Madison Theatre Guild
presents:

**TITUS ANDRONICUS**

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Betty Diamond

September 8 - 23, 2017
Bartell Theatre, 113 E Mifflin St

THE BARTELL

FOOTLIGHTS.COM
Madison Theatre Guild presents

**Titus Andronicus**

By William Shakespeare

*Adapted by John Varda*

**DIRECTOR**

BETTY DIAMOND

**STAGE MANAGER**

Jenna Mitchell

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Elizabeth Purnell

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Phil Koenig

**SET DESIGNER**

Teresa Sarkela

**SOUND DESIGNER**

Cam Shimniok

**CO-PRODUCER**

Linda Johnson

**BLOOD CHOREOGRAPHER**

Cindy Severt

**FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER**

Francisco Torres

**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Brenna Farmer

**PROPERTIES / SET DRESSING**

David Heuer

**PROPERTIES / COSTUME ASSISTANT**

Marie Schulte

**CO-PRODUCER**

Jim Chiolino

Run time is roughly 2 hours including a 15-minute intermission.

For the enjoyment of those around you, please turn off cell phones, pagers, watch alarms, and other electronic devices.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. The use of flash photography is also forbidden.
CAST

Titus Andronicus..........................................................David Furumoto*
Tamora..................................................................Stephanie Monday
Aaron, the Moor.........................................................Tosumba Welch
Marcus Andronicus.......................................................Brian Patrick
Saturninus................................................................Brian Turner
Bassianus, Roman soldier, 3rd Goth............................Brian Belz
Lucius.....................................................................C. John Shimniok
Lavinia ....................................................................Maria Cina
Demetrius.................................................................Sean Langenecker
Chiron .......................................................................Rowan Meyer-Rainford
Quintus, Messenger, 1st Goth.................................Patrick Mahoney
Martius, Nurse, 2nd Goth........................................Simone LaPierre
Young Lucius............................................................Mikhail Thompson
Mutius, Roman soldier, Tribune, Sempronius..............Shane Heim
Roman soldier, Tribune, Publius..............................Akshat Sharma
Alarbus, Aemilius......................................................Brenna Farmer

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .....................................................................Betty Diamond
Stage Manager ..........................................................Jenna Mitchell
Assistant Stage Manager ..........................................Elizabeth Purnell
Co-Producer ................................................................Linda Johnson
Co-Producer ................................................................Jim Chiolino
Set Designer ..............................................................Teresa Sarkela
Lighting Designer.......................................................Phil Koenig
Costume Designer ....................................................Brenna Farmer
Sound Designer ........................................................Cameron J. Shimniok
Properties Designer ..................................................David Heuer
Fight Choreographer ...............................................Francisco Torres
Blood Choreographer .............................................Cindy Severt
Carpenters................................................................Russeell Wolff, Cameron J. Shimniok
Costume Assistant.....................................................Marie Schulte
Properties ...............................................................Katherine Thompson, Marie Schulte
Electrical Crew..................Conor Koenig, Collin Koenig, Dale Crissafuli, Kathleen Tissot,
Photography ..............................................................Jennifer Justice, Marie Schulte
Videography ................................................................Luke Kokinos

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.
BIOGRAPHIES

Brian Belz (Bassianus) dedicates this one to somebody he has known a long time and the stages have known longer. Your fire, your talent, and your humor are remembered and the stages have known longer. Thank you, Betty and everybody for a great show and Thank you for attending!

Maria Cina (Lavinia) dedicates this performance and all others to her parents. Thank you for everything.

Betty Diamond (Director). While Betty seems to be specializing in plays that focus on lopp'd limbs, having most recently directed A Behanding in Spokane, she would like to point out that she has also directed such non-limb-related pieces as The Clean House, The Night of the Iguana, and Yankee Dawg, You Die. She also wants to thank the incredibly creative and dedicated actors, and the inventive production team who have given so much of themselves to bring this show to life.

Brenna Farmer (Costume Designer, Alarbus, Aemilius) is delighted to be creating weird things for her second MTG Shakespeare production. She would like to thank her friends (especially Jenni and Laurie) for being wonderfully supportive. She would like to thank Betty for making alluring remarks about blood many months ago, and the rest of the production crew for being not only brilliant but great at charades. She would like to thank Shakespeare for helping her pretend her Classics degree is relevant to a design project, largely by bending the decline of the Roman empire into a historical pretzel. Ave, audientia! Morituri te salutant. Brenna has had a long history of playing male roles in Shakespeare plays, but not in Madison. She looks forward to enjoying the company of much more serious actors and complaining about both of her costumes to the designer.

David Furumoto (Titus Andronicus) is a faculty member of the theatre and drama department at UW-Madison where he teaches classes in acting, kabuki theatre and Asian American Theatre. A proud member of both Actors Equity and SAG/AFTRA he has worked as an actor with many theatre companies across the country. His last MTG show was Yankee Dawg, You Die also directed by Betty Diamond. He will direct two shows on stage at University Theatre this fall, Almost Maine and Is He Dead?

Shane Heim (Sempronius and Valentine) is excited to make his MTG and Bartell Theatre debut! He has delighted in meeting and working with everyone on the cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

David Heuer (props design and graphics) is on his 6th season designing for MTG. He thanks the fellow designers, crew, and especially the props team, for their hard work and rescue while he is temporarily down an arm.

Linda Johnson (Producer) is returning to producing after a long hiatus. She is happy to be back and is always grateful to be a part of something wonderful.

Phil Koenig (Lighting Design) has been lighting and stage managing for 30 years for many area groups including Strollers, Broom Street, StageQ, Madison Theatre Guild and Mercury. He is a four-time Bartell Theatre award winner for lighting. Recent designs for MTG include The Nance and The Whipping Man. Phil wants to thank his crew for support, fun and fixing his work.

Sean Langenecker (Demetrius) is pleased to return to Shakespeare after last year’s production of The Tempest, in which he portrayed Caliban.
Simone LaPierre (The Nurse) is thrilled to get back into playing around with Willy Shakes! Earlier this year she participated with ALATT’s Love’s Labour’s Lost and now in Titus she gets to expand her Shakespearean knowledge as well as wardrobe! She’ll be directing The White Rose for Know Better Productions this fall. So appreciative of her fellow castmates who make such a disturbing play fun to show up to rehearsals for! So grateful to Betty for her friendship and direction! And to the A-Team, you know who you are~ without you there would be no me!

Patrick Mahoney (Quintus, Messenger, 1st Goth) is a Madison native and a student at Edgewood College studying Theatre Performance. Favorite past stage roles include; Robert (Boeing-Boeing), Wes (Woods of Weaver) and Borachio (Much Ado about Nothing). He wishes to thank the cast/crew of Titus for their welcoming spirit and to his loving family/friends for love and support. Enjoy!

Jenna Mitchell (Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of MTG’s Titus Andronicus and hopes to continue her career path as a stage manager. She hopes to attend DePaul University in the fall of 2018 to begin her degree in Stage Management.

Stephanie Monday (Tamora) is delighted to be appearing as Tamora in Madison Theatre Guild’s production of Titus Andronicus. She received her BA, MFA, and JD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rowan Nevada Meyer-Rainford (Chiron) is particularly jazzed to do his first production with Madison Theatre Guild. He would like to thank everyone who made this show possible as well as the folks back home for all the help and companionship throughout the show.

Brian Patrick (Marcus Andronicus) is thrilled to perform as Marcus Andronicus in his MTG debut. He wishes everyone a pleasant show and thanks you all for coming.

Elizabeth Purnell (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be the ASM for MTG’s production of Titus Andronicus; and she would like to thank her parents who continue to drive her to rehearsals at all hours of the day.

Teresa Sarkela (Set Design) paints, designs, and may be nocturnal. Most recent work has been seen for HMS Pinafore (Madison Savoyards), The Nance (MTG), and The Turn of the Screw (UW-Madison Opera).

Cindy Severt (Blood Choreographer) teaches musical theatre dance for UW Continuing Studies and is a frequent guest instructor for colleges, schools, studios, and community organizations. Selective credits: Lizzie (Music Theatre of Madison), Up All Night (Madison Ballet), La Cenerentola (Madison Opera). Upcoming projects: Choreography for The Addams Family (Madison College), direction & choreography for Working (Madison Theatre Guild).

Akshat Sharma (Publius) made his Madison stage debut with MTG’s Gross Indecency and is delighted to be working with them again. His aim, with Publius, basically is to look hot.

C. John Shimniok (Lucius, carpenter, and sound design) is excited by and grateful for this opportunity to help bring this show to life with such a wonderful and talented cast and crew.

Marie Schulte (costumes and props) is delighted to work with this lovely group of actors and crew in Titus Andronicus.
Marie is the Costume Shop Manager for the Madison Theatre Guild. She has worked on numerous productions in Madison over the years. Currently, she is working on reorganizing the Costume Shop to better meet MTG’s needs. A special thanks to my husband, Jeff for all his help, patience and understanding.

Brian Turner (Saturninus) recently relocated to Madison from Charleston, SC. He is happy to be making his local debut with the Madison Theatre Guild.

Mikhail Thompson (Young Lucius) is excited to be a part of his first Madison Theatre Guild production. He has been seen on stage previously as Gavroche in Les Miserables and Winthrop in Music Man. He also has a screen credit in the upcoming film Survival Guide. Mikhail would like to thank his family for all their support.

Katherine Thompson (Props Assistant) Directing other kids in neighborhood skits began a life long journey for Katherine. She received her theatre degree with an emphasis in Stage Management from Eastern Michigan Univ. and has been working on both sides of the curtain ever since. She is happy to be returning to The Bartell Theatre where her previous productions include Alice, Red Hot & Cole and Lavinia. Other favorites include Little Shop of Horrors and Skin Tight. Her work can also be seen directing and producing films for Key Media Narratives.

Francisco C. Torres (fight choreographer) has had the opportunity to stage violent acts for many theatre & film productions. Some of his most recent productions that he has choreographed such wonderful violence for have been Melancholy Play for Krass, and Sloshed Shakespeare’s Macbeth and Edward IV for Madison Shakespeare Company. Among his other talents, he also has written, produced, and directed several commercials, stage productions, and films. Francisco is one of the founders of the theatre production company Know Better Productions as well as the independent film production company Frozen Stage Films, plus he is the Artistic Director for Madison Shakespeare Company. He is looking forward to directing Henry IV, Part 1 for MSC at the Bartell. He sends his gentle, but still passionate love to all his friends, fans, and especially his family.

Tosumba Welch (Aaron the Moor) had his debut in March of 2017 at the Bartell Theatre as he portrayed Simon in The Whipping Man, for which he was awarded a Bartell Theatre Award for his performance as Best Actor in a Drama. On stage for the second time, he is excited to play Aaron the Moor, a character much different than Simon, though they both are committed to loving their children. Tosumba loves delivering these stories to audiences.
“Rome is but a wilderness of tigers.”

Titus Andronicus is Shakespeare’s first tragedy. It was the most frequently produced of his plays during his lifetime. Then it wasn’t. Titus is filled with powerful, disturbing emotions and came to be seen as too… unseemly. So, why is MTG doing Titus? Part of our mission is to produce lesser known plays of major playwrights. Titus Andronicus certainly meets this criterion. But why this play? Why now? Alas, it seems to become more relevant with each passing day.

The play begins with the election of a new leader for Rome. At a campaign rally, power-hungry, ego-driven Saturninus urges his followers to take up arms if necessary to get him elected. Once Emperor, he lusts, he rages, he lies, he sees all events only in terms of how they affect him. And he is easily manipulated by those even more evil than he. Sound familiar?

At the same time, the noble warrior, Titus Andronicus, returns home, having defeated the Goths after years of war. The Romans regard the Goths as “barbarous.” The Goths regard the Romans as barbarous. The emotional heart of the play for me is Titus’ realization that Rome, the nation he has dedicated his life to defending, is, in fact, “but a wilderness of tigers.”

I am horrified by the injustices, the cruelty. I am moved by Titus’ realization. Yet I find myself asking whether his actions were not also barbarous. The play leaves me wondering how we are to behave in an increasingly barbarous world. I hope it also leaves you moved, and wondering.

Betty Diamond
Director
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are so many who have contributed their time or shared items to help us make this production possible. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance: Erin Baal, ETC, Juli Johnson, Kathleen Tissot, Madison Opera, Paul Abramson, Sun Prairie Civic Theater, Tom Littrell, Kierstyn Torres, Kirk Stantis, Bonnie Balke, and countless others!

MTG DONORS

The Madison Theatre Guild thanks all of its generous contributors, including those who wish to remain anonymous. Listed are contributions received between November 2016 and August 18, 2017.

Please let us know if we have inadvertently omitted someone.

Angels ($500+)
Jim Chiolino & David Heuer
Betty Diamond
Rosemary Dorney
David Furumoto
Tom Haig
Ilona Pinzke
Karen Pollack
Jane Rundell
Nick & March Schweitzer
R & K Tomar
Donald Weigt
Patricia Whitely
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