



ABLE
artists breaking limits & expectations

Shakespeare's

COMEDY
OF
ERRORS
the webseries

adapted by Braden Cleary

5 episodes
Mondays at 7pm
starting May 18th

The Creative Team

TEACHING ARTISTS

Braden Cleary
Kaylie Honkala
Emma MacLean

FACILITATORS

Shannon Diegel	Lauren Lynch	Mary Ruppert
Mary Feigenbutz	Kate McDuffie	Beth Sherwood
Kiaran Hartnett	Sean Okerberg	Susan Sjodin
Chelsea Hosler	Jenna Rapisarda	Lindsay Stock
Lawrence Kern		Katie Yohe

FOLEY SUPERVISOR

Lawrence Kern

SERIES EDITING

Katie Yohe

SPECIAL THANKS

Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier
Ele Matalan
The Menomonee Club Drucker Center
The Parents & Families of the Ensemble

Director's Note

About one year ago, I started adapting Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* for A.B.L.E.'s teen ensemble. I was interested in exploring the assumptions that drive the play, and how this group would understand and shape them.

Society often puts individuals with disabilities in a box, and makes blanket assumptions about who they are and what they can do. But, of course, we know they are brilliantly diverse individuals. In the rehearsal process, the ensemble quickly learned that the two sets of identical twins - who are constantly confused for one another in the play - have very different personalities. One Antipholus is short-tempered, while the other is adventurous. One Dromio is nervous and scared, while the other is silly and fun. Why can't the other characters figure this out?

Who could have assumed where we'd be today? We've adapted Shakespeare's story. We've also had to adapt how we work to keep everyone safe and healthy. But I still love this story. And, with the support of A.B.L.E.'s facilitators, teaching artists, and staff, I could not be more excited to share it with you in our very first web series!

As you watch our actors through these episodes, you will see 20 different personalities, skill sets, and interests. The one similarity that connects them is the passion they bring to their performances. There's no confusion about that.

- Braden Cleary

The Ensemble



Colin Baar
Antipholus of S. (ep. 1)
Dromio of E. (ep. 4)



Marissa Bloodgood
Adriana (ep. 3)
Emilia (ep. 5)



Christian Boyd*
Antipholus of E. (ep. 3),
Angelo (ep.4)



Alena Brown
Nell (ep. 3)
Angelo (ep. 5)



Jack Butler*
Dromio of S. (ep. 2)
Duke Solinus (ep. 5)



Sandia Coleman
Emilia (ep. 1)
Adriana (ep. 5)



Sophie Earvolino
Antipholus of S. (ep. 4)
Dr. Pinch (ep. 5)



Samuel Floersheimer
Duke Solinus (ep. 1)
Antipholus of S. (ep. 3)



Ryan Foley
Dromio of E. (ep. 2)
Antipholus of S (ep. 5)



Natalia Janik
Egeon (ep. 1)
Dromio of S. (ep. 5)



Anna Luzadder
Dromio of S. (ep. 1)
Luciana (ep. 2)



Maggie Marren
Dromio of S. (ep. 4)
Luciana (ep. 5)



Matthew Marren
Dromio of E. (ep. 3)
Egeon (ep. 5)



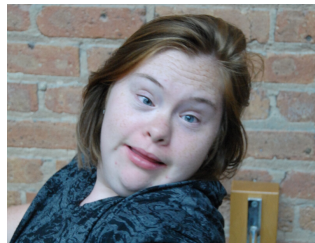
Mila Medina
Dromio of S. (ep. 3)
Luciana (ep. 4)



Maria Meyer
Adriana (ep. 4)
Courtesan (ep. 5)



Lucas Miezal
Antipholus of S. (ep. 2)
Dromio of E. (ep. 5)



Claire O'Leary
Adriana (ep. 2)
Angelo (ep. 3)



Sam Petri
Dromio of E. (ep. 1)
Antipholus of E. (ep. 4)



Hannah Vilic
Luciana (ep. 3)
Courtesan (ep.4)



Lucy Walsh*
Dr. Pinch (ep. 4)
Antipholus of E. (ep. 5)

**denotes actors who are turning 22 and graduating from A.B.L.E.'s teen ensemble*

Our Process

A.B.L.E.'s teen ensembles were only 2 weeks into rehearsals for a stage production of *Comedy of Errors* when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to reimagine how we work. We shifted to weekly online rehearsals via Zoom, and used the technology available to create this unique webseries.

This is A.B.L.E.'s very first webseries. But whether we're onstage or online, there are a few core beliefs that shape how we work:

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS A.B.L.E.

There are no "stars" in an A.B.L.E. production. After several weeks exploring the world of the play, actors auditioned for their favorite characters. Actors share roles throughout the series. Each appears in two different episodes as two different characters - allowing everyone a chance to showcase different sides of their personalities.

WE BELIEVE PERFORMING SHOULD BE FUN

Rather than pressuring actors to memorize lines, each actor had a facilitator to drop them in during their filming session. Our facilitators ensure actors can focus on connecting with the emotions of their character, without stressing about what to say next. Through the magic of filmmaking, we were able to remove our facilitator's voices, so only our actors can be heard in the final cut.

WE BELIEVE IN TEAMWORK

At the beginning of every rehearsal, we emphasize our responsibilities as an ensemble (listen, focus, be kind, try your best, and have fun!), and remember that we have to work together and support each other to create a project. Virtual rehearsals amplified these needs - in addition to sharing screen time, we also worked behind the scenes to create costumes and sound effects from objects found in our homes.

Thank you for tuning in!

If you enjoy this production,
will you help secure our future with a tax-deductible donation?

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Our story begins...

with a mother and a father. Egeon and Emilia had two sons who were identical twins - both named Antipholus. Not long after, they adopted another pair of twins - both named Dromio.

The young family was separated in a massive shipwreck. Emilia was never seen again. One Antipholus and Dromio found refuge with their father in Syracuse. As time passed, they grew desperate to find their long-lost family members, and left home to search the world, not knowing that Egeon has been trailing close behind them. Now their journey has brought them to Ephesus where endless confusion follows in their wake!

Is it witchcraft? Is it fate? A familiar-looking Abbess will have the answers...

Character *what I want most is...*

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS *for people to respect my authority.*

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS *to stay out of trouble.*

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE *to search the world and reconnect with my family.*

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE *to help my master.*

ADRIANA *the love and attention of my husband, Antipholus of Ephesus.*

LUCIANA *to maintain peace in my family, and help my sister, Adriana.*

NELL *to show my love for my husband, Dromio of Ephesus.*

DUKE SOLINUS *to justly uphold the laws of Ephesus.*

EGEON *to find my long-lost family.*

EMILIA *to protect the innocent.*

ANGELO *to get paid for my chain!*

COURTESAN *to be pampered with the finer things in life.*

DR. PINCH *to cure evil spirits.*

A.B.L.E. - Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations -

is a Chicago-based nonprofit that creates theatre and film for, with, and by individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. A.B.L.E.'s mission is to provide performing arts opportunities through which individuals with these disabilities can share who they are and all they are A.B.L.E. to do. Through its core teen and adult ensembles, specialized workshops, and outreach programming, A.B.L.E.'s actors strengthen lifelong skills including communication, focus, creativity, and teamwork. A.B.L.E.'s ensembles have staged 20 plays ranging from original works to classics from Shakespeare, Dickens, and Gilbert & Sullivan, and premiered 2 feature films which have been recognized by several local and international festivals. By promoting practices that place participants with disabilities in the spotlight, and giving them ownership over their experiences, A.B.L.E.'s work strives to shift societal preconceptions, and build more inclusive, empathetic communities.

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