

KATHRINE G. McGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



THE NIST

Written by
Theresa Rebeck
Directed by
Sophia Watt



October 11 – 20 Ouintero Theatre

Showtimes

- owtimes 1 | 8 p.m.
- 12 8 p.m.
- 3 | 2 p.m. 4 | 8 p.m.
- 7 | 8 p.m.
- 8 | 8 p.m. 9 | 2 p.m.
- 19 | 8 p.m.

BOX OFFICE INFO

Tickets Tickets can be purchased online at uh.edu/artstickets, by calling the Box Office at 713-743-3388 or by emailing kgmcaboxoffice@uh.edu. You may pay by cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express. All sales are final. No exchanges or refunds once a performance begins.

Subscriptions Subscriptions are up to 25% off the regular ticket price. Call our Box Office for more information about how you can start saving today!

Late Seating Late admittance is only permitted during the intermission for performances in Lyndall Finley Wortham Theatre, Moores Opera House and Dudley Recital Hall. If you arrive after the performance has begun, you will be asked to wait in the lobby until intermission. There is no late seating or re-entry to the Quintero Theatre or Studio 208.

Accessibility Seating If you require assistance or are in need of wheelchair seating, please call to notify our Box Office at least 24 hours before the performance. Our venues are accessible to all.

Group Discounts Special discounts are available to groups of 10 or more. Call our Box Office for more information.

Restrictions Children under the age of 6 are not permitted into the theaters. Any taping, filming, recording or broadcasting of this production is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all phones and other electronic devices as a courtesy to other patrons and to the performers. Food and beverages are not permitted in the theaters.

Cover Design/Nadia Tran

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

KATHRINE G. McGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS School of Theatre & Dance

Dr. Robert Shimko, Director

presents

RING ROUND THE MOON

Written by Jean Anouilh Adapted by Christopher Fry Directed by Jack Young

September 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m. September 14, 15, 21, 22 at 2 p.m.

There will be two 10-minute intermissions.

Any taping, filming, recording or broadcasting of this performance is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices as a courtesy to other patrons and to the performers.

Ring Round the Moon is presented by special arrangements with Dramatists Play Service.

Scenic Designer Lighting Designer Costume Designer Sound Designer Dramaturg Stage Manager Casey Kearns Christian Giannelli Barbara Neiderer Austen Gritchen Logan Butcher Kacie Pimentel

CAST

Hugo/Fred	Jack Gereski
Joshua	Luke Minske
Patrice	Antonio Lasanta
Messerchmann	Spencer Dooley
Romainville	Adam Pena
Madame	Molly Wetzel
Lady India	Rachel Cendrick
Isabelle	Lauren Senechal
Mother	Clare Keating
Capulet	Carolyn Richards
Diana	Sydney George Reyes
Butler	Tristan McNelly

ARTISTIC STAFF

Voice and Dialect Coach Production Stage Manager Assistant Stage Managers Assistant Scenic Designer Assistant Lighting Designer Assistant Costume Designer Associate Dramaturgs Jim Johnson Rachel R. Bush Christina Roy, Luz Valadez Bryan Moses Matt Geschke Lisa Longoria Joyce Mayhew, Madeline Moore

ABOUT RING ROUND THE MOON

Twin brothers, a millionaire, his mistress, her lover, a wise woman, her romance-smitten attendant and a dancer — an eccentrically mixed group of people, some with too much money and some without enough of it, all trying to find happiness. Mistaken identities and schemes to enkindle love as well as to dash it abound in this charming classic comedy.

DRAMATURGY NOTE

Born 1910 in France, Jean Anouilh is considered today to be one of the greatest French dramatists of his lifetime, renowned for his craftsmanship and mastery of dramatic technique. Being a French playwright, Anouilh revered the work of comic genius Molière. Yet his style was most deeply impacted by the extremely theatrical, non-realistic plays by Jean Giraudoux and Luigi Pirandello. It was from these artists that Anouilh learned to tell the truth within a framework of unreality.

A private man and reticent soul, Anouilh's personal life was entirely tied up with his life in the theatre. A self-described "comic misanthrope," he was well-known for slipping quietly away from his premieres before the performance was over. "The public is invited to the premiere," he once said. "My private life is my own affair." This privacy and his utter devotion to his writing left Anouilh idealistic and naïve about worldly affairs. His hopeful optimism and youthful naivety were shattered by the Nazi occupation of France during World War II and its aftermath.

World War II was catastrophic for the French: their infrastructure was turned to rubble, their economy was obliterated and the population was devastated by financial and familial loss, hunger and sickness. Moreover, the German occupation turned France upside-down politically and left the country in a state of deep cultural humiliation. France struggled mightily after the war with how to address the French who had aligned themselves with Germany during the occupation — many were executed in extrajudicial killings.

One such incident in specific concerning a fellow French dramatist Robert Brasillach left Anouilh permanently disillusioned with the state of the world: Brasillach was condemned to death for collaborating with the Germans; Anouilh failed miserably when he tried to collect signatures in an attempt to save the man's life. "The story is not great," Anouilh said of the failure. "These rather theatrical tricks, this ridiculous melodrama, this sinister buffoonery, these half-comic traitors, reeking with convention, with their uniforms, their Legions of Honor, their glory, their big words, this was really what it was; this was life."

DRAMATURGY NOTE

L'invitation au château (later translated to English as Ring Round the Moon by Christopher Fry) was written in 1947 — just two years after the Allied liberation of France. A deeply funny but also painfully truthful comedy about the intersection of wealth inequality, classism and love affairs, it was the first play written in a collection of plays that Anouilh called his pièces brilliantes — elegant, diamondlike comedies notable for their glittering language, complex plotting, and the hardness and coldness lying at their centers. Surrounded by plenty of hardness and coldness every day in post-WWII France, Anouilh set his play instead many years before the war at a grand party in a lavish winter garden at the extravagant estate of a wicked, mega-wealthy matriarch.

Just as his audience in 1947, we are invited now to forget the turmoil of our day and age for an evening to delight in the witty drama Anouilh has concocted for us to get wrapped up in. Instead of disingenuously dismissing the all-too-obvious coldness and hardness at the center of post-WWII life, Anouilh transports us to Madame Desmortes' pre-war winter garden to play within it, inviting us to root against the schemes of Hugo, fall in love with Isabelle's authentic beauty and laugh at the outlandish immoralities of the extreme wealthy.

Logan Butcher, dramaturg

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Rachel Cendrick (Lady India) is a second-year graduate student in the UH PATP. Her most recent roles include Phoebe in As You Like It and Decius in Julius Caesar at the Houston Shakespeare Festival. At UH, Rachel has appeared in The Caucasian Chalk Circle, As You Like It and The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls. Favorite roles include Anna Karenina in Anna Karenina, Belinda in Noises Off and Daphna in Bad Jews. Rachel

is also a dancer and choreographer. She toured with Radio Disney as a dancer for two years and has received additional dance training under the Radio City Rockettes. Recent choreography credits include *White Christmas*, *Cabaret* and *Footloose*. Rachel received her B.F.A. from Baylor University.



Spencer Dooley (Messerchmann) is proud and humbled to join the 2021 M.F.A. acting class. He has worked at numerous regional and local theatre companies in the Southwest since completing his B.F.A. at the University of Arizona. His favorite roles include Macbeth, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon), *Opus* (Elliott), *Private Lives* (Elyot) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedick). He has also narrated for the Phoenix

Symphony, and is a founding company member of the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival. Love and thanks are due to his family, friends and Shelby.



Sydney George Reyes (Diana) is a senior B.F.A. acting major at UH SoTD. This past summer at the Houston Shakespeare Festival, she was Octavius in *Julius Caesar* and Adam/Hymen in *As You Like It*. Her past credits include Irina in *Three Sisters*, Maria in *Dear Charlotte*, Robin in *Clipped Wings*, Vanessa in *Luchadora!* and Rose in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support

throughout her journey at UH. Enjoy the show!



Jack Gereski (Hugo/Fred) is a first-year graduate student in the UH Professional Actor Training Program. He is thrilled to be making his debut in the state of Texas! Jack calls Lorton, Virginia home. Recent roles include Bobby in *Urinetown*, Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice* and Charley in *Merrily We Roll Along*. He received his B.A. from the University of Virginia. He would like to thank his friends and family for all their love and support.



Clare Keating (Mother) is a senior in the B.F.A. acting program. Her most recent UH roles include Olga (*The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls*), Mrs. Bronte/Innkeeper/Ms. Wooler (*Dear Charlotte*), Curio/Officer (*Twelfth Night*), Catherine (*Arms and the Man*) and Molly (*Winners*). This summer, she made her Houston Shakespeare Festival debut as Le Beau/Amiens and composed and/or arranged all of the live music (*As You Like It*) and

ensemble (*Julius Caesar*). She also had the pleasure to work with Classical Theatre Company as Widow/Soldier (*All's Well That Ends Well*). She'd like to thank her friends, family and mentors for the challenge and support.



Antonio Lasanta (Patrice) is a senior in the University of Houston's B.F.A. acting program. Select credits include: Avery in *The Flick* (Horse Head Theatre Co), Fitzwilliam in *Pride and Prejudice*, William in *As You Like It* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), Tournel in *A Flea in Her Ear*, Larry in *Mr. Marmalade*, Joe Crowell in *Our Town* (University of Houston). Recently, Antonio was nominated for Best Actor and Best Breakthrough Actor by

the Houston Press Theatre Awards. In his spare time, he likes to obsessively complete the NYT crossword puzzle and test out new recipes. He would like to thank his friends and family for the constant support.



Luke Minske (Joshua) is a current first-year graduate student in UH's Professional Actor Training Program. Luke received his undergraduate degree with a B.F.A. in acting from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He has most recently worked with North Dakota Shakespeare, Phoenix Theatre and The National Theatre for Children.



Tristan McNelly (Butler) is a third-year B.F.A. acting student at the University of Houston. He is beyond excited to continue to hone his acting skills as well as to develop his dance skills this year. He remains as passionate as ever and is really looking to challenge himself and push himself to be even better than before. He would also like to thank his family, peers and faculty who have supported him and helped him grow.



Adam George Pena (Romainville) is a senior acting major in the University of Houston theatre department. He is routinely reminded of the amazing opportunity it is to work with such a fine department and is, in turn, humbly grateful. He has appeared in the School of Theatre & Dance's productions of *Three Sisters, Mr. Marmalade, Twelfth Night, Animal Farm* and *Our Town*. He has also appeared in Main Street Theater's

production of *Enemies*. With the dusk of his time in this program nearing its final approach, he is excited for the work that lies ahead.



Carolyn Richards (Capulet) is ecstatic to be making her UH debut with this amazing company! A Dickinson High School graduate, she is currently achieving her B.F.A in UH's acting program. Her recent roles include Violet in August: Osage County and Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in The Music Man at DHS. Other credits include Boo Radley in To Kill A Mockingbird, Israel Hands in Treasure Island and Alexa Vere de Vere in

As Bees in Honey Drown. Immense gratitude goes to her family and her high school directors, Laurel Powell and Marisa Hataway.



Lauren Senechal (Isabelle) is excited to embark on her M.F.A. journey with the UH Professional Actor Training Program this year. Most recently, Lauren appeared in Western Washington University's productions of *A Doll's House* (Nora Helmer), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Molly) and *Kiss me Kate* (Lois/Bianca). She received her B.A. in theatre arts from WWU. She dedicates her performance to her supportive and loving family.



Molly Wetzel (Madame), a Kansas City native, is currently a second-year M.F.A. in the UH PATP. Recently, she was seen at the Texas Shakespeare Festival playing Desdemona in Othello, Phoebe in As You Like It and Rapunzel/Florinda in Into the Woods. Her UH credits include Olga in Three Sisters, Rosalind in As You Like It and Mary Taylor in Dear Charlotte. She has worked regionally with Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pacific

Conservatory Theatre and San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre. She holds a B.F.A. in musical theatre with a dance concentration from Otterbein University.



Jack Young (Director) returns to Houston having directed Comedy of Errors and staged violence for Macbeth at Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre. As artistic director of the Houston Shakespeare Festival, he has directed Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Comedy of Errors, The Taming of the Shrew and Macbeth. Other plays directed include Arcadia, Three Sisters, Richard III, As You Like It, Hostages, Metamorphoses, God's Man in Texas and King Lear.

Among favorite roles he's played are Shylock (*Merchant of Venice*), Richard (*Time Stands Still*) and the title roles in *Macbeth* and *Richard III*. He is Head of the UH M.F.A. Professional Actor Training Program (*facebook.com/uhpatp*). An SAFD Certified fight director/fight teacher, over Labor Day weekend he teaches in the Texas Stage Combat Intensive here in Houston (*uh.edu/shakespeare/season/texas-intensive*).

Jim Johnson (Voice and Dialect Coach) is in his 19th year teaching voice and accents at UH. He created AccentHelp.com, which currently offers materials for learning 47 different accents. Most recently, he coached accents for the live event at SXSW of the final season of Game of Thrones and taught and performed with the Prague Shakespeare Company, where he has played Prospero in *The Tempest*, Caesar in *Julius Caesar*, Gratiano in *Othello* and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He coaches regularly at various theatres, including recent productions of *Anne Page Hates Fun* at the American Shakespeare Company, *Constellations* at the Alley, and *NSFW* at Stages Repertory. This fall, he will also be coaching dialects for *Saul* at Houston Grand Opera and traveling around to record dialects in New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California for AccentHelp.

Casey Kearns (Scenic Designer) proudly joined the School of Theatre & Dance last year and serves as the production manager and head of undergraduate design and production at University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance. His design credits include well over 100 productions including Shakespeare, opera, ballet and musical theatre. Casey is actively involved with United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) and currently serves as the National Commissioner for the Scene Design and Technology Commission and is the former chair of the Rocky Mountain Regional Section of USITT. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in scenography (scenic, lighting and costume design) from the University of Kansas and holds a B.A. from Chadron State College in theatre and speech communications.

Christina R. Giannelli (Lighting Design) has designed original lighting for ballets by Julia Adam, Christopher Bruce, Jorma Elo, Donald McHale, Kenneth McMillan, Trey McIntyre, Dennis Nahat, Ben Stevenson, Glen Tetley, Natalie Weir, Stanton Welch and Lila York, among others. In the course of her career she has been a coach at the Kairos Foundation's More to Life program; an artist board member at DiverseWorks; and the resident lighting designer for Houston Grand Opera, Cleveland-San Jose Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater, Houston Ballet and, most recently, for the Metropolitan Opera. She has also designed extensively for other ballet and opera companies throughout the United States and abroad. Her opera credits include over a dozen productions with Houston Grand Opera as well as premieres and revivals for Dallas Opera, Portland Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Virginia Opera and others. Christina earned her B.A. in history of art and theatre studies from Yale University, and she delights in lighting new works and productions that blend multiple art forms. She is the founding director of Dance Source Houston, a service organization that supports and promotes contemporary dance in Houston.

Barbara Niederer (Costume Designer) is a current assistant professor at the University of Houston's School of Theatre & Dance. She hails from the Midwest and has designed extensively in the Chicago area. Some of her favorite credits include: *Private Lives* and *Moon Over Buffalo* with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble; *Tosca* and *Carmen* with DuPage Opera Theatre; *Lobo A Go Go* and *Hamlet The Musical*, two original musicals she designed alongside Jeff Richmond; and several pieces for the River North Dance Company. In Chicago, she was also the costume shop manager for Chicago Shakespeare Theater for 12 years. Other theatres she has worked technically include: Northlight Repertory, the Goodman Theatre, Body Politic Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Marriott Theatre Lincolnshire and Organic Theater Company. She holds an M.F.A in costume design from Southern Illinois University.

Austen Gritchen (Sound Designer) is an undergraduate student at the University of Houston. At UH, he has sound designed *A Flea in Her Ear, Dear Charlotte, The Last Night of Ballyhoo* and *Topdog/Underdog*. He previously attended Santa Fe University of Art and Design where he sound designed productions of *Twelfth Night, This is Our Youth* and *The Shape of Things*.

Logan Butcher (Dramaturg) is a Houston-based theatre artist focused on playwriting, dramaturgy, directing and producing. As a co-founder of Theatre 66, he enjoys developing new works with young artists in the Houston area. Recently, he wrote the libretto for a piece titled *What it Takes to Thrive*, which was produced by the Houston Symphony in the event Resilient Sounds at White Oak Music Hall. He has worked on dramaturgy for *Julius Caesar* and *As You Like It* at the Houston Shakespeare Festival, as well as for Theatre 66's production of *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* this summer. If Logan isn't reading or writing, he can often be found playing basketball at the park despite his height disadvantage.

Kacie Pimentel (Stage Manager) is a junior stage management major at the UH School of Theatre & Dance. This past summer, she was a stage management apprentice at Chautauqua Theater Company where she assisted on *The Christians*, *How the Light Gets In* and *On the Exhale*. She previously worked on *Winners*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Dear Charlotte* and the 10-Minute Play Festival at UH. She is psyched to be a part of *Ring Round the Moon* at UH. She is thankful for this amazing experience and would like to thank everyone involved.

Christina Roy (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman stage management major and is delighted to have been able to work on *Ring Round the Moon*. This is her second show with the UH School of Theatre & Dance as this summer she had the privilege to work on Houston Shakespeare Festival's *As You Like It*. She thanks everyone involved for making this process so wonderful!

Luz Valadez (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year B.F.A. stage management major. Her previous stage management credits include *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Newsies* and *Lion in Winter*. She has also had the opportunity to apart of many other productions such as sound operator for *Shrek Jr.*, sound operator for *Annie Jr.*, set designer for *She Kills Monsters*, set crew for *Deathtrap*, sound operator for *Young Frankenstein*, sound operator for *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, sound operator for *Oklahoma!*, and light board operator for *You Can't Take It with You*. Luz is very grateful for this opportunity. *Paciencia Y Fe.*

PRODUCING TEAM

SCENE SHOP

Technical Director Nicholas Jackson

Assistant Technical Director/

Front of House Managers

Carpenter

Branson Cobb, Maggie Maxwell, Trinity Nobles

Prop Master/Charge Scenic Artist Lauren Davis

Deck Crew Steven Aguilar, Shelby Kesler, Quoc-Trong Ngo (Q),

Mary Schreier

Lidia Rosales

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Jade Chang, Ally Dymond, Zoie Ellis, Nicholas Ferguson, Jack Gray, Lauren Hale, Kyra Hamilton, Brandon Hearrell, Samantha Hernandez, Shelby Kesler, Rory Lamberson,

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Electrics Show Crew Gage Baker, Jason Barron, Brandon Bravo,

Claudia Brown, Branson Cobb, Madison Coute,

Ian Gallagher, Martha Gonzalez, Kay Ellen Henderson, Alex Hernandez, Muhammad Khaerisman,

Halle Maddox, Ana Martinez, Courtney Neuwirth,

Zoe Picciandra, Leo Rojas, Christina Roy,

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Luz Valadez

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UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
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Lyndall Finley Wortham Chair in the Performing Arts

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SPECIAL THANKS

The School of Theatre & Dance would like to thank Alley Theatre,
Trinity Nobles and Dominique Meyer.





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