



Summerwith Shakespeare

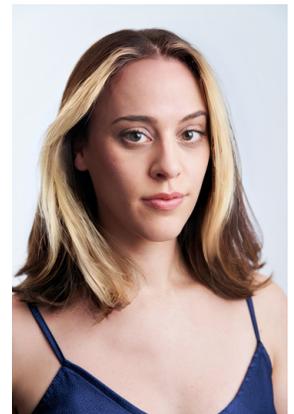
Summer 2026 - Faculty

Riley Shanahan (*Julius Caesar* Director) is happy to be directing for the Summer Shakespeare Program. Riley is a theater artist and filmmaker with over sixteen years of experience acting, directing, writing, and teaching. At A Noise Within, he played Mason/John in *Jane Eyre*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as Johnny in *Misalliance*. As a teaching artist, he has taught at nearly every level and in many different subjects including environmental science, theater, english, and more. Riley is passionate about theater education, specifically, because it allows kids to express themselves and helps them learn how to work as a team. ANW Resident Artist.



Anthony Adu (*Romeo and Juliet* Scene Study) AT A NOISE WITHIN: Ensemble, *The Skin of Our Teeth*; Ghost of Christmas Present / Ensemble, *A Christmas Carol*; Understudy Joey Percival, *Misalliance*. ELSEWHERE: *backstroke boys*, Faultline Theatre (Off-Broadway); *The Cherry Orchard*, South Pasadena Theatre Workshop; *Voices from a Pandemic*, Notch Theatre Company; *Pick Me Last*, La Jolla Playhouse; *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Colorado Shakespeare Festival; *DragON*, *The Christians*, Denver Center; EDUCATION: MFA in Acting from UC San Diego; Chautauqua Theatre Summer Conservatory.

Lea Madda (Camp Director, *Hamlet* Director) is an actor and director and currently serves as the Director of Education at A Noise Within, entering her third summer with Summer With Shakespeare. Lea holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice from Boston University and a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the UCLA School of Theatre, Film, and Television. Lea has additionally trained in Movement with the SITI Company, TR Warszawa (Warsaw, Poland), and the SCOT Company (Toga, Japan) and prioritizes ensemble movement and collaboration in her pieces. Recent acting credits include: *Hand to God* (Coachella Valley Repertory), *A Bright New Boise* (Dezart Performs), *The Sound of Music* (Alaska CAP), *Anne*, *A New Play* (Museum of Tolerance), *As You Like It* (the southland company) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UCLA).



Julian Smith (Comedy Improv) is a Los Angeles-based actor, writer and singer. He is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida, and has developed his résumé working in film, television, community, regional and educational theatre. After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, he moved to Los Angeles to make an impact in the entertainment industry. When Julian is not performing, he is a resident teaching artist in the Los Angeles area, where he shares his knowledge, experience, and passion for theatre with children and young adults.



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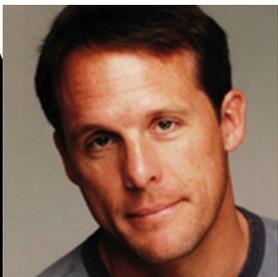
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Gerald C. Rivers (Drums) has been playing Djembe for over 30 years. He is a Master West African Drummer who has performed across the country and around the world and works with young people on a regular basis teaching African Djembe Drumming as an elective at several local Charter Schools and churches as well as to adults and kids with special needs for almost 20 years. But more importantly, uses the drum to teach essential life and spiritual lessons of patience, listening, cooperation and creative expression. He most recently appeared ANW's productions of *The Piano Lesson* and *King Hedley II*. He is also known for his voiceover work in cartoons and animated internet series feature films, as well as several internationally popular video games.



Hope Matthews (Stage Management) With ANW: Stage Manager, *Exit the King*, Assistant Stage Manager, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Misalliance*. Production Intern for 23-24 season. Other Theatres: *It's All Your Fault*, *Tyler Price!*, The Hudson; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Independent Shakespeare Company; *Newsies*, 5 Star Theatricals; *Tartuffe*, *Once On This Island*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, CSUN Theatre. Hope is also the stage management mentor for the students at Westmark School. Education/Training: BA Theatre, CSUN.

Described as a "...versatile singer, whose voice is at once regal and affectionate..." (LA Times), **Amber Liekhus (Voice & Speech, Singing)** has had an exciting career as a performer and teacher and holds a BA in Liberal Arts and Music from Pepperdine University. Some of Amber's favorite credits include: *Jelly's Last Jam* at Pasadena Playhouse, Mrs. Cratchit in ANW's *A Christmas Carol*, Beggar Woman in ANW's *Sweeney Todd*, *Annie* at The Hollywood Bowl, *Blues in the Night* at The Wallis, *Ain't Misbehavin'* with McCoy Rigby, *Porgy and Bess* at LA Opera, and *Suor Angelica* at Opera di Roma. Voice teacher for over 15 years, Amber's students are now pursuing careers in theatre, opera, television and film. ANW Resident Artist. IG: @Amberliekhusvocalstudio



Ken Merckx (Stage Combat) has choreographed fights and taught actors combat for film and television, theatres, and universities all across the country. He is presently a faculty member at AMDA, UC, Santa Barbara, and Cal State, Fullerton. Ken is the resident fight choreographer the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater Festival (Cleveland) and A Noise Within (Los Angeles). Mr. Merckx received his MFA, in Acting, from University of Illinois and his BA, in theatre studies, from the University of Washington. ANW Resident Artist.



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Nicole Javier (Movement) is an actor, professor, and Resident Artist at A Noise Within. Previous shows at ANW include: *The Book of Will*; *A Christmas Carol*, *Animal Farm*, *Metamorphoses* and *All's Well That Ends Well*. She has also worked with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Provincetown Playhouse, Shakespeare Orange County, Aurora Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, where she originated the role of Luna in the 2024 American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award-winning play, *The Heart Sellers*. Nicole currently teaches at Pasadena City College. She received her BFA from Chapman University and MFA from UC San Diego.



After making his ANW debut recently as Joey Percival in *Misalliance*, **Dan Lin (Text Analysis)** is chuffed to bits (a phrase which here means “really pleased”) to be joining the summer 2025 faculty. He is an alumna of both Interlochen Arts Camp as well as their year-round Academy, and holds a BFA in Acting from the Chicago College of Performing Arts. He has previously worked as a teaching artist with Global Voices Initiative and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Credits incl.: *Middle of the World*, *RogueMachine Theatre*; *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Oregon Shakes*; *Romeo and Juliet w/ The Family Crest*, *Jacaranda Theatre Co.*; *Julius Caesar*, *Chicago Shakes*.

Michael Wogulis (Set Design) is a scenic and projection designer based in Southern California. Scenic design credits include: *Seussical* and *The Prom* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Once on this Island* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Clyde's* (Moxie Theatre), *Macbeth* (CSULA Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CSUN Theatre and Dance). Projection design credits include: *The Apiary*, *The Mountaintop*, and *La Havana Madrid* (New Village Arts), *Buyer and Cellar* (Perseverance Theatre). Michael is an alumnus of UC San Diego, having earned both a BA in Theatre and Communications and an MFA in Scenic Design from the university. michaelwogulis.com

