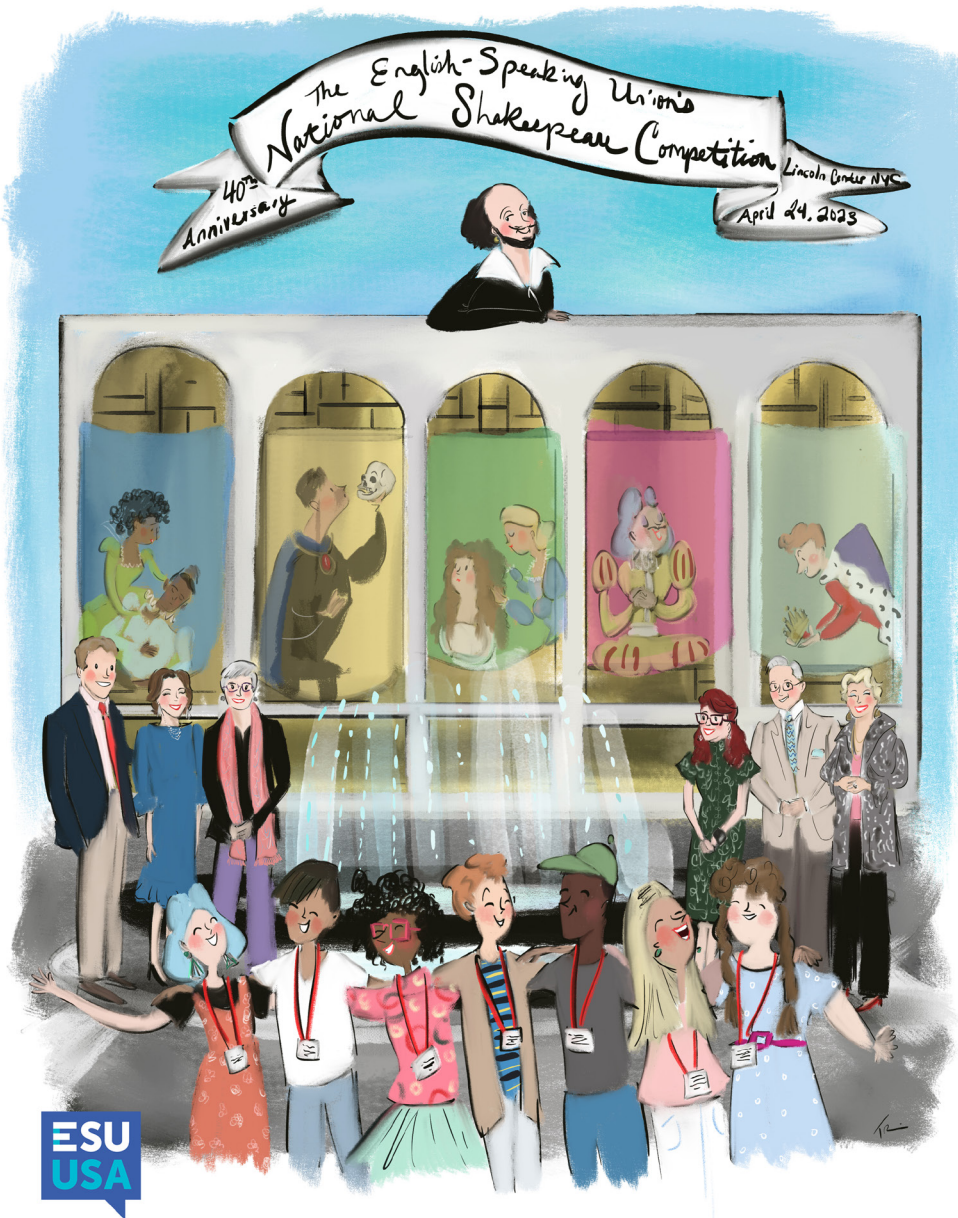


THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION 40TH ANNIVERSARY
National Shakespeare Competition 2023



THE STANLEY H. KAPLAN PENTHOUSE, SAMUEL B. & DAVID ROSE BUILDING
165 W 65TH ST, NEW YORK, NY

Lincoln Center, New York City | April 24

2023 Contestants

Contestant Name	ESU Branch	Teacher	School
1. Logan Yates	Atlanta	Tracey Buot	St. Pius X Catholic High School
2. Kelsey Barnes	Austin	Charles Hobby	Round Rock High School
3. Crystaliz Frometa	Boston	Juliet Bailey	The Rivers School
4. Casey Kerr	Central Florida	Gail Chase	Lake Nona High School
5. Ashley Sheffe	Central Pennsylvania	Doug Hewlett	Carlisle High School
6. Violet Craghead-Way	Charlottesville	David Becker	Charlottesville High School
7. Tyler Riederer	Chicago	Wes Schultz	Brookfield Academy
8. Vivian Megenhardt	Cleveland	Scott Sumerak	Shaker Heights High School
9. Gracie Tyson	Colonial NC	Kristine Boccia	J.H. Rose High School
10. Ben Feldman	Denver	Shawn Hann	Denver School of the Arts
11. Nico Mir	Desert (Palm Springs)	Christian Kiley	Etiwanda High School
12. CJ Clemons	E-Branch	Carol Spears	South Broward High School
13. Ell Zirolli	Greenwich	Amy Mahoney	Hall High School
14. Elena Hollenbeak	Hawaii	Lyn Ackerman	St. Andrew's Schools - The Priory
15. Pierre Beatrix Madlangbayan	Kansas City	Alice / Robyn Hilt	Garden City High School
16. Sarai Aboagye	Kentucky	Claire LaNicca	Campbell County High School
17. Aidan Casey	Lexington	Cecille Deason	Turner Ashby High School
18. Stella Cockrum	Los Angeles	William Goldyn	Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts
19. Abigail Petit	Memphis	Heather Wall	Shanan Homeschool Co-op
20. Theo Ciperski	Miami	Jessica Fox	Gulliver Prep
21. Syed Shah-Batiz	Tuscon	Shannon Kerstetter	Mountain View High School
22. Claire Liotta	Monmouth County, NJ	Smita Ganatra	Glen Ridge High School

Contestant Name	ESU Branch	Teacher	School
23. Tucker Claremont	Naples	Amy Carvelli	Community School of Naples
24. Jacob West	New Orleans	Gary Mendoza	Covington High School
25. Nicole Beverly Chien	New York City	John Anderson	The Rudolph Steiner School
26. Jackson McCormick	Oklahoma & W. Arkansas (Tulsa)	Rebekah Peddy	Cascia Hall
27. Zoe Cano	Palm Beach	Gretchen Porro	Cascia Hall
28. Lucy Shea	Philadelphia	Tom MacFarlane	Friends' Central School
29. Clara Newton	Phoenix	Shira Schwartz	Basha High School
30. TJ Lake	Portland	Danielle Potter	McMinnville High School
31. Leah Waessa	Princeton	Scott Patteson	Livingston High School
32. Ali Patalano	Research Triangle, NC	Laura Levine	Apex High School
33. Elisa DaRosa	Rhode Island	Deloris Grant	Central Falls High School
34. Ayush Gupta	San Diego	Heidi Handelsman	Pacific Ridge High School
35. Victoria Salazar	San Francisco	Michele Sanner	Novato High School
36. Faithlyn Volitis	Sandhills, NC	Chase Coston	Union Pines
37. Leah Horan	Savannah	Jonathan Cook	Savannah Arts Academy
38. Milo Mechem-Miller	Seattle	Daniela Melgar	Mercer Island High School
39. Anka Chiorini	Syracuse	Joseph DeChick	Jamesville-DeWitt High School
40. Kiera Kuehnle	Tucson	Amy Byroad	Catalina Foothills High School
41. Ele Rocha	Washington, DC	Donavan Arizmendi	The Madeira School

Semi-Finals Schedule 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The Judges

Reese Antoinette, Actress and Interdisciplinary Artist

Diana Green, Performing Artist, Writer, and Money Coach

Melinda Hall, Director, Actor, Producer

Tyler Moss, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Shakespeare Forum

Program

Welcome

Karen Karpowich, Executive Director of ESU

Introduction of the judges and competition rules

Semifinal Competition

Contestants present a monologue and sonnet

First Session: 1-14

Second Session: 15-28

Third Session: 29-41

Judges retire to deliberate



Finals Schedule 4:00 – 6:00 PM

The Judges

James Elliot, Actor and Director

Dana Ivey, Actor

Catherine Loomis, Professor and Author

Sarah Topham, Actor

Program

Welcome

Karen Karpowich, Executive Director of ESU

Introduction of the judges and competition rules

Final Competition

Contestants present a monologue and sonnet

Judges retire to deliberate

People's Choice Award

Sponsored by the ESU Cleveland Branch

Announcement of Winners

Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Chairman, ESU

Presentation of Prizes

THIRD PLACE: Cash prize of \$1,000

SECOND PLACE: American Shakespeare
Center Theatre Camp

FIRST PLACE: British American Drama Academy
Mid-Summer Conservatory Program

Presentation of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition Cup

Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Chairman, ESU

Closing Remarks

Program subject to change



ESU NSC Judges



Reese Antoinette

Actress and Interdisciplinary Artist

Reese Antoinette is a Caribbean-American actress and interdisciplinary artist. She is currently a recurring guest star on Apple TV's *Bad Monkey* (Spring 2023), and in *RICKY*, a short film debuting at Sundance Film Festival 2023. Reese has been an advocate for women, immigrants and youth empowerment in New York City for over a decade.

She also served as the Graduate Student Senator, and Head of Diversity for NYU Student Government. Reese is a graduate of NYU Tisch MFA in Acting, British American Drama Academy at Oxford University, and Manhattan College BA in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in music. She is the co-founder of The ORIXA Project, An immersive theatrical experience that explores black women narratives throughout time and space in VR and AR technology. She is currently an Artist-in-Residence at Columbia University: Barnard College's Movement Lab



James Elliot

Actor and Director

With over three decades of acting and directing under his belt, Jim Elliott has happily worked on 14 of Shakespeare's plays. Some of his more memorable acting roles include Petruchio, Hamlet, Romeo and Cassio. He started his directing career with *As You Like It*, before moving onto critically successful runs of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

and *Twelfth Night*. In addition to Shakespeare, Jim currently teaches Shakespeare at the Actor's Studio Drama School at Pace University and The Terry Knickerbocker Studio in Brooklyn. He also teaches acting, scene study and film acting at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and speech and presentation at The Cooper Union. Jim was the Producing Director at Urban Empire, during which time he premiered Jonathan Marc Sherman's *Evolution*. He directed the ABC Diversity showcase for two years and directs regularly with the Three Graces Theater Co., Including the premiere of Craig Pospisil's *Dissonance* which was just published in the Best Short Plays of 2011 by Applause Books. Jim has produced one feature length and two short films. He is the screenwriter, producer and director of the award-nominated *Helen at Risk* with Didi Conn. Jim received a BA from Williams College and an MFA from UT-Austin.





Diana Green

Performing Artist, Writer, and Money Coach

Diana Green was the Founder of The Children's Shakespeare Theatre and its Artistic Director for the company's first 21 years. She directed over 80 full-length productions and was also the fight choreographer and costume designer for the company. During her tenure, the company served hundreds of young actors from Rockland, Westchester and Bergen counties. In 2016, CST was chosen to represent the entire USA at the World Festival of Children's Theatre. Currently Diana co-hosts an irreverent podcast about Shakespeare called FckShakespeare wherein they uncover all the naughty bits going scene by scene through the plays. In the fall she will be attending the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon to get her Masters in Shakespeare & Creativity.



Melinda Hall

Director, Actor, Producer

Melinda Hall (she/her) is an artist who expresses herself as a writer, director, actor, photographer and videographer. She has written and directed for stage, video and film. Ms. Hall created and produces the Annual Shakespeare's Birthday Sonnet Slam which is in its 13th year and is a grantee of the LMCC Creative Engagement Award.

In 2022, Ms. Hall directed for *The Parsnip Ship* at the O'Donnell in Brooklyn, and before that, staged readings for the Dramatist Guild Foundation and a variety of short films and videos. She has been an acting coach and teacher for NYFA, Stella Adler Conservatory, L.A. and for private clients for over 15 years.

She is a member of SAG-AFTRA (where she has been the Shakespeare moderator at their NYC Conservatory for over 10 years), AEA and The Dramatist Guild. Melinda currently teaches a weekly Deep Dive Shakespeare course online for professional actors. She is a Reader at the Folger Shakespeare Library and a passionate autodidact. @snappynyc



Dana Ivey

Actor

Dana has worked in the U.S. and Canada since 1965. She has received five Tony nominations: for *Heartbreak House* and *Sunday in the Park* in the same year and for *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *The Rivals*, and *Butley*. She received an Obie Award for creating the role of Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*, for *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and for *Quartermaine's Terms*. On Broadway she also appeared in *Present Laughter*, *Waiting in the Wings*, *Pack of Lies*, *Henry IV*, *Sex and Longing*, *The Rivals*, *Heartbreak House*, *Major Barbara*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She played Gertrude to Kevin Kline's Hamlet and was Big Mama at the Kennedy Center in *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*. She most recently played Mrs. Candor in *School for Scandal* for the Red Bull Theatre. In 2008 she was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate from Rollins College. Among her films are *Addams Family*, *Legally Blonde 2*, *Rush Hour 3*, *Ghost Town*, *Sabrina*, *Two Weeks Notice*, *The Color Purple*, and *The Help*.



Tyler Moss

Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Shakespeare Forum

Tyler Moss is an actor and the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of The Shakespeare Forum which has held free and low cost workshops since 2009. Acting credits include: *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, as well as roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much*

Ado About Nothing, *Cymbeline*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *The Miser*, *Speed of Darkness*, and *Waiting for Lefty*. In 2010 he won a FringeNYC Excellence in Performance Award for his original portrayal of Jameson Parks in *Terror Superhighway*. Tyler participated in the ESU Shakespeare competition in 1997 and has been a judge on and off since 2007.

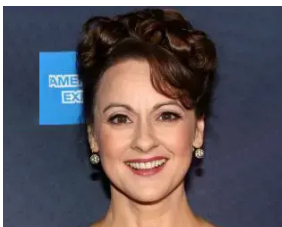


Dr. Catherine Loomis

Professor and Author

Dr. Catherine Loomis holds a PhD in Renaissance Literature from the University of Rochester, and an MA in Shakespeare and Performance from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. From 1997 until 2017 she taught Shakespeare and other literature courses at the University of New Orleans, leaving as a tenured full

professor. She has also taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Loomis is the author of *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Volume* (2002), a collection of the documents we use to construct Shakespeare's biography, and of *The Death of Elizabeth I: Remembering and Reconstructing the Virgin Queen* (2010), a study of the literary response to the death of Queen Elizabeth I. With Dr. Sid Ray, she is the co-editor of *Shaping Shakespeare for Performance: The Bear Stage* (2015), a collection of essays on the staging practices used by Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Dr. Loomis has published numerous scholarly essays on Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I, and serves as president of the Queen Elizabeth I Society, a group of scholars dedicated to the study of Elizabethan history, art history, and literature.



Sara Topham

Actor

Sara Topham is currently appearing in *Leopoldstadt* on Broadway. Previous Broadway credits include: Cecily in *Travesties*, Gwendolyn in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* (both for Roundabout). Off-Broadway: *The Changeling* (Beatrice-Joanna). London: *Intimate Apparel* (Mrs. Van Buren), *Love Me Do* (Dorothy). 14 seasons at The Stratford

Festival - roles including: Elizabeth/Robyn (*Serving Elizabeth*), Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), Ruth (*Blithe Spirit*), Olivia (*Twelfth Night*), C  lim  ne (*The Misanthrope*), Wendy (*Peter Pan*), Madame de Tourvel (*Dangerous Liaisons*), Laurencia (*Fuente Ovejuna*), Rosalind (*As You Like It*). Other roles: Joan in *Saint Joan* and Ann Whitefield in *Man and Superman* (The Shaw Festival, Canada), Beatrice and Olivia at The Old Globe, Titania and Ariel at Shakespeare Theatre (DC).

The 2023 ESU National Shakespeare Competition was made possible by major funding from

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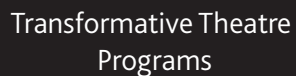
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Portrait of a Woman with Pearls, 2013. The Morgan Library & Museum, Gift of Blake and Courtney Johnson, Los Angeles, CA, 2021.114. Photography by George Condo Studio. © George Condo, Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth.

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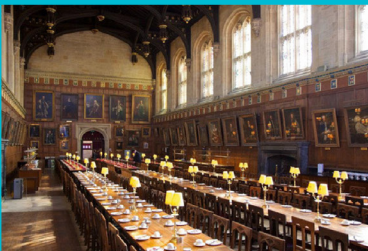
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"When I started the Shakespeare competition in 1983, I really didn't have any idea as to the number of students from across America whose knowledge and love of Shakespeare would be encouraged by this effort. And now, I am equally amazed that even a global pandemic cannot stop the power and influence of Shakespeare from allowing young adults like yourselves to take his words, interpret them, and then present them to the world."

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, addressing the
2021 ESU National Shakespeare Competition audience



The historic hallmarked silver Cup was made in London, during 1933, in the reign of King George V by the renowned firm of Richard Comyns

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NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION



Excerpts from the introduction speech and award presentation speech by Ambassador Dr. Paul Beresford Hill CBE, then Chairman of the Board, The English-Speaking Union of the United States and Founder, National Shakespeare Competition

"You contestants have done a brilliant job inspiring us. And each one of you, in my opinion, are winners. A great round of applause for the teachers. Behind every successful student there are some really great teachers. Thank you very much indeed to our judges for your time, energy and effort, and for making this unique opportunity, and unique experience, all the more unique by your vision, wisdom and care for these young people.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event. It was great that we got everyone together. Congratulations to our winners and to the ESU."

In 1983, while headmaster of the Anglo American School in New York, Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill conceived of a Shakespeare competition to be a part of the Britain Salutes New York Festival. The Festival committee accepted his proposal, and Edwina Sandys, a committee member and granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, authorized its funding. Subsequently, the English-Speaking Union developed and expanded the competition through its network of Branches to become its flagship national educational program. The NSC has benefited more than 300,000 students to date.



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The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition

is a performance-based education program in which high school students nationwide read, analyze, and perform Shakespeare's works. Students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. Since 1983 more than 325,000 students have brought the timeless works of Shakespeare to life and expressed his words with understanding, feeling and clarity. The National Shakespeare Competition has been recognized by the Globe Center, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America and the American Academy of Achievement.

The English-Speaking Union celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural programs for students, teachers, immigrants and members.

TLab offers teachers and lifelong learners educational enrichment programs in the United Kingdom at Oxford, the University of Edinburgh and Shakespeare's Globe in London.

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Secondary School Exchange sends American and British high school graduates to secondary schools for a gap year abroad.

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