

# The Olde Bard, Updated

**On the Web**  
View more images  
from one-act plays  
on Shakespeare at  
[www.sgs.org/  
magazine](http://www.sgs.org/magazine)

Recently, I had the pleasure of performing in a collection of three one-act dramas celebrating William Shakespeare across several settings. These marked a kind of “defibrillation” of straight drama at SGS, with the drama department having focused entirely on musicals since the retirement of local theatre legend Jeanne Hardie from the Saint George’s faculty. With my deep love of nonmusical drama rekindled after directing and producing a play in the summer of 2017, I was absolutely elated to be a part of its return to the community.

Our first one-act, *When Shakespeare’s Ladies Meet* by Charles George, parodies the unfortunate love lives of the well-known Shakespearian heroines who’ve gathered to give young Juliet a lesson in love.

It was followed by *The Audition*, an excerpt from *The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon. (Interestingly enough, *The Good Doctor* explores and lauds the works of Chekov from both within and behind the fourth wall in much the same way that our project did for the Bard.) I portrayed Nina, a young actress as nervous and awkward as she is brilliant, stumbling her way through an audition for Chekov himself before delivering a beautiful monologue from his play *The Three Sisters* with bravura. In this case, however, it was two beautiful monologues; Jeanne and assistant director Sarah Dahmen wanted to add a second one to make the Shakespeare connection, and I chose a speech from *The Merchant of Venice*.



**The Actor's Nightmare**  
on the stage of Founders Theater

The third one-act was *The Actor's Nightmare* by Christopher Durang, which follows a man who finds himself suddenly taking the place of an indisposed actor in a theatre troupe he isn't remotely familiar with; it pokes fun at a variety of plays, *Hamlet* among them, and theatrical archetypes. We finished out each night with a hilarious 34-second rendition of *Hamlet*. Yes, you read that right. 34-second *Hamlet*.

Not only did the experience provide the wonderful sense of camaraderie one can always expect from one's cast-mates when participating in the SGS drama department, but it proved an excellent opportunity to hone our acting skills and stagecraft. The coaching I received from Sarah, a dedicated Shakespearean, when shaping my portrayal of Nina was absolutely invaluable. As we delved into my character's psyche in ways I wouldn't have even considered otherwise, I was reminded of how lucky I was to be part of a theatre program with access to such passionate and talented people. And I'm absolutely thrilled that other students will have the same opportunity now that this amazing facet of the curriculum has been revived.

— Hailey Poutiatine, Class of 2018



**Above:**  
Hailey Poutiatine in  
*The Audition*

**Below:**  
Juliet and Cleopatra  
take center stage  
in *Shakespeare's  
Ladies Meet*

