: "LA Carmen", "True Love", "Orestes 2.0", "Indiscretions", "March of the Falsettos", and "Edward II". Film credits include "Hide and Seek", "Vignettes", "Prey", and "Hollywood Calls". Film credits include "Coffee Date", "Living With the Rents" and "Ray of Sunshine". Gio joined Will & Company in Winter 2005 as an in-school residency teacher, then was featured on the Mainstage in "The Mirror of La Mancha" as the unforgettable Maritones.



Mike Peebler (Eurolychus) - hails from Houston, Texas, where his passion for theater began. That passion took him to train at Northwestern University for his bachelor's in acting followed by UCLA for his MFA. While in school, Mike has performed such roles as Joseph Surface, Solyony, John Proctor, Orlando, Caliban and Henry V. Mike's professional career includes many Shakespearean roles such as Edmund, Claudio, Demetrius, Sebastian and Lorenzo. Mike also has appeared in film and television. Will & Company credits include Tybalt in "Romeo & Juliet", Cardenio in "The Mirror of La Mancha", Macduff in "Macbeth" and most recently in the critically acclaimed "A Pebble In My Shoe: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong".



Jennifer Seifert (Circe) - most recently finished a run of Julius Caesar at A Noise Within, played with Troubadour Theatre Co. in Hamlet, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark and co-starred opposite Anjelica Huston in an upcoming episode of Huff. She can be seen in "In America", an Academy Award nominated film, and she is currently in production with "Return to Babylon", a silent movie in which she plays opposite Jennifer Tilly. A graduate from the School of Theatre at USC, Jennifer is a recipient of the prestigious Jack Nicholson Award. Favorite roles include Maggie in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (A Noise Within), the Courtesan in "Comedy of Errors" (Shakespeare Festival LA), Constance in "Amadeus" (Theatrical Arts Int'l), C in "Three Tall Women" (Sacramento Theatre Co), Lady Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet" (Will & Company,) and Erica in "Suburbia" (The Actors Gang). Jennifer also works with Inside Out, an arts outreach program for inner city junior highs, and her directorial work includes "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" at the Hudson Theatre, which garnered a Backstage West Garland Award Critic's Choice.



Minerva Vier (Athena) - is an actress, a writer and a dancer/choreographer. She is a graduate of The Actors Studio MFA Program in New York. As an actress, she loves doing a wide range of roles from sitcoms to Shakespeare. Her favorite roles in the past include Squeaky Fromme from the Sondheim musical "Assassins", Alice in P. Marber's "Closer", Roma in Josefina Lopez' "Lola Goes To Roma" and Lolita Luna in Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters". As a writer, she completed two screenplays, two plays and a short film script. She wrote, co-produced, choreographed and acted in the play, "Stateside Girls", and wrote, co-directed and acted in the short film, "The Specials". Minerva is a proud member of SAG, AFTRA and AEA.



Jeff Wiesen (Telemachus) - is making his debut with Will & Company in "The Odyssey." Jeff received his BA in Theater from UCLA, where he worked with Carol Burnett (Once Upon a Mattress) and Tony Danza (Fiorello!) among others. After graduating, he became a company member at the Theatricum Botanicum, where his favorite roles include Edgar (King Lear), Henry (Skin of our Teeth), Clown (Winter's Tale), Lysander (Midsummer Night's Dream), and Minimus (Animal Farm). Jeff also recently performed in "Saturday Night at Grossinger's" (Theatre West).



Erin Williams (Calypso) - is a recent graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She received her BFA in Acting, as well as studied and performed with the Atlantic Theatre Company. Her most recent credits include her featured role in the "Only Ordinary" music video from the band Burnside Project, (aired on MTV), as well as the New Dramatist's premiere reading of Kirsten Greenidge's "Yes, Please, and Thank-You". Erin is pleased to make her Los Angeles debut with Will & Company in this production of "The Odyssey".



Stephan Wolfert (Aeolus) - left a career in the military for a life in the theatre. Since leaving the Army as an Infantry officer, he has: received his MFA in theatre from Trinity Rep Conservatory; created and directed the military segments for Twyla Tharp/Billy Joel's Tony-award winning Broadway musical "Movin' Out"; created the largest touring Shakespeare Company in New England; and taught acting and Shakespeare at Cornell University. Stephan has also worked with Uprising Theatre, Tony Plana's East LA Classical Theatre Co. and Native Voices at the Atrium. Favorite roles include: Richard III; Petruchio, "Taming of the Shrew"; Antony, "Antony and Cleopatra"; Cassius, "Julius Caesar"; Mercutio, "Romeo & Juliet"; Henry Higgins, "My Fair Lady" and Clifford, "Sideman". Stephan is currently finalizing plans for his National Veteran's Arts Project and last worked with Will & Company in last season's "Macbeth" as Banquo and last month in the critically acclaimed "A Pebble In My Shoe: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong".



Amanda Zarr (Penelope) - received her BFA in Theater Performance from Chapman University in Orange, California. While there, she had prominent roles in "The Crucible" (KCACTF Nomination), "Venus and Adonis" (KCACTF Nomination), "Split" and "Oedipus the King". She also originated roles in "Writhe", "Is it Worth the Wait?", and the Orange County Writers Alliance's "Magic Box/Evil Eye" and "Stony Island". Amanda is a member of Shakespeare Orange County and has had featured roles in their productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Measure for Measure", "Othello", "Much Ado About Nothing" and "Macbeth". Graduate and independent film credits include "Vacancy", "Man and Super Men", "Itsy Bitsy", "The Butler Did it", and "Express Mail". This is Amanda's Will & Company and LATC debut.

The Ensemble - Edward Acosta, Erica Beas, Johnny Biera, Henry Flores, Sasha Garza, Michael Henderson, Corina Lujan, Richard Martinez, Rosalia Mendez, Walter Piche, Itzel Rojas, Patricia Velasquez are all part of the exchange with Wilson and Belmont High Schools in the residency aspect of BSTT.

Fran de Leon (Producer) - is a proud Los Angeles native from Hollywood. As a solo performer, Fran has toured to over 45 states, including special performances for the United Nations Associations in California & New York with her One Person Show "Faces of America". As a producer, she has worked on "Race2Love" directed by Andy Garcia, "Othello", "Hamlet", "A Pebble In My Shoe" and the independent documentary "The Rani of Jhansi". Currently, Fran serves as Associate Artistic Director of Will & Company in charge of National Tours. As a theatre actor, credits include: Casca in "Julius Caesar", Snug in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Sancho Panza in "The Mirror of La Mancha", Caliban in "The Tempest", Juliet in "Romeo & Juliet" (Will & Company) and most recently in the LA premiere of "Dogeaters" (Playwrights' Arena/TDRZ). TV credits include "Charmed", "That's So Raven", "Becker" and "Titus".

Newton Kaneshiro (Director/Adapter) - In addition to being a writer, director and actor, Newton has also been a gymnast for over a decade, studied painting at Yale University, and annually tours the nation with "Playfair", a One-Person Show designed for college orientation. TV credits include "General Hospital", "Big Bad Beetleborgs", and "Voltron: The Third Dimension". Newton serves as Associate Artistic Director of W&C, having directed touring & mainstage shows, including his highly successful adaptation of Homer's "The Odyssey", and can be seen every December either as Scrooge or Bob Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol". A regular on the W&C mainstage, he is best remembered in "The Tempest" as Ariel, in "Hamlet" as Laertes, in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as Puck, and as the title role in "Julius Caesar". Most recently, Newton directed "Othello" for W&C mainstage and was last seen as Paris in "Romeo & Juliet".

Peter Faraday-Smith (Incidental Music) - is both a musician and a scientist, holding positions as a research professor in the UK Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and visiting professor in the UCLA department of physics and astronomy. In the musical field, he has extensive past experience as pianist, conductor and composer, covering the fields of classical and theatre music. In the UK he has been musical director for a number of semi-professional stage productions, including "Brigadoon" and "Call me Madam", and has set lyrics to music for a number of singers in solo and cabaret performances. He has provided incidental music for past stage productions in the UK and more recently arranged music for this company's productions of "Romeo and Juliet", "Mirror of La Mancha" and "Macbeth". To accompany "The Odyssey" he has selected passages which were composed as "musical paintings" in descriptive orchestral works by Berlioz, Debussy, Ravel, Wagner and Rimsky-Korsakov, together with some evocative choral music by Bach and Mozart.

Vania Ozounova (Costume Designer) - is currently based in Los Angeles, originally from Sofia, Bulgaria where she earned her BFA in Theatre Design from the New Bulgarian University. She has been accepted in the MA Scenography program at Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design in London, UK and is working towards completing it in the next 2 years. Vania has been working extensively in the creative and entertainment industry for the last 8 years, designing costumes for Theatre, Film and TV. Vania first worked with Will & Company as Costume Designer for "A Pebble In My Shoe".

Sam Robinson (Producer) - studied theatre at CalState Fullerton and at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts. He has performed in over 60 plays including work with the Texas Shakespeare Festival, The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, The Palmdale Playhouse, The Madrid Theatre, The Odyssey Theatre, and in Canada at The Manitoba Theatre Centre and The Citadel. He has taught acting at The Professional School for the Arts, East LA Classical Theatre, C.A.S.S.T., The Global Youth Village, The Huntington Library, The University of Alaska Summer Fine Arts Camp, and at many schools throughout Southern California. Film & TV credits include the independent "Shadows" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation". Sam is the Managing Director for W&C and heads the Education Division. He is currently touring "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Odyssey", and "The WaterCycle". On the mainstage, Sam has appeared in "Macbeth", "The Tempest", "Hamlet", "The Mirror of La Mancha", "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Julius Caesar".

David Toledo (Lighting Design) - Originally from NYC, David came to LA for an MFA degree from CalArts which he received in 1998. Some credits include "Vagina Monologues" directed by Penny Marshall, "Night Mother", "Life of Galileo" "Room Service" and "Lend Me A Tenor". He is the Resident Designer for Lyric Opera Company and Amazing Grace Conservatory. He has lit dance for Brockus Dance Company and has designed lights for many other dance shows as one of the Resident Designers at both LATC and Grand Performances where he also lights live concerts. Industrial credits include design for Peekabu Productions, Anima Productions, Ultravision Productions and Eventquest. Most recently, David served as Technical Director for EdgeFest 2005. For Will & Company, David designed lights for "Macbeth" and "A Pebble In My Shoe".

Lorely Trinidad (Stage Manager / Wardrobe & Property Master) - Recent Credits - Stage Manager: "A Pebble In My Shoe" (Will & Company), "Egyptian Cinderella" (Teenage Drama Workshop) CSUN, "Little Book of Battles" (LA Theater Project) Casa 0101, "Macbeth" (Will & Company); Assistant Stage Manager (Fil-Am Arts) Festival of Philippine Arts & Culture; Prop Master: "Von Lutz" (Indie Chi/Elephant Stageworks) Lillian Theatre; Wardrobe & Props: "Mirror of La Mancha" (Will & Company); Assistant Director/Prop Master "Dogeaters" (Playwrights Arena/TDRZ Productions) SIPA Performance Space; Director: "10 Minute Play Festival/Up In Smoke" (Teenage Drama Workshop) CSUN; Solo Performance: "Carnal-Ville" - Highways Performance Space; "The Women Monologues" - Bindlestiff Studio, "TeAda Works Festival" - Highways Performance Space.

SPECIAL THANKS - the students and teachers of LAUSD, Richard Burrows and the ACPN staff, the staff of the Los Angeles Theatre Center and the Department of Cultural Affairs, Joe Garber and the Actors' Equity Association

Congratulations to the cast &
crew of Will & Company's
THE ODYSSEY

May you continue to bring the
ever important arts & literature to
students around the country!

the folks at
Ziggy's Guitar Land

Bring Students to the Theatre
presents

*The Merchant
of Venice*

SPRING 2006

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Los Angeles Theatre Center

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BRING YOUTH TO THE THEATRE

Will & Company remains committed to the community with the special program "Bring Youth to the Theatre", an annual endeavor to provide a theatrical experience for over 10,000 students, many of whom have never seen a live performance.

In a time when the budget for arts education through the State of California is 3 cents per person, it is integral to find additional means to provide artistic experiences for our students. BSTT is a layered program that provides such an experience in several phases. First, a residency program is implemented with partner schools, whereby actor/teachers lead the students through workshops in acting, movement and voice. The second aspect is for a smaller group to join the professional cast on the mainstage through rehearsals and performance. Following this, students from throughout LA County and beyond are brought to the Los Angeles Theatre Center to watch the live performance, excited to find that their peers are on stage. At the culmination of the production, a complete student production is mounted with full support of Will & Company through direction, set, lights, costumes and props.

BSTT is funded solely by grants and donations in order to keep ticket prices affordable. With adequate funding, Will & Company hopes to expand the BSTT program in the following ways:

- create additional residencies at more schools
- add a fall show to the calendar
- integrate elementary and middle school into the performance aspect
- introduce residency and internship program in the technical aspect

Will & Company hopes you not only enjoy the production but recognize the important social aspects addressed by bringing youth to the theatre.

HOW YOU CAN HELP BRING YOUTH TO THE THEATRE

Financial Support - even at \$8 per student, many schools cannot afford to attend the show. Sponsor a group with your donation. Pick a school or let us select from our list of schools in need.

In-Kind Donations - If you have an expertise in marketing, public relations, grant-writing, or other services, you can help by donating your time which can be used as a tax deductible in-kind donation.

Teachers/Administrators - Have your school participate in our residency/performance programs through the Arts Prototype Partner program with LAUSD.

**For details, contact Sam Robinson - sam@willandcompany.com
or 213-239-8777**

A Diverse Theatre Company for a Diverse Country

Educate and Entertain with the following shows available for National Touring:



A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE

The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong

Premiered at EdgeFest 2005 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, this original production about the bishop who takes Christianity into the new millennium will be available for touring beginning Fall 2005.

NOT WITHOUT RIGHT

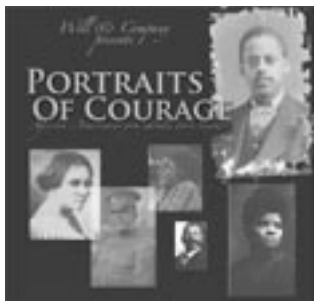
A must for all who would know the true story of Shakespeare's Life! Meet William as he rewrites his will and recounts his life experiences and the Muse that inspired his plays and sonnets. Appropriate for high school and above, Not Without Right is a two person play with a running time of two hours.

MULTICULTURALISM

Address Issues of Diversity and Multiculturalism with our signature One Person Shows created from interviews and workshops with young Americans across the country. Perfect for Corporate Training, College Orientation, Special Events/Student Activities, Multicultural Awareness, and Diversity Celebrations.

FACES OF AMERICA - the original show that deals primarily with race & ethnicity in America.

AMERICAN VOICES - stretch the issues of diversity to include socio-economics, religion and sexual orientation.



PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

A two person show that introduces you to six African-Americans you wish you had known, how their experiences and struggles shaped our country and the stories left out of our history schoolbooks.

MIXED - For those who don't fit into a box!

Americans of mixed ethnicities finally get a voice in our newest production.

Contact:

Fran de Leon, National Tours 818-437-1272
nationaltours@willandcompany.com
<http://www.willandcompany.com>

Will & Company Touring Productions

Bring Theatre to Your Students!



SHAKESPEARE & THE CLASSICS

Will & Company's signature forty-five minute adaptations of Shakespeare's plays and of the world's classic literature presented by six actors and a narrator are sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Available shows for 2005-2006:

Robin Hood
The Odyssey
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Romeo and Juliet
Don Quixote
A Christmas Carol (Nov-Dec only)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

WaterCycle - This two person environmental show ties theatre and science together in a comic story about a student doing homework who learns all about recycling, water use and making friends. The Watercycle is very interactive and includes members of the audience in the play. Appropriate for K-6.



RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

Actor/teachers are available to travel to your school or organization and work with teachers and students. Packaging discounts are available for residencies and touring shows.

Subjects Available:

Shakespeare's Life and Times • Stage Combat & Fencing • Acting • Shakespeare's Plays • Playwrighting

TO BOOK WILL & COMPANY

Contact: Sam Robinson, Managing Director
213-239-8777 phone
sam@willandcompany.com