



1975-2025

SHAKESPEAREAN  
THEATRE COMPANY

CREATING SPACE

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre &  
Creating Space Present

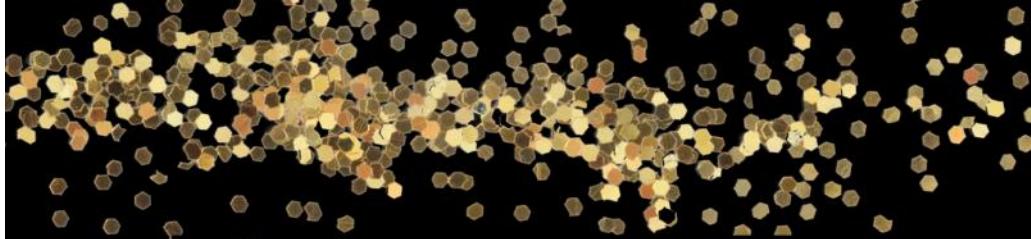
# Translating Sonnets

Sonnets By William Shakespeare  
Performed & Translated by  
Local Actors & Poets

April 25, 2025  
Carpenter's Shop



**SNUG HARBOR**  
CULTURAL CENTER & BOTANICAL GARDEN



# Celebrating 50 Years

1975-2025

SI SHAKESPEAREAN  
THEATRE COMPANY



STATEN ISLAND SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF BRINGING HIGH QUALITY SHAKESPEAREAN, CLASSICAL, AND ORIGINAL THEATRE TO THE RESIDENTS OF STATEN ISLAND, AND PROVIDING AN ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ACTORS, DIRECTORS AND DESIGNERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE THAT COMMUNITY HOME.

KICKING OFF OUR 50TH SEASON,  
STATEN ISLAND SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE  
IS RAISING

**DONATE**



*\$50k for 50 Years*

STATEN ISLAND SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE IS A 501(C)3 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION.  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW

Help us raise \$50k for 50 years by clicking the link below:  
[Staten Island Shakespeare Theatre's \\$50K for 50 Years](#)



## 2025 Season

### **DOCTOR FAUSTUS**

By Christopher Marlowe

Directed by J. Giachetti

**May 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18**

Staten Island Playhouse at Empire Outlets

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Courtney Emerson

**June 13, 14, 20, 21**

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

### **WOMEN'S PLAYWRIGHTS COLLECTIVE NEW WORLDS AND NOT FORGOTTEN PLAY FESTIVALS**

By Women's Playwright Collective

**August 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17**

Staten Island Playhouse at Empire Outlets

### **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Emmie D'Amico

**September 12, 13, 19, 20**

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

### **THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW**

By John Heimbuch and Jon Ferguson

Directed by Victoria Gullo

**October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26**

Staten Island Playhouse at Empire Outlets

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company &  
Creating Space Present

## **Translating Sonnets**

Curated by Thomas Fucaloro,  
Cara S. Liander & Cynthia Rodriguez

***Special Performance by Richmond Recorder Society Ensemble***  
***Music Director Valeda Bell, Anita Berger, Susan Campagna,***  
***Denise Canlon, Linda Keltz, Celeste Lederer, Tony Tepedino***

### ***Welcome***

Cara S. Liander, Thomas Fucaloro & Cynthia Rodriguez

### **Sonnet #12**

Performed by Carrie Ellman-Larsen  
Translated by Matt Figgz

### **Sonnet #40**

Performed by Amanda Rose Benjamin  
Translated by Rocio Uchofen

### **Sonnet #71**

Performed by Jenny Kelly  
Translated by Maya DaPoet

### **Sonnet #30**

Performed by Frank Fazio  
Translated by Kyoko Heshiimu

### **Sonnet #126**

Performed by Eric Rosen  
Translated by Jenn Cisneros

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company &  
Creating Space Present

## **Translating Sonnets**

Curated by Thomas Fucaloro,  
Cara S. Liander & Cynthia Rodriguez

### Sonnet #25

Performed by Helene Dubois  
Translated by M.A. Dennis

### Sonnet #18

Performed by Connor Burke  
Translated by Buttered Roll

### Sonnet #116

Performed by Victoria Gullo  
Translated by Cynthia Rodriguez

### Sonnet #98

Performed by Christine Vapsva  
Translated by Frank Williams

### Sonnet #130

Performed by Regan Sou  
Translated by Christine Weimer

### Sonnet #66

Performed by Nick Easton  
Translated by Thomas Fucaloro

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Matt Figz**



**Carrie  
Ellman-Larsen**



Matt Figz is a math & creative writing educator who loves reading, anime, and cold leftovers. He is also the co-founder of "Poetry in the Park" (@official\_poetryinthepark), a free outdoor open mic series. Matt's poetry collection, "Adolescence", is available on Amazon.

**Matt Figz**

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Rocio Uchofen**



**Amanda Rose  
Benjamin**



**Rocio Uchofen**

Rocio Uchofen (Pronounced Ro-seeo Oo-hofen) is a Peruvian-American author that lives in Staten Island since 1999. She has published several poetry and short-stories books. She has a radio show in Maker Park Radio where she interviews Latino writers and poets. She has organized bilingual creative writing projects thanks to DCLA Fund grants through Staten Island Arts that let her open the power of poetry and fiction writing to Hispanic communities in Staten Island and beyond.

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Maya DaPoet**



**Jenny Kelly**

Maya Da Poet is a multi-hyphenated artist native to Staten Island New York. Her love for poetry stems from her poet parents who encouraged her writing from an early age. She has graced many stages from the Nuyorican Poetry cafe, the New York City Poetry Festival and most recently as a featured performer at the St. George Theater. You can catch Maya Da Poet hosting and performing at her monthly community event That's Right Open Mic at Hub 17. This all acts welcomed show is curated by Maya Da Poet every first Friday of the month. Be sure to see Maya Da Poet perform, host and produce events all across NYC by following her social media account @Maya.Da.Poet on instagram to see where poetry and the creative arts takes her next!



**Maya DaPoet**

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Kyoko Heshiimu**



**Frank Fazio**



Kyoko Heshiimu was a quiet introvert her entire life, until she found her voice through poetry. She is not only a poet, but an artist as well, whose work actively challenges injustices against those who are disenfranchised. She has self-published 5 collections of poetry and 4 children's books. You can follow her on Instagram @ dragonmomi8

**Kyoko Heshiimu**

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Jenn Cisneros**



**Eric Rosen**

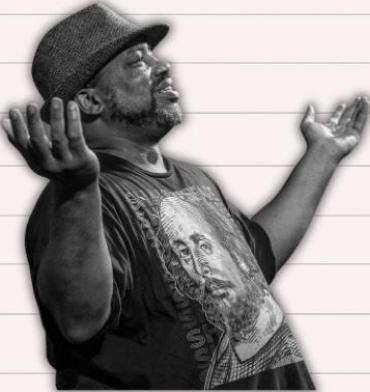


**Jenn Cisneros**

Jenn Cisneros was born and raised in Queens, New York. A woman of diverse ethnicities, she is a passionate mental health advocate and a multifaceted artist. Jenn's artistry spans spoken word and visual mediums, showcasing her versatility and creativity. She has been featured in several spoken word showcases, including as the sole poet in an off-Broadway dance production. Her latest endeavor is creating Spoken Moon Open Mic alongside her partner and closest friends. Cultivating a platform dedicated to the mixing and melding of all artistry has been her proudest contribution to the creative community yet.

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**M.A. Dennis**



**Helene Dubois**

M. A. Dennis contains multitudes. He is a health & housing advocate, a National Black Writers Conference Emerging Poet, a lover of free refreshments, and a published author. Johns Hopkins University Press Blog describes him as 'a hilarious but also heartbreaking performance poet.' Dennis, formerly homeless, now lives in a Shaolin Island apartment with his four pet rocks (Chris, Fraggle, Gibraltar & Plymouth).  
IG: m\_a\_dennis575



**M.A. Dennis**

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Buttered Roll**



**Connor Burke**

Buttered Roll (BR) is a Hoboken based and self-taught poet, performer, visual artist and not-so-complex carbohydrate. He has been reading and rearranging the written word since he was a young person. In September, 2022, BR self-published his second book *Disjecta Dismembra*. He donated  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the proceeds from the sales of the book to the Hoboken Homeless Shelter. On September 6.2024, *Bolivareando: Similar, Not the Same*, opened at SMUSH gallery, in Jersey City, NJ. *Bolivareando* is a series of visual work that consists of almost 70 paintings, and ran through October 13, 2024. Buttered Roll also recently participated in the 14C special project residency in Jersey City, NJ. This residency ran through April 13.2025. Buttered Roll's visual work will be displayed at the 14 C art fair in May, 2025.



**Buttered Roll**

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Cynthia Rodriguez**



**Victoria Gullo**



**Cynthia Rodriguez**

Cynthia (Cyn) Rodriguez has been a spoken word artist and event host since 2016. Through the power of social media, she has cultivated a vibrant community that consistently fills the venues she collaborates with. Cyn is the founder and host of \*Poetic Drip\*, a monthly open mic series at ETG Book Cafe. She has also guest hosted for 'Poetry in the Park' at Silver Lake Park and Alice Austen House and co-hosted "Arts in the Park" at Tappen Park in partnership with The Segal Center CUNY. Her work continues to foster community, amplify diverse voices, and celebrate creative expression through poetry, music, and art.

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Frank Williams**



**Christine Vapsva**

Frank Williams has served as Producing Artistic Director of SIST since 2017 and has directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Our Town*, *Measure for Measure*, *Richard III*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Hamlet*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lady from the Sea*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *As You Like It*, and *A Dream Play* for the company. After studying theatre, directing, and playwriting at Wagner College, Frank served as Literary Fellow at Playwrights Horizons. He then went on to be a reporter and columnist for the Staten Island Advance and then spent many years as a development director and fundraiser for many nonprofits on Staten Island and throughout the boroughs. All the while, Frank has been writing poetry, including long works like *Fall* (2002), *Collective Donkey* (2003), and *The Elders of Aquehonga*, (started in 2010) an epic poem in iambic pentameter that will not be completed until death. All works remain unpublished. He's recently begun a new collection of poems called *Collective Donkey Rides Again*.

**Frank Williams**



# Translating Sonnets

## Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Christine Weimer**



**Regan Sou**



**Christine Weimer**

Christine Weimer is a writer, award-winning poet, and publishing advisor from Queens, New York. She holds an MA in English and is the founder of Our Galaxy Publishing, an educational platform that equips aspiring authors with the knowledge, tools, and services needed to navigate the publishing industry. With a blend of literary insight and an entrepreneurial mindset, Christine has mentored over 100 authors, ghostwritten 11 books, and edited more than 30 manuscripts, guiding writers in bringing their stories to life. She is the author of three poetry collections—*Tainted Lionheart* (Gold Medal, Readers' Favorite 2021), *I Got to Know Nature*, and *Claiming the Throne*. Her work has appeared in various anthologies and literary magazines, and she has performed as a featured poet at numerous open mics across NYC and NJ.

Christine shares her musings on Instagram (@amindfulwriter) and can often be found wandering Washington Square Park, likely with a tiny human in tow—disheveled and deep in thought.

# Translating Sonnets

Meet The Poets and Performers!



**Thomas Fucaloro**



**Nick Easton**



**Thomas Fucaloro**

The winner of numerous grants from the Staten Island Council of the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes and NYC Commission of Human Rights to name a few. Thomas Fucaloro has been on six national slam teams. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the New School and is a co-founding editor of Great Weather for Media and NYSAI press. He is an adjunct professor at Wagner College, BMCC and CSI where he teaches various poetry and literature courses. Thomas is cofounder of Poetry in the Park, WORDPLAY, Creating Space, Poetry in Motion and Creativity Meets Geek. Thomas has released 2 full lengths: It Starts From the Belly and Blooms and Inheriting Craziness is a Soft Halo of Light by Three Rooms Press. He also has 4 chapbooks: Mistakes Disguised as Stars (Tired Hearts Press), Depression Cupcakes (Yes, Poetry), There is Always Tomorrow (Mad Gleam Press) and The Only Gardening I Do is When I Give Up by Finishing Line Press. His new chapbook LE(t)GO is out by Neuronautic Press.

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre is supported by:



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Frank Williams, Producing Artistic Director

### SPECIAL THANKS

SI Shakespearean Theatre would like to extend thanks to Thomas Fucaloro, Cynthia Rodriguez, Creating Space, Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Gardens and the entire staff for making this possible.

Special thanks to Amanda Rose Benjamin, the volunteers and the families of all cast and crew for their undying support.



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When you join the Producer & Patrons Guild, you make a generous commitment to help keep SIST strong. As a thank you for your support, you enjoy a variety of benefits designed to deepen your involvement with the work you help make possible.

To join the **Producers and Patrons Guild**, go to the show's front of house or visit our website at [sishakespeare.org](http://sishakespeare.org)

### ***Feste's Fellows - \$75***

Discounted SIST Member ticket pricing, Complimentary refreshments and seat cushions at all performances; receive special offers and recognition as a supporter in all SIST show programs for one year.

### ***Hamlet's Heroes - \$150***

All of the above extended to five family members (who reside in the same house- hold).

### ***Lysander's Legacy - \$250***

All of the above, plus signed posters by members of the cast of the production of your choosing, reserved preferred seating at outdoor Summer Classics Series performances

### ***Cymbeline's Circle - \$500***

All of the above, plus a pair of complimentary tickets to any SIST production; reserved front row seating at Summer Classics Series performances

### ***The Royal Box - \$1000+***

All of the above, plus an additional pair of complimentary tickets to any SIST production; reserved front row seating at all SIST performances, a custom designed benefits list just for YOU!

**Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company  
2024 Producers and Patrons Guild**

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Frank & Laura Williams

**Cymbeline's Circle**

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Sharon Liander

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## Hamlet's Heroes

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The Wrobleksi Family

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Robyn Lippert

Jacqueline Colucci

Roseann Marcus

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Joan & Gary Moore

Francis Donnelly

Helene Montagna

Lisa Esposito

Christopher Neske

Barbara Fleming

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Beth Gorrie

Daniel Richards

Celeste Lederer

Meredith Sladek

Peter White



Introducing this year's collective

## 2025 Women's Playwright Collective



Ariana Nicoletta



Kseniya Ignatova-Yates

### New Worlds Festival

1 Act Playwrights



Ally Thomas



Amanda DeLalla



Cathrine Crimmins



Helene Dubois



Holly Pepe



K. Stranger



Kerry Robinson



Maria Lee Vazquez

### Not Forgotten Play Festival

10 Minute Playwrights



## SWAG ALERT!

Order your "**WOMEN'S PLAYWRIGHT COLLECTIVE**" swag today! All proceeds are **donated to Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre & WPC** to continue and support our mission and new works!

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