



**streetlight shakespeare ensemble**

**wilkins & shakespeare's**

# **pericles**

**adapted for young audiences**

**directed by**

**matthias bolon & anna taylor**

**september 30th & october 1st  
5:30 p.m.**

**rose terrace, mary baldwin university**

**MB**

**Shakes &**



# production teams

## directors

matthias bolon & anna taylor

## playwright

matthias bolon

## stage manager

anna taylor

## performers

matthias bolon, ethan goodmansen,  
jovita roselene jacob, katie mestres,  
cece richardson, & ashley wright

## photographer

ethan goodmansen

## publicity & marketing

anna bigham, matthias bolon,  
ethan goodmansen, rosemary herold,  
margaret levin, & molly minter



# cast

the adventurer

ashley wright

the princess

cece richardson

gus

ethan goodmansen

marina

jovita roselene jacob

the harmonious knight

katie mestres

the storyteller

matthias bolon



# directors' note

William Shakespeare and George Wilkins' *Pericles* is a play filled with fantastic, surprising, and magical elements. It is also filled with dark, frightening, and uncomfortable moments. When Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble chose *Pericles* as our show for Theatre for Young Audiences, Anna and Matthias went back to our company's mission statement. We wanted to build a story where we could "see and be seen." We wanted to build a legible story that invited young audiences—and audiences who are young at heart—into it. Through a care-filled process, we found a story that embraces the duality of joy and sorrow.

This play is the result of Wilkins and Shakespeare's collaboration, so collaboration was our north star. In our efforts to build a collaborative process, Anna and Matthias, again, visited our mission statement to ask how we could invite our TYA company members' individual stories and bodies into our



# directors' note

rehearsals. This took the form of devising through rigorous play, fierce compassion, and steadfast curiosity. We told stories, we sang songs, we danced, we played games, we spoke up — we said “no,” we said “not quite,” we said “yes,” we said “what if,” and we said, “let’s see.” And see, we did. We now invite you to see our collaboration, story, and hearts!

We invite you to welcome your own heart and inner child to attend this production. We invite you to try on the power of kindness and bravery. We invite you to rekindle the simple joy of songs, sharing, and extending second chances.

– Matthias Bolon & Anna Taylor



# deviser's note

This is a playwright's note and a deviser's note because that is how this script was born, through the cast's imaginative devising. It began as seven people in a room excited to create a show for young audiences using Wilkins and Shakespeare's *Pericles*. We had no idea how we would get to the fully realized production you are about to see; we just hoped that when we got there, we would still be having as much fun then as we were when playing children's games at the park on day two of rehearsals. Our cast began by devising movement, gestures, shapes, acrobatics, and imagery focused on the sea and community. The physical material the cast generated inspired the text I wrote. I cannot emphasize enough that without my wonderful co-director and this intrepid cast, the script would never have set sail (pun intended). They brought immeasurable amounts of play, laughter, and heart to every draft and every rewrite. I would bring a rough



# deviser's note

chapter into rehearsal for us to experiment with, and the cast would say “yes” when something worked or ask for more from the plot and me. Their artistic integrity, readiness to run at challenges, and rigorous sense of play transformed the script into a fantastical ocean adventure. Finally, the script would not be complete without the borrowed words of poet Rabindranath Tagore’s “On the Seashore” and Jimmie Tarlton’s “Down in the Valley” tune; thank you to these brilliant artists for filling our devising sails with wind.

– Matthias Bolon



# **special thanks**

Doreen Bechtol, Pete Kirwan,  
Molly Seremet, Aubrey Whitlock,  
Kaitlin Nabors, Devlin Ford,  
Francisco Mestres, Gray Casterline,  
& Megan Parlett

## **plot summary**

- The Kindly Kinsfolk Storytelling Troupe introduces themselves to the audience, and the story begins.
- The Storyteller offers to tell Marina and Gus a story about a boat that springs to life before them.
- Adventurer Aurora's boat sets sail on the ocean; a storm comes and shipwrecks the boat on the island of Pentapolis.
- The Harmonious Knight, Knigel – and his trusty steed Brie – come across Aurora.
- Aurora tells Knigel of her shipwreck and how she wants to go home.
- Knigel tells Aurora that she cannot; the curse of the dragon Pericles means no one can leave Pentapolis.



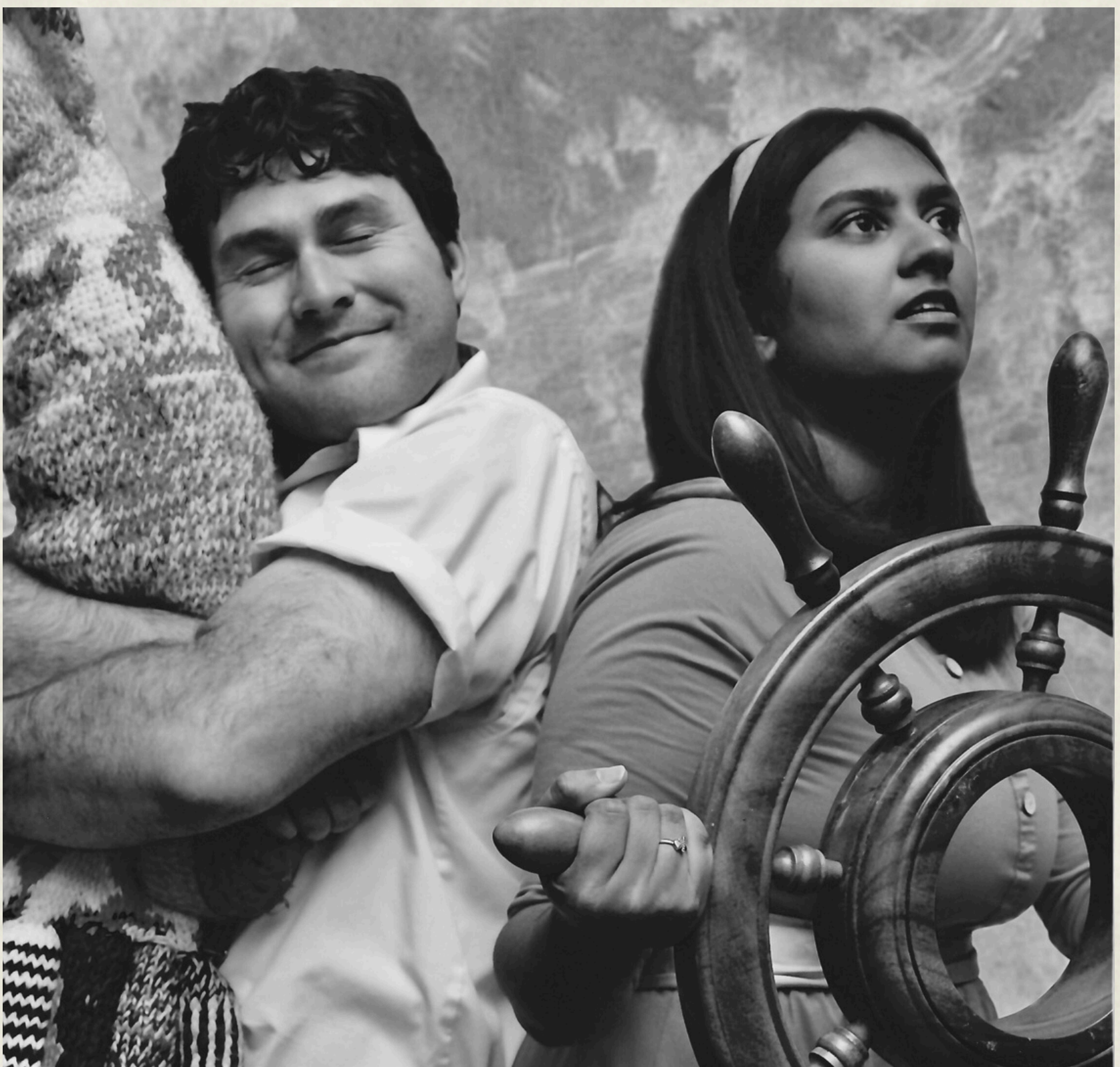
# plot summary

- Knigel shares that the Princess of the land is hosting a tournament to find heroes for a dragon quest.
- Eager to participate, Gus enters the story to join the tournament.
- Aurora wins the duel with Knigel; Gus wins the duel with Aurora. A mysterious competitor duels with Gus.
- The mysterious competitor reveals herself as the Princess in disguise. She was testing the competitors' kindness.
- Now, knowing their bravery, the Princess recruits Aurora, Knigel, Marina, and Gus to help break the curse of the dragon Pericles and the dragon egg stolen from him.
- The companions become more fearful as the band approaches Pericles' lair.
- Marina helps them find their courage. Their courage renewed, they return the egg to Pericles.
- After Pericles accepts the band's apology, the curse is broken, and their quest is complete.





*Pericles* cast members:  
Ethan Goodman (left, Gus),  
Jovita Roselene Jacob (right, Marina)





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