



**William Shakespeare** (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often referred to as England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon." His extant works, including collaborations, consist of approximately 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. He also invented a large number of words and phrases widely used today.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children. Some time between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. At age 49 around 1613, he appears to have retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, which has stimulated considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. These speculations are often criticized for failing to point out the fact that few records survive of most commoners of his period.

Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories, which are regarded as some of the best work ever produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Macbeth, considered some of the finest works in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights.

Many of his plays were published in editions of varying quality and accuracy during his lifetime. However, in 1623 John Heminges and Henry Condell, two friends and fellow actors of Shakespeare, published a more definitive text known as the First Folio, a posthumous collected edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognized as Shakespeare's. It was prefaced with a poem by Ben Jonson, in which Shakespeare is hailed, presciently, as "not of an age, but for all time." In the 20th and 21st centuries, his works have been repeatedly adapted and rediscovered by new movements in scholarship and performance. His plays remain highly popular and are constantly studied, performed, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.

(Adapted from Quizlet Shakespeare Facts)

# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Rochester Shakespeare Competition

1:00 pm February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020



## The Program

### PROGRAM

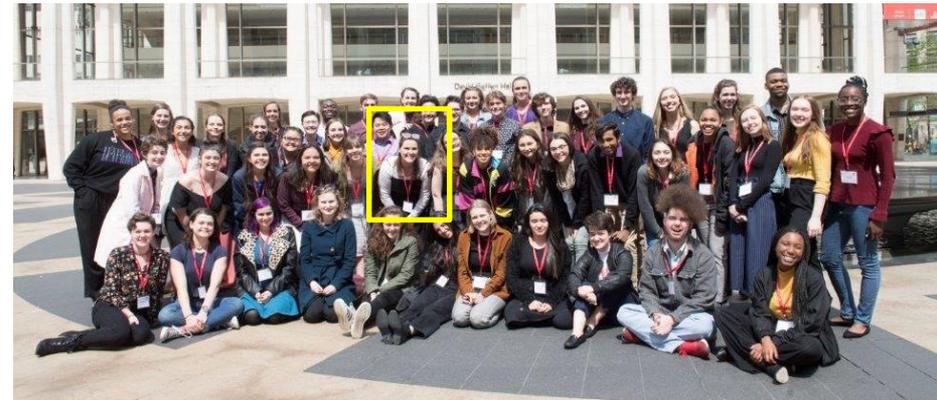
- Welcome
- Introduction of the Judges and summary of competition rules
- The Rochester Shakespeare Competition (RSC) students perform
  - Warm up: T.J. Weaver from Spencerport High School
  - Students perform sonnets and monologues
- Judges retire to deliberate
- 15 minute break for refreshments
- “Roc the Sonnet” awards
  - Awards to 1<sup>st</sup> place adult/student sonnets
  - Winning sonnets performed
- Presentation of gifts to RSC participants
- Group photo of RSC participants & teachers
- Announcements of upcoming Shakespeare events
- Announcement of Third, Second and First Place in RSC
- Presentation of prizes to student winners
- Closing remarks

## The 2020 ESU National Shakespeare Competition



April 27<sup>rd</sup> 2020  
New York City

*The winner of today's event earns a trip to the National Shakespeare Competition*



### 2019 National Shakespeare Competition

Last year's Rochester winner Reese Stojanovsk highlighted.

- Meet with winners from 55 Regions of the country
- Attend events and workshops
- Perform at Lincoln Center
- Perform in front of renowned actors and Shakespeare scholars
- Vie for Grand prize: a summer scholarship to an acting school in England

## Organizers and Volunteers

**Roger Janezic** – *Competition co-coordinator*

**Wendy Low** – *Competition co-coordinator, judge liason*

Freelance Editor and Writing Coach

Organized Rochester Shakespeare Competition since 2002.

**Diana Louise Carter** – *Volunteer, prompter*

Shakespeare Literary Society

**Sally Millick** – *Volunteer, programs*

Shakespeare Literary Society

**Jessie Lasner**– *Volunteer*

Shakespeare Literary Society

**Lori Bryce** – *Volunteer, food prep*

Parent of RCSD students

**Ross and Dale Janezic**– *Volunteers*

Students at the School of the Arts

*Special thanks to Natalka Iwaskiw (U of R, Bloch Center) for her invaluable help!*

## In Memoriam: Lisa Helen Hoffman.

March 30, 1965-Sept 23, 2019.

Lisa was an enthusiastic member of the English Speaking Union who served on the board and organized many events, dinners and entertainments, to all of which she showed up in exquisite jewelry of her own design. She was well-known in the arts and cultural community of Rochester for her ardent support and for her work in making theater accessible to the blind. Her terms as vice president and president were key in preserving the Rochester Shakespeare Competition for our teens. She is sorely missed.



## The Competition Order



1. *The Harley School*  
*Claire Lüstig, 179, 147*
2. *Webster-Thomas High School*  
*Haley Warren, 84, 14*
3. *Spencerport High School*  
*Samantha Ricotta, 182, 27*
4. *Penfield High School*  
*Reese Stojanovski 137,22*
5. *East Upper School*  
*Desiré (Mfaume)Mshingelwa, 195, 33*
6. *Pittsford Sutherland*  
*Lydia Diekmann, 222, 116*
7. *Churchville-Chili High School*  
*Renee Sipes, 244, 147*
8. *Bishop Kearney*  
*Jessi Opett, 5, 30*

*School order was blind randomized*



## The Judges



### Gregory Foran

Assistant Professor at Nazareth College

Gregory Foran teaches literature and writing in the English and Communication department at Nazareth College. He is currently the Nazareth Literature Program Director. Greg has been recognized with an Outstanding Teaching award during his tenure. He earned his PhD in Renaissance Literature from the University of

Texas at Austin. His dissertation "King Hereafter: Macbeth and Apocalypse in the Stuart Discourse of Sovereignty" is the basis for published articles and an upcoming book.

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### Deborah Uman

Professor and Chair, Department of English  
St. John Fisher College

Deborah Uman is professor and chair of English at St. John Fisher College, where she teaches Shakespeare as part of her regular rotation of courses that also includes classes on postcolonial literature, dystopian fiction, and nature writing. She received a B.A. in English from Yale and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Much of her research focuses on gender and Renaissance literature, culminating in her monograph, "Women as Translators in Early Modern England" and the co-edited collection, "Staging the Blazon in Early Modern Theatre". She is currently working to bring the Clemente Course in the Humanities to Rochester in partnership with the Catholic Family Center.

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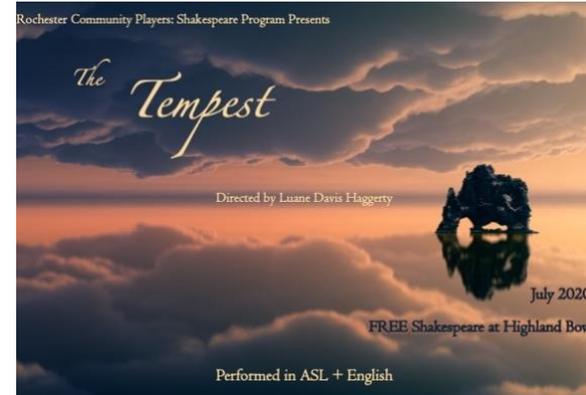
### David Shakes

Actor, Artistic Director *North Star Players*

David A. Shakes has worked with numerous theatres in the Rochester community as an actor, director, guest artist, and producer. David was involved in the Black Arts Movement of the late 60's and early 70's and became one of the founding members of the *Spirit House Movers and Players*. At GeVa Theatre, he acted in, as well consulted in the mounting of, August Wilson's *Century*. He

also was a contributing artist at the JCC Centerstage, Shipping Dock, Blackfriars, RAPA, Downstairs Cabaret Theatre and Rochester Community Players. In addition, Mr. Shakes founded the Village theatre where he showcased many budding, local actors. Currently, he is artistic director of the North Star Players. Mr. Shakes is also an actor in local films and advertising campaigns and is a historical interpreter of such persons as Langston Hughes, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Frederick Douglass.

## Upcoming Shakespeare Events



The **Shakespeare Players of Rochester** each year invite the three regional finalists the opportunity to perform in front of the audience for one of their plays. This year *The Tempest* will be performed, July at Highland Bowl .

Link: <http://www.rochestercommunityplayers.org>

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The **Rochester Shakespeare Literary Society (RSLs)** is a discussion group intended to share appreciation of the works of Shakespeare and to prepare members for upcoming productions of Rochester Community Players' Shakespeare Players and other Shakespeare productions in Upstate New York and Southern Ontario. Meetings are free and open to all. Next meeting: March 10 at 12-1:30 p.m., at the Pittsford **Barnes and Noble** Community Room.

Calendar: <http://www.rochestercommunityplayers.org/literary-society/>

## Past Winners

The past winners of the Rochester Shakespeare Competition

Year	Name	School
1990	Michelle Panzer	Penfield High School
1991	Sarah Davie	Our Lady of Mercy High School
1992	Sarah Davie	Our Lady of Mercy High School
1993	Ethan Sinnott	Brighton High School
1994	Mindy Ferrarccio	Fairport High School
1995	Marya Kaminski	Churchville-Chili High School
1996	Steven Reid Rosen	Pittsford Sutherland High School
1997	Sara Mayer	Penfield High School
1998	Rebecca Lamb	Penfield High School
1999	Mikaal Sulaiman	Penfield High School
2000	Cassandra Connors	Pittsford Sutherland High School
2001	Amy Green	Irondequoit High School
2002	Megan Lawler	Dansville High School
2003	Adam Rath	Victor High School
2004	Aaron Netsky	Allendale-Columbia School
2005	Molly Conway	Rush Henrietta High School
2006	Jennifer McDonald	Victor High School
2007	Esther Van Wely	Fairport High School
2008	Jennifer O'Leary	Churchville-Chili High School
2009	Mary Zindle	School of the Arts
2010	Ian Grygotis	Eastridge High School
2011	Luisa Barbano	The Harley School
2012	Mikayla Brennan-Burke	The Harley School
2013	Gus Cuddy	School of the Arts
2014	Summar Howard	Wayne High School
2015	Calisa Gayle	Wilson Magnet High School
2016	Rob Kellogg	The Harley School
2017	Claire Janezic	Wilson Magnet High School
2018	Eli Owens	Penfield High School
2019	Reese Stojanovski	Penfield High School

## The Judges



### M.J. Savastano

Actor, Teaching Artist, Writer

MJ Savastano is an actor, teaching artist, and writer based in the Rochester area. A performance educator with Geva Theatre Center for several years, MJ teaches a Shakespeare Touchstone workshop with fellow educator Danny Hoskins. Last year, MJ participated in Madrigalia's concert entitled *Brush Up Your Shakespeare*, playing the roles of Macbeth, Benedick, Romeo, Viola, and Jaques, among others. Most recently, MJ appeared as

Shura (Mercutio) in : *A Modern Day Russian Revolution* by William Shakespeare(okov), produced by DRouslana & JelenaVC. Other credits: Jamie O'Neill's *At Swim, Two Boys* (Doyley, adapter) with DVC; *Hamlet* (Hamlet) and *Vivien Leigh: The Last Press Conference* (Vivien Leigh) with Screen Plays; *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian) with Blackfriars Theatre; *The Amish Project* (solo actor version) with Hummingbird Theater Co.; *Measure for Measure* (Isabella) with Rochester Community Players. MJ has performed in numerous Shakespeare productions as well as films, commercials, webisodes, workshops, and theatre-based training sessions across the country. For more information, visit [mjsavastanoacts.com](http://mjsavastanoacts.com).

## Event Master of Ceremony



### Jonathan Baldo

Professor of English

Eastman School of Music/University of Rochester

Jonathan Baldo holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and has been a faculty member of the Eastman School of Music since 1983 and chair of the department from 1997-2005. He holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and has been a faculty member of the Eastman School of Music since 1983 and chair of the department from 1997-2005. A specialist in Shakespeare and early modern studies, Jonathan Baldo regularly offers courses in Elizabethan and Jacobean Shakespeare and Shakespeare's history plays. His most recent books are a monograph, *Memory in Shakespeare's Histories: Stages of Forgetting in Early Modern England* (2012), and a co-edited volume, *Forms of Faith: Literary Form and Religious Conflict in Early Modern England* (2017). His articles on Shakespeare and early modern culture have appeared in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *English Literary Renaissance*, *Renaissance Drama*, and numerous other journals.

## Our Supporters and Sponsors



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**

Larry and Cindy Bloch  
Alumni and Advancement Center

The Larry and Cindy Bloch Center Alumni and Advancement Center has generously provided the space and staff today at no cost!



Wegmans has donated generously, helping us to provide refreshments today. This is the third year in a row that Wegman's has donated.



Stratford  
FESTIVAL

The Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario has generously provided a \$1000 bus subsidy making an April 23<sup>rd</sup> trip for today's participants to see Hamlet.



Dunkin Donuts of Monroe Avenue has donated coffee and donuts for refreshments today.

## The English Speaking Union (ESU)



The English-Speaking Union  
Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

Founded in 1920, The English-Speaking Union of the United States is a 501c3 non-profit, non-political charitable corporation with the mission to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.

Headquartered in New York City, the ESU undertakes its programs through its members in a network of 70 Branches in as many communities nationwide. An independent American corporation, the ESU-US works in fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world.

ESU members work together locally, nationally and internationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural and social programs. The ESU's national programs are supported by its unrestricted endowment and corporate and foundation grants as well as by the generosity of its members. Members benefit from the personal relationships and international exposure gained from ESU activities and events while they provide financial and volunteer support to sustain these programs. Programs you may find of interest include:

- A **"Gap Year" Abroad:** The ESU Secondary School Exchange is a merit-based scholarship providing tuition, room and board for scholars to spend a year between high school and college at a British boarding school.
- **The Luard Morse Scholarship:** provides up to \$25,000 towards a semester of study at a British university to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- **Tlab Study in the UK:** for educators and lifelong learners: one to six-week immersive learning. Live and learn on the famed campuses of England and Scotland or take a deep dive into Shakespeare—exploring his hometown or standing on the stage of the Globe.



## Rochester Chapter of the ESU



### Sterling Dean Memorial Trophy

The Sterling Dean Memorial Trophy is awarded to the winner of the ESU Rochester Branch Regional Shakespeare Competition. Each winner has their name engraved on the trophy and is permitted to display the trophy for the year.



The Rochester Shakespeare Competition is conducted under the auspices of the English-Speaking Union of the United States (ESU). The winner of today's event will participate the English Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition, now in its 37th year. The event will be held April 27th at Lincoln Center in New York City.

The Rochester Chapter of the English Speaking Union has conducted the Rochester Competition since 1990. A list of winners may be found on the Rochester Chapter's website and on page 15. The trophy displayed out in the lobby displays the names of all the winners since 2002, and will be awarded, for one year, to today's winner.

The co-coordinators for today's event are Wendy Low and Roger Janezic.

The website address for the Rochester Chapter is [www.esuus.org/Rochester/](http://www.esuus.org/Rochester/).

Phone: 585-465-9191.

**Interested in donating to the Rochester Chapter to support next years' competition? Contact Roger Janezic at [rochester@esuus.org](mailto:rochester@esuus.org)**

## 2019 Rochester Shakespeare Competition



*Group photo of 2019 participants and their teachers.*

### Elias Owens, Winner of 2018 Rochester Shakespeare Competition



Elias Owens, a student of Regina Darling from Penfield High School, won the 2018 Rochester Shakespeare Competition. He then competed in the national competition and was awarded second place overall. Mr. Owens performed an excellent rendition of Parolles' humorous speech on virginity from *All's Well that Ends Well* as well his recital of Sonnet 29, "When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes...". His cold reading in the pressure-packed finals won him 2nd place in the nationals.

Eli Owens performing Parolle's speech during the National Shakespeare Competition on April 23, 2018 at Lincoln Center.

## The Competitors

### Bishop Kearney High School

Jessi Opett

Teacher: Alicia Hoffman

Monologue: (#5) *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Helena  
3.2.148-164

Sonnet: (#30) "When to the sessions of sweet silent thought..."

School Runner-Up:

### Churchville-Chili Senior High School

Renee Sipes

Teacher: Mary Courtney

Monologue: (#244) *Titus Andronicus*, Tamora  
5.2.29-41, 61, 63-64, 93

Sonnet: (#147) "My love is as a fever, longing still..."

School Runner-Up: Salina Salters

### East Upper High School

Desire (Mfaume) Mshingelwa

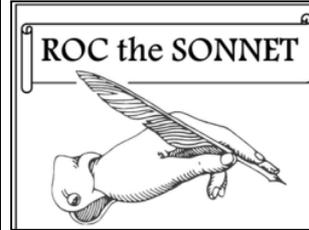
Teacher: Rebecca Chalone/Vicki Casarett

Monologue: (#195) *The Merchant of Venice*, Shylock  
3.1.53(p)-72

Sonnet: (#33) "Full many a glorious morning have I seen..."

School Runner-Up: Tahaara Gazali

## Roc the Sonnet



Adult Winner:

### Polyhymnia

Eric Runion

*How fickle is the muse with her delights!  
How subtle do her charms appear to those  
Who, reading, must ascend Olympic heights!  
What paltry bits of truth to us she shows!*

*A poem deep is like the murky lake,  
Which yields but little to one's searching eyes.  
If once the sifting silt a clearing make,  
The treasure sought is lost 'mid grasping tries.*

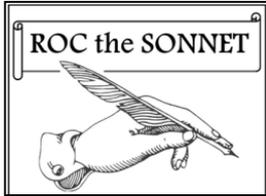
*And yet the glimpséd gold at length inspires  
The seeker yet to try its depths. He tests  
Again and reaches further in - the fires  
For lyric truths become the critic's quests.*

*One kindness does a host of slights displace  
For those who wish to glimpse true beauty's face!*

### Runners-up:

- Second Place: Carole Linenfelser, *High Rhymes and Missed Redeemers*
- Third Place: Kip Williams, *Solution*

## Roc the Sonnet



Student Winner:

### Ode to a Tethered Mind

Jessica Opett, Bishop Kearney High School

*What point is there in being benign and refined  
With a mild mannered, good natured soul,  
If a storm is brewing withing your mind  
And threatening to claw out a hole?  
I can see the fire from behind your eyes  
Painting your irises a deep umber.  
But you replace sharp words with honey lies  
And force the dragon in you to slumber.  
You're drowning in your unvoiced thoughts,  
Weighed down by all your petty fear.  
And as your overstrung mind rots,  
You'll wish you'd shown past your veneer.  
If you keep your voice inside your head,  
Who'll say your words when you are dead?*

#### Runners up:

- Second Place: Sydney George, *Masked*, Spencerport High School.
- Third Place: Catherine Runion, *Untitled (When in the trials of life I am entrenched)*, Home-schooled.
- Honorable Mention: Keyshaliz Melendez, *Untitled (A tree like legacy still flourishing)*, Integrated Arts and Technology High School.

## The Competitors



### The Harley School

**Claire Lustig**

Teacher: Maria Scipione

Monologue: (#179) *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet  
3.2.1-13, 21-27

Sonnet: (#147) *"My love is as a fever, longing still..."*

School Runner-Up: Eva Nielsen



### Penfield High School

**Reese Stojanovski**

Teacher: Regina Darling

Monologue: (#137) *Much Ado About Nothing*. Beatrice,  
4.1.315-321, 323-324, 326-327, 329-338

Sonnet: (#22) *"My glass shall not persuade me I am old..."*

## The Competitors

### Pittsford Sutherland High School

**Lydia Diekmann**

Teacher: Monica Gebell

Monologue: (#222) *The Winter's Tale*, Hermione  
3.2.98-115(p)

Sonnet: (#116) "Let me not to the marriage of true  
minds..."

School Runner-Up: Emma Kaczorowski

### Spencerport High School

**Samantha Ricotta**

Teacher: Eric Runion

Monologue: (#182) *Romeo and Juliet*, Mercutio  
1.4.58-63, 75-77, 79-81, 84-93(p)

Sonnet: (#27) "Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,...."

School Runner-Up: TJ Weaver

### Webster-Thomas High School

**Haley Warren**

Teachers: Sheila Byrne and Mark Stoetzel

Monologue: (#84) *Henry VI, Part 3*, Son  
2.5.55-72

Sonnet: (#14) "Not from the stars do I my judgment  
pluck..."

School Runner-Up: Nathan Magaw

## Roc the Sonnet



**Roc the Sonnet is in its second year.** The competition is a writing challenge in which participants compose an original sonnet and submit it for judging. The challenge rules involve using the Shakespearean sonnet format. Participants are asked to employ three of five characteristics of a Shakespearean Sonnet:

1. Length of 14 lines.
2. Three quatrains (quatrain=four lines) followed by a couplet (=2 lines).
3. Verse of iambic pentameter.
4. Rhyming scheme: abab cdcd efef gg.
5. Thematic structure: A problem is presented in quatrains and resolved in the couplet.

**Categories/Prizes:** There were two overall categories – Adult and high school student. Each of the overall winners wins a \$100 prize.

### "Roc the Sonnet" judges

#### Student Category:

- **Wendy Low**, Poet and Writing Instructor
- **Akua Lezli Hope**, Poet

#### Adult Category:

- **Jon Baldo**, Professor of English, Univ of Rochester
- **Jamie Tyrrell**, Shakespearean Actor
- **Nancy Gombert**, Professor of English (retired), MCC