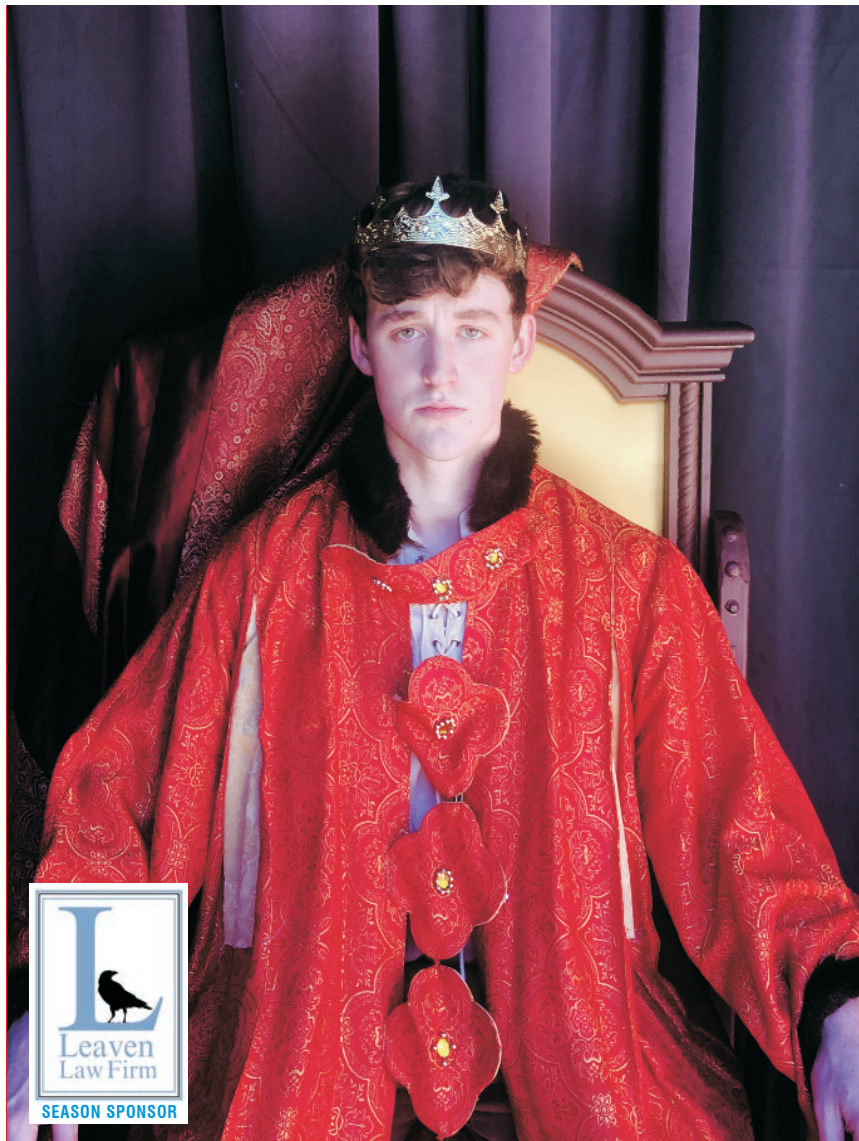


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Players
52nd Season



MUSE OF FIRE: SHAKESPEARE'S WARS OF THE ROSES PART FIVE HENRY V

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This project receives support from Buncombe County through ArtsAVL, and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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HENRY V (in 3 Panels)



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THE MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS PRESENTS

Muse of Fire: Shakespeare's Wars of the Roses

Part Five – Henry V

Written By

William Shakespeare

Directed by

David Doersch

Duncan Lovejoy, Stage Manager

*2024 Season Sponsored by
The Leaven Law Firm*



CAST

<u>Chorus 1 / Dauphin</u>	<u>Callista Brown</u>
<u>Chorus 2 / Herald / Soldier / Ambassador 2</u>	<u>Tom Griffin</u>
<u>Chorus 3 / Alice / Serving Boy / John Bates</u>	<u>Molly Wilson</u>
<u>Chorus 4 / Ambassador 1 / Montjoy / F. Queen</u>	<u>Danielle Allen</u>
<u>King Henry</u>	<u>Nick Toner</u>
<u>Queen Joan (opening night only)</u>	<u>The Hon. Kristin Cooper</u>
<u>Exeter</u>	<u>Josh Luria</u>
<u>Clarence / Michael Williams</u>	<u>Cody Fox</u>
<u>Gloucester / Alexander Court</u>	<u>Larson Kapitan</u>
<u>Westmorland / Gower / Bourbon</u>	<u>Arnie Cullipher</u>
<u>Archbishop of Canterbury / F. King</u>	<u>James McColl</u>
<u>Bishop of Ely / Constable / Scroop</u>	<u>Robert Thorpe</u>
<u>Pistol</u>	<u>Karl Knierem</u>
<u>Bardolph / Burgundy / Rambures</u>	<u>Raj Bowers-Racine</u>
<u>Nym / Erpingham / Salisbury</u>	<u>Jason Williams</u>
<u>Jamy / Cambridge</u>	<u>Josh Kerber</u>
<u>Hostess</u>	<u>Lauren Powers</u>
<u>Governor / Birttany / Orleans / Grey</u>	<u>Melissa Harwin</u>
<u>Princess Katherine / Chorus 5</u>	<u>Lucy Hester</u>
<u>Fluellen</u>	<u>Ben Means</u>

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager: Duncan Lovejoy

Season Artistic Director: Jason Williams

Season Costume Designer: Victoria Smith

Production Costume Designer: Charlotte Murphy

Intimacy Choreographer: Laura Rikard

Season Set Designer: Gina Purri

Season Props Master: Jenny Lutterell

Choreographer: Kristi DeVille

TO OUR PATRONS

- Thank you for joining us this evening. We hope you enjoy our **once-in-a-generation** production of *Muse of Fire: Shakespeare's Wars of the Roses* as presented by The Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare Festival.
- There will be one twenty-minute intermission. Concessions will be available at the entrance to the amphitheatre. Many thanks to **The Matt & Molly Team** for sponsoring Shakespeare's Tavern, where you will find a delightful selection of wines and local beers on tap.
- We are pleased to accept all major credit/debit cards, cash, checks, Venmo and PayPal for your donations and concessions. One of our actors will be in the audience each night with a credit card reader for your convenience.
- Please turn the volume off on all cell phones and pagers to avoid distracting your fellow audience members.
- Flash photography is not permitted in the theatre.
- Canine companions will be given a treat at the concession stand.
- Unattended children will be given a double espresso, an energy drink and a free puppy .
- The Montford Park Players is going GREEN! Please help us conserve the environment by depositing your empty cans in the marked recycle bins.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments by phone at (828) 254-5146, email at info@montfordparkplayers.org, or snail mail at Montford Park Players, PO Box 2663, Asheville NC 28802-2663. You can also follow us on Facebook (Montford Park Players) or on Twitter (@MontfordPlayers) or on Instagram (@montfordparkplayers).

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the board of directors and the members of The Montford Park Players, I want to personally welcome YOU to our **52nd season of free theatre**, sponsored by **The Leaven Law Firm!**

We're pleased to tell you that ALL our shows are free-of-charge – all season long! We at MPP envision a world in which everyone can experience exceptional live theatre, regardless of the ability to pay. Therefore, all of our shows are donation only. “Pay what we're worth.” “Pay what you can.” Some may even call it crazy. Call it what you will – and enjoy the show!

Here's our summer 2024 schedule:

- **Edward III:** May 10 – 26
- **Richard II:** May 31 – June 23
- **Henry IV:** June 28 – July 21
- **Henry V:** July 26 – Aug 25
- **Henry VI:** Aug. 30 – Sept. 22
- **Richard III:** Sept. 27 – Oct. 27
- **The Montford Moppets**, our youth theatre in residence, will be presenting two productions this summer:
The Winter's Tale July 5 – 7 and 12 – 14 at 5:00 pm, July 10 at 11:00 am
King Lear: August 2 – 4 and 9 – 11 at 5:00 pm, August 7 at 11:00 am

This will be a 25 week season with 75 scheduled performances, plus 14 performances by The Montford Moppets.

Making the most of your visit:

We want you to fully enjoy your experience with us. Feel free to bring a picnic and your favorite beverage, or purchase wine, sodas, local beers and snacks at our concession cart. Four-legged friends are always welcome! (There are treats for them at the concession stand, too!)

We are so grateful to our current donors, sponsors, and advertisers and YOU, our faithful audience, without whom we could not exist. Now sit back, relax, and be ready to laugh, cry, and be entertained as the curtain rises on another great production by the Montford Park Players.

John Russell
Executive Director



**MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS**

MEET THE CAST & CREW



his primary training from Atlantic Theater Company, training in commedia dell'arte with Enrico Bonavera, and additional training with Jim Caulder and Academy Award winning playwright Tarell McCraney. When off the stage, you can find Josh gardening or scuba diving. These performances are dedicated to the memory of actor and Shakespeare coach, Charles Tuthill. May the performances do his work justice.



Karl Knierim (Pistol) - Karl is excited to be back to play Pistol again this season having just completed the production of *Henry IV*. He has been dying, in one form or another, onstage with the Montford Park Players since the 2012 season. Some of his recent roles include Alan-a-Dale in *Robin Hood: Quest for Justice*, Merrill in *The Sparrow and the Whip-poorwill*, and Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*. In Karl's spare time, he enjoys playing guitar in The Deathbots, taking off his pants as the narrator of the *Rocky Horror Music Show*, and yelling at computers.



Josh Luria (Exeter/Monsieur le Fer) Josh was last seen on the Montford stage in *Henry IV* playing a slew of characters. Recent local credits include Peter Shaw in *Silent Sky* with HART/Multiverse Theater Collective, Odell in *Sordid Lives*, Inspector Kemp in *Young Frankenstein*, and Drew in *Rock of Ages* at Hendersonville Theatre, and Reverend Hale in *The Crucible* with Tryon Shakespeare. Josh holds a BFA from NYU Tisch, receiving



Melissa Harwin (Thomas Grey, Gover-

nor of Harfleur, Duke of Orleans) recently returned to the stage after a long hiatus with Ovation Theater Collective's production of Anna Deavere Smith's *Let Me down Easy*, in which she played Elizabeth Streb, Brent Williams, Kiersta Kurtz-Burke, and Eduardo Bruera. She is delighted to be included in this production of *Henry V* with the MPP, and awe-struck by the people and processes bringing it to vibrant life. For the past two decades, Melissa has been co-owner and operator of Highgate Farm. Melissa previously enjoyed careers in Nursing, Human Services and the Culinary Arts. She enjoys connecting with others and exploring their stories.



Callista Brown (Dauphin/Chorus) - Callista is a professional director and actor based in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated in 2020 with her BFA in Musical Theatre from Western Carolina University and is delighted to return to this wonderful community for a short while this summer. She has studied Shakespeare all her life appearing on stages across the United States including a replica of the Rose Theatre! She extends heartfelt thanks to her brilliant partner, one of the most talented and selfless people she knows, and to her parents for their generous hospitality and constant support of her career in the arts. Callista is so grateful that she is able to share the joy of her craft with others every single day.



Lauren Powers is happily enjoying the creative fun of Asheville, her new hometown! She most recently appeared in Montford Park Players production of *Richard II* (Duchess of Gloucester/Gardener). Recently, she co-wrote and appeared in, *Debatable Love Songs: An Opinionated Musical Cabaret*. Other WNC shows include *Young Frankenstein: The Musical*, *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, and MPP's *Treasure Island* and *The Three Musketeers*. Lauren particularly fancies performing with her husband, Eric Vik.



Raj Bowers-Racine (Bardolph, Ram-bures, Duke of Burgundy) is a Montford native who grew up scrambling around the amphitheater and play-fighting with his friends. 30 years later he seems to be doing the same thing. He can also be seen on stage performing absurdist dance routines with the Asheville Accidentals. 40 hours a week he slings books at Pack Memorial Library

WAR OF THE ROSES FAMILY TREE



MEET THE CAST & CREW



Danielle (Chorus, Montjoy, Queen Isabel) is thrilled to continue working with Montford Park Players this summer. You may have seen her as Queen Phillipa in *Edward III* and Richard's Queen in *Richard II* earlier this season. She truly hopes you will enjoy this action-packed production!



Arnie Cullipher (Westmoreland / Gower / Bourbon) recently appeared as George Schneider in Asheville Community Theatre's *Chapter 2* by Neil Simon. And in *Ancestral Voices* with the Artisan Players in Weaverville Arnie has also appeared in productions at Raleigh Little Theatre, Theatre in the Park and East Carolina University's Loessin Playhouse. Previous Roles include; Henry - *The Fantastics*, *Plaza Suite*- Roy / *The Odd Couple* - Oscar, *The Fantasticks*, *Streetcar Named Desire*- Pablo and multiple other regional productions.



Tom Griffin (Chorus, Captain Macmorris, Soldiers) is very excited to be a part of this historic season! This is his first time being a part of the Montford Park Players. Before this, he has played roles in *Sweeny Todd*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. He would like to thank all of his friends and family for supporting him returning to the stage.



Ben Means (French Ambassador/Fluellen) - Ben Means (he/him) is ecstatic to be back with Montford after appearing in *Alice in Murderland* last fall. Still a relative newcomer to NC, Ben's favored previous roles include Judas/Sigmund Freud in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, and Georgie Pazinski in *King O' The Moon*. He is very thankful to Montford and especially you, the audience, for patronizing this stage and helping to provide an avenue for his love of outdoor theatre. For England! For King Henry!



Robert Thorpe (Constable, Scroop, Ely) relocated to Asheville in 2020 from New York City, where he trained at the HB Studio and the Thomas G. Waites Theater Workshop alongside an active performing schedule as a professional choral and oratorio singer. Past roles include Caesar in *The Ides*, Boyet in *Love's Labours Lost*, and the Jailer in *Jean Anouilh's Antigone*. He is the tenor section leader in the chancel choir of Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Asheville and a founding member of the Blue Ridge Consort, and performs regularly as a soloist and chorister with the Asheville Symphony Chorus and the Carolina Concert Choir.



ELucy Hester (Katharine, Chorus, Ensemble) - Lucy is thrilled to be making her debut at Montford Park Players! Some previous roles include *Hairspray* (Brenda), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Narrator), and *Guys and Dolls* (Ensemble). She can also be found flailing through the air at Empyrean Arts. She would like to thank her family for their unwavering love and support and her partner, Jack, for being so willing to run lines in a language he does not speak.



James McColl (Archbishop of Canterbury/ King of France) James is making his return to the stage after nearly a decade away. His previous roles include Colonel Pickering in *Pygmalion*, Brabantio/Lodovico in *Othello*, Jim in *The Glass Menagerie*, Mr Peachum in *Threepenny Opera*, and Don Jon in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When not at the theatre James co-owns Budgie's Bakeshop in Candler, runs rpg's at the library, and co-parents a spirited two year old. He looks forward to joining more shows here at Montford. Look for him in the upcoming *Henry VI*.



Cody Fox (Clarence / Michael Williams) is delighted to be a part of the Montford Park Players this season. After participating in their productions of *Wendy & Peter* and *Alice in Murderland* during the 2023 season, he is back for more. Cody's journey in theater began in high school and continued through college, where he wrote, directed, and acted in several plays developing a love for the stage. This season, Cody looks forward to bringing his enthusiasm and experience to the season of *Muse Of Fire*. Building on the narrative of *Henry IV, Part 1 & 2*, he is excited to breathe life into these characters once more!

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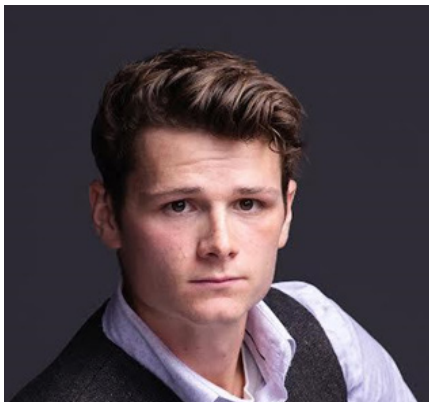


Photo by Travis Bordley

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Molly Wilson (Chorus, Alice, Boy, John Bates) - Molly is thrilled to join the Montford Park Players for the first time this season, having made her Asheville debut in *Henry IV*. Although she took a hiatus from the spotlight for a while, she has spent many years on stage as part of various troupes, including Capital City Shakespeare and The Irish Repertory Theatre, and has played Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Moira in *The Shaughraun*, among others. In her free time, Molly can usually be found writing, baking, or trying to wrangle her dog, Reginald.



Larson Kapitan (Gloucester, Court, King Henry understudy) is excited to join the cast in this exciting production of Shakespeare's *Henry V* at Montford. He recently joined the

Montford community last year in the production of *Treasure Island* appearing as Abraham Gray. For the past 7 years, he has been a part of several other theatres including Asheville Community Theatre (ACT) and Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART). He has loved meeting new faces with this production, and continues to learn a lot from everyone's hard work and dedication. He would also like to give a special thanks to David Doersch for the opportunity to be a part of this show.



Kristin Cooper (Queen Joan of England – opening night only) is honored to serve as First Lady of North Carolina, a state she has called home for most of her life.

Kristin Cooper is using her platform to improve the well-being of children in North Carolina. She champions initiatives, organizations, and people who are working to create a safe, nurturing, healthy environment for children and their families. Her focus is on foster care, child abuse and neglect, childhood hunger, and literacy. Additionally, she focuses on the arts and nature to ensure that all children in North Carolina have access to play and thrive creatively.

Kristin has served as a Guardian ad Litem for children in Wake County since 2003, using her legal training to represent foster children in court. Kristin and other volunteers assure that at-risk children do not become neglected or abandoned. Kristin also served two terms on the North Carolina Arts Council, and serves on Raleigh Little Theatre Advisory Board. In 2023, she performed in a cameo role at The Lost Colony. Additionally, she starred as Martha Washington in Keith Burrige's play *Ona*, an original production that follows the true story of slave Ona Judge's escape from bondage in the Presidential House in Philadelphia — right in the middle of George Washington's second term. The Montford Park Players is proud to present our First Lady in her debut performance with us.



Joshua Kerber (Cambridge, Captain Jamy, York) Joshua is an Asheville local actor who you may have seen earlier this season as Mowbray, Willoughby, and Fitzwater in *Richard II*. He would like to thank you for coming out to support Montford Park Players. He appreciates you and hopes you enjoy our fantastic production



Jason Williams (Nym / Erpingham / Salisbury) is not only the Artistic Director for the Montford Park Players' 2024 Muse of Fire season, but also the director of *Richard II*. He was last seen as King John in this season's *Edward III*. Jason keeps returning to MPP because he respects their mission of providing free Shakespeare to the community. He would like to thank you for supporting The Montford Park Players. He sees Theater as a valuable life experience and an important part of the cultural fabric. If you enjoyed the show and the work that MPP does, he encourages you to show your support with a monetary donation, or simply by seeking out future MPP productions.





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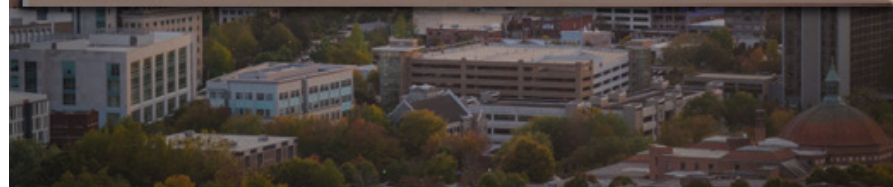
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MEET THE CAST & CREW



David Doersch (director): For over 30 years, David has worked in the professional theatre world, his works being seen on regional stages, Shakespeare festivals and film. He has directed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, Minnesota Shakespeare Company, The American Shakespeare Center, Virginia Stage Company and more. As a fight director, he has worked at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, the American Players' Theatre, The Guthrie Theatre, the Dallas Theatre Center and many more. He has had the great good fortune to travel and teach/direct/choreograph in a variety of countries around the world, including South Africa, Egypt, England, Scotland, Estonia, Sweden, Japan, and Canada. From 2014

to 2020 he was the casting director, choreographer and trainer for two of the largest touring stunt shows in the world: Marvel Universe Live and Jurassic World Live Tour. In film, David has worked with luminaries such as Steven Spielberg, Tony Bill, Kristoffer Tabori and more. David is thrilled to be returning to the Montford Park Players for a second summer, his inaugural show with MPP was *Treasure Island*. David lives in Clyde with his beautiful wife, Cathy. Together they perform with their Celtic Rock band, *Eireann's Call*. David is also a published author of Epic Fantasy - his books, *The Chronicles of the Raven*, are available on Amazon and through other online retailers.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Nationalism. Patriotism. These are ephemeral concepts that are often in the eye of the beholder more than being objective and measurable. Henry V is easily the most nationalistic of Shakespeare's plays. It also marks the celebration of the advent of a weapon technology that utterly altered the balance of power throughout Europe - the introduction of the English longbow to the battlefield. Not nearly enough is written about this wildly powerful weapon and the brilliant use the English put it to. Suffice it to say, in watching this play, you are observing a seismic shift in the understanding of warfare. Yet, what of Henry, the man? Assuming the throne at the tender age of 26, the heretofore wastrel heir apparent suddenly had very big shoes to fill, and needed to grow up in a hurry. Shakespeare wastes no time in whisking us off on a journey across the channel, across the various battlefields of France and eventually to London and back to claim the prize of his amazing victories: Katharine of Valois. In doing so, Shakespeare uniquely telescopes time and space, hurtling the audience from place to place over the span of nine years. This play, interestingly, is the only work of Shakespeare's to employ the device of the Chorus, elevating the heroic tale to one of epic proportions, echoing great and timeless Greek works. But, lest we get swept up in the call to battle from the charismatic king, we would do well to remember just how horrible warfare was in the fifteenth century. Brutality, rape, ethnic cleansing and child murder were all accepted tools of war, with no accountability beyond the noblesse oblige of the leaders. It is fascinating that Shakespeare understands this and presents to us a young monarch at the start of the play who has a big chip on his shoulder: easily maneuvered and manipulated and all too easily provoked. He had much to prove. His father had usurped the throne and (many believed) murdered Richard II. In an era when it was commonly held that the sins of the father were passed on to the sons, this worried him enormously. Over the course of the next nine years, we see Henry mature, grow weary of war, and want only peace and marital happiness. He may not have started out as a great, heroic figure, but through the course of the play, we watch him become just that. For this production, I have taken an approach to the Chorus of it being both a voice of the playwright, and the voice(s) within Henry's mind - alternately tormenting him and pricking his pride, stirring him to action, reckless or otherwise. The journey is a powerful one, the text is brilliant, and the actors have worked tirelessly to bring a clear, rich performance to the Montford stage. Please sit back, and enjoy this journey.

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William Shakespeare

Note: Words are hidden in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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K R B T W Y V A S S O N N E T S T D X U
D O S H C I P Z M U S S J C J I I Y P D
N F R E E B N S F L J U A G T E I L U J
A T Y L C H Q I H B E Q P C Y C L D E D
L A V L I P T A O G Y T X T X L V L B S
G R J O N O I T A N I G A M I J B B O C
N T R K E G R Y E I U E G A U G N A L C
E S J A V D R A B S L N E E F I S F G U
V R T V E R O N A I O P H Q T R K E H R
B R E U M L D Q T T M N E I O A L C Z E
W S S A R R G E H L H Z N T K I I I D N
V U K E A P R N R E B G C E T X C F K A
S I B M I A J O I A N A I A T D O I M I
Z N A D T R M X X K W I S R I C N L A S
W E S U Q E O Y O N K R G I W I I O D S
D G R P O G K T O T E V H M B Y C R Z A
W E O Z S E J I S V B V P P A Q A P Q N
F E K S G Y U U W I U L T Q S C P L W C
T A Y W Q L F D A V H Q B K O T J U P E
  
```

Romeo

Venice

Genius

Poet

Language

Actor

Literature

Verona

Hamlet

Sonnet

King Lear

Stratford

Juliet

Iconic

Prolific

Bard

England

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Versatile

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Histories

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