



HENRY IV

PART ONE

PLOT & CHARACTER GUIDE

Free Shakespeare in Deering Oaks Park: Portland's Favorite Summer Tradition!

THE SETTING

Written between 1596–97, this play dramatizes the events leading up to the famous Battle of Shrewsbury, where King Henry IV's forces clashed with the rebellious Percy family on July 21, 1403.

The action unfolds across several key locations in England and Wales—including the taverns of London's Eastcheap neighborhood—with the dramatic climax occurring on the battlefield in Shropshire.

QUICK PLOT SUMMARY: SPOILERS!

- A dispute begins when Hotspur, the son of Northumberland, breaks with England's King Henry IV over the fate of his brother-in-law, Mortimer, a Welsh prisoner.
- Hotspur, Northumberland, and Hotspur's uncle Worcester plan to take the throne, allying themselves with Mortimer and a Welsh leader, Glendower.
- As that conflict develops, Prince Hal—Henry IV's son and heir—carouses in a tavern with the roguish Sir John Falstaff and his entourage.
- Prince Hal is summoned to war. In the war, Hal saves his father's life and then kills Hotspur, actions that help to redeem his bad reputation.
- Falstaff cheats his soldiers and takes credit for Hotspur's death.

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Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier theatre in the Portland, ME community since 2008. We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the occupied and unceded territory of the Wabanaki.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



At Fenix Theatre Company, we believe Shakespeare belongs to everyone.

Our core mission is to remove the barriers that keep people from discovering the remarkable wit, excitement, and humanity that have made Shakespeare the world's most enduring playwright.

Ironically, a title like *Henry IV, Part One* makes that mission more difficult. Shakespeare. History. Part 1. It sounds more like a horrifying return to high school English class than an enjoyable evening of summer entertainment. But nothing could be further from the truth. Funny, thrilling, and deeply human, *Henry IV, Part One* is one of Shakespeare's greatest plays. It gives us some of Shakespeare's finest comic writing and, of course, his greatest comic creation, Sir John Falstaff.

At its heart, *Henry IV, Part One* is a story of fathers and sons. Prince Hal stands between two powerful influences. His father, King Henry IV, represents duty, expectation, and responsibility. His surrogate father, the larger-than-life Falstaff, embodies freedom, joy, and a life fully lived on one's own terms. As Hal navigates these competing models of adulthood, he must ultimately decide who he will become and what kind of leader he wishes to be. Through Hal's journey, Shakespeare asks some very profound questions. What makes a good leader? What experiences truly prepare us to lead? Should we value leaders with established pedigree and inherited authority or leaders with lived experience and a genuine connection to the people they serve? Four hundred years later, we are grappling with these same questions. Perhaps that is why *Henry IV* and Shakespeare still endure.

It is my hope that, by the end of the evening, the words "Shakespeare," "history," and "Part One" have given way to laughter, entertainment, and an appreciation for why this is one of my favorite Shakespeare plays.

Dedicated to the memory of David E. Butler, Falstaff to a generation of Fenix artists, who offered us laughter, fellowship, hospitality, and a place to belong.

- **PETER BROWN** (he/him), Director and Fenix Artistic Director



ABOUT FENIX THEATRE COMPANY

Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier professional theatre in Portland, ME since 2008, highlighting the talent of local Maine artists. Fenix is run by a volunteer board of directors and productions are sustained by donations.

Thank you for joining us! Please consider supporting Fenix by:

DONATING

(Free theater is NOT free to produce!)

FOLLOWING

us on social
media

[@fenixtheatreco](https://www.instagram.com/fenixtheatreco)

SHARING

info about the
show - word of
mouth is our best
advertising!



Volunteer Board of Directors:

Peter Brown – Artistic Director

Kat Moraros – Associate Artistic Director & Digital
Marketing Manager

Benjamin Row – Fundraising and Media Relations

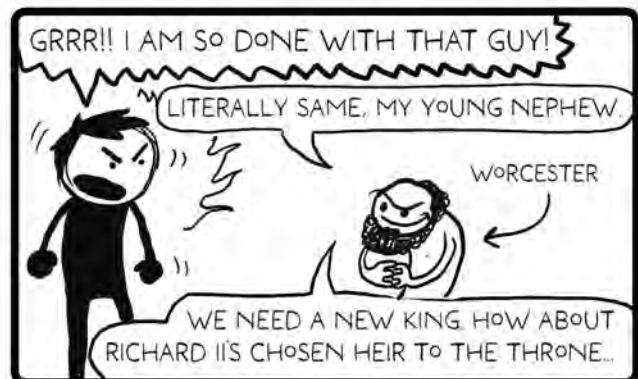
Shane Van Vliet – Marketing & Production Coordination

Katelyn Manfre – PR and Grant Writing

Tiki Fuhro – Grant Writing and Education Outreach

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FENIX**

Thank you for
supporting this
18-year tradition.





The Climactic Showdown



KING HENRY
FIGHTS DOUGLAS.



IT'S THE DOUGLAS!!

HAL SAVES HIS DAD.



FALSTAFF PLAYS DEAD.



HAL DEFEATS HOTSPUR.



Fare thee well, great heart.

DRAMATIC DEATH SCENE.

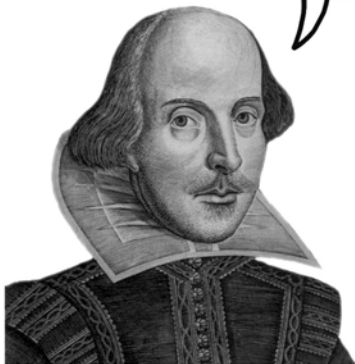


REDEMPTION ARC
ACHEIVED!

BUURP

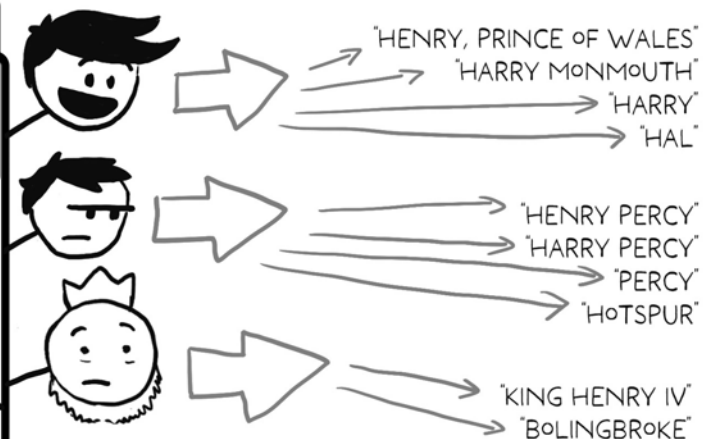
The End.

THERE YA HAVE IT FOLKS,
A SUMMARY OF MY
ACTION-PACKED PLAY!

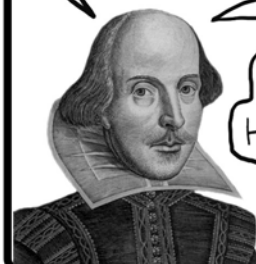


SHOULDN'T YOU MENTION THAT ALL
OF US ARE NAMED "HENRY" BUT CALLED
BY MULTIPLE OTHER NAMES??

WILL THEY GET CONFUSED??



NAH, THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT.



BUT WAIT! DON'T MISS
THE SEQUEL...
HENRY IV, PART 2:
HERE WE GO AGAIN!

AND THEN HENRY 5!
AND THEN HENRY 6, PART ONE
AND THEN HENRY 6, PART TWO
AND THEN HENRY 6, PART THREE



1. London. The palace.

King Henry meets with his advisers to discuss his planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Instead, he learns that one of his nobles, Mortimer, has been captured by Welsh commander Owen Glendower. In another clash, Hotspur, son of Lord Northumberland, has beaten the Scots. Henry laments that his own son, Prince Hal, is neglecting his title. For all his triumphs, though, Hotspur refuses to yield his prisoners to King Henry. In the face of these crises, the pilgrimage is once again put off as the king calls a meeting with Hotspur.



2. The Boar's-Head Tavern, Eastcheap.

Prince Hal and his pal Sir John Falstaff hang out at the Boar's Head Tavern in London's seedy Eastcheap neighborhood. Poins enters to enlist them in an upcoming robbery. Hal refuses, but, after Falstaff leaves, Poins persuades Hal to join in a plot to rob and embarrass Falstaff and the other thieves. Alone, Hal laments that he will soon have to end his association with his companions and that, after his "reformation," he will shine all the brighter against his background of irresponsible living.



3. London. The palace.

King Henry meets with Hotspur, Hotspur's father (Northumberland), and his uncle (Worcester) to demand that Hotspur yield his prisoners to the crown. Hotspur agrees to do so only if Henry will ransom Mortimer, who is Hotspur's brother-in-law, from captivity in Wales. Henry refuses and leaves. Hotspur is enraged by Henry's accusation that Mortimer is a traitor and is happy to go along with a plot devised by Worcester and Northumberland to oust Henry from the throne.



4. The highway, near Gadshill.

Falstaff, Peto, and Bardolph rob a pair of travelers and are, in turn, robbed by Prince Hal and Poins in disguise.



5. Warkworth castle.

Hotspur receives a letter from a nobleman who refuses to join the rebellion against King Henry. His wife, Lady Percy, enters to ask Hotspur what has been troubling him so much lately, but he will not confide in her. He quickly leaves to meet the other rebels.



6. The Boar's-Head Tavern, Eastcheap.

Back at the tavern, Falstaff tells a story about having been robbed by a large group of men, whom he insists he fought bravely. Hal then reveals that it was he and Poins who robbed Falstaff. A messenger arrives from King Henry to summon Hal to court. Falstaff and Hal stage mock versions of the scene that they imagine will take place between Hal and his father when he finally returns. These impromptu performances are halted by the arrival of a sheriff in search of Falstaff and his gang in connection with the robbery. Hal conceals them and promises to return the money.



7. Bangor. The Archdeacon's house.

The rebels, Hotspur, Mortimer, and Glendower, meet in Wales to finalize the terms of their plot against King Henry and to determine how they will divide up the conquered kingdom. Hotspur ridicules Glendower to his face and is criticized by Mortimer for doing so. Glendower brings in the wives of Hotspur and Mortimer to say goodbye before their husbands head off to battle.



8. London. The palace.

Prince Hal attempts to reconcile with his father by swearing to fight the rebels and to defeat Hotspur. King Henry worries that Hal may be secretly allied with the rebels but Hal insists he will prove himself a worthy son and heir.



9. The Boar's-Head Tavern, Eastcheap.

Falstaff tries to swindle the Hostess of the inn. Prince Hal arrives to enlist Falstaff in a command of the infantry.



10. The rebel camp near Shrewsbury.

At the Rebel camp, Hotspur, Worcester, and Douglas receive a series of disappointing messages: Hotspur's father, Northumberland, is too sick to join them in the coming battle; King Henry is approaching with a large army, including the splendidly-armed Prince Hal; and Glendower's Welsh forces have been delayed.



11. King Henry IV's camp near Shrewsbury.

Worcester and Vernon visit King Henry's camp, where Worcester repeats the grievances that he says have led to the rebellion. Prince Hal offers to oppose Hotspur in single combat, and King Henry promises pardon and reconciliation to the rebels if they yield. When the messengers leave, the King and Hal privately recognize the rebels will never accept that deal and prepare for battle. Alone, Falstaff fears for his life and laments being conscripted into this whole situation in the first place.



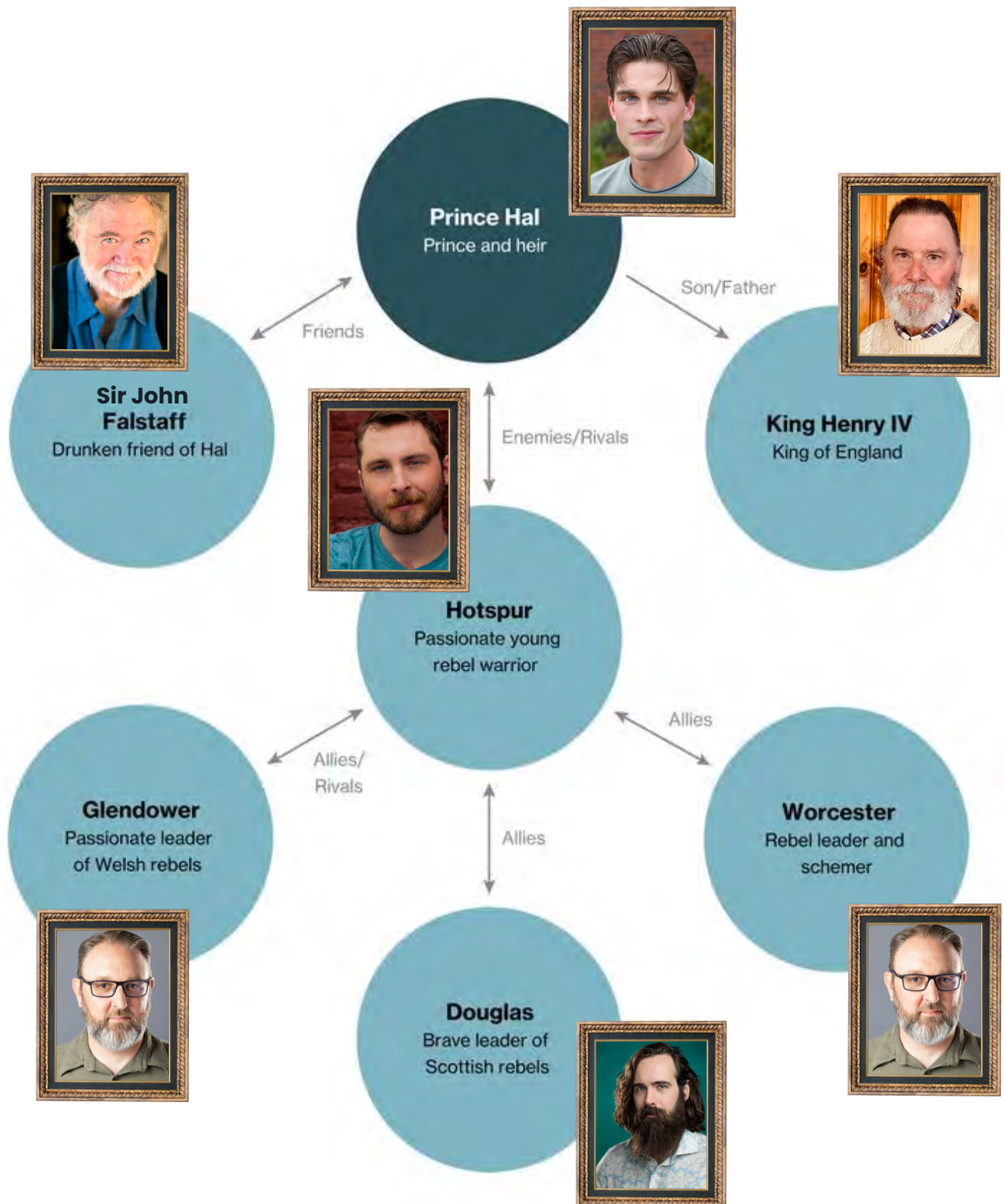
12. The rebel camp near Shrewsbury.

Worcester lies to Hotspur, telling him that the king made no offer of pardon and is ready to begin the battle. Hotspur sends his own defiance to the king by Douglas. On Douglas's return, Hotspur and his men prepare for battle.



13. THE BATTLE OF SHREWSBURY – Plain between the camps.

- Douglas kills Blunt, who is disguised as King Henry. Falstaff enters alone and discovers Blunt has been killed. When Prince Hal enters and asks Falstaff to lend him a sword, Falstaff instead gives him a bottle of wine.
- Prince Hal saves King Henry from death at the hands of Douglas. Falstaff sees Douglas approaching and falls down as if he were dead.
- Hal meets Hotspur and they fight. Hal kills Hotspur. Finding Falstaff's body, Hal briefly mourns his death.
- When Hal leaves, Falstaff rises, sees the slain Percy, stabs him in the thigh, and picks up the body, planning to claim the credit for killing him. When Prince Hal reenters with his brother and meets Falstaff, Hal agrees to give his support to Falstaff's lie.
- Having won the battle, King Henry condemns Worcester to death. The king and his supporters—including Prince Hal—prepare to march against the remaining rebels in Wales.



HENRY IV, PART ONE

CAST BIOS



KEATING BABCOCK (he/him) as Prince Hal

Keating is very excited to be making his first appearance with Fenix Theatre Company. Most recently, you may have seen him as Tommy in *Grand Horizons* (Good Theater). Other credits include Patrick in *The View Upstairs* (Second Story Theater Company), Prince Charming in *Snow White* (Maine State Music Theater) and Ted Hanover in *Holiday Inn* (Biddeford City Theater). Outside of theater, Keating loves canoeing, sushi and watching TV.



CASPER BARNARD as Poins & Westmoreland & Percy Servant

Casper is delighted to be in this summer's production of *Henry IV, Part One*. A long time friend of The Bard, Cas is overjoyed to get to play with more of his beloved (and less beloved) characters. Most recently, Casper was in *Macbeth* as The Porter and Hecate at Portland Players, and Lyric Theater's *Pride and Prejudice*. Casper plays the piano, knits sweaters, bakes bagels, attempts to garden, and sings in Rainbow Arts Collective's Lavender Choir. Thank you to everyone coming out to enjoy Shakespeare as (in my opinion) it was meant to be enjoyed - outside, with lots of music, and (hopefully) lot of laughter. Thank you Izzy for consistently helping me learn my lines and for your unwavering support. I love you babe.



JOSH BRASSARD (he/him) as Worcester & Glendower & Bardolph

Josh Brassard is an actor, playwright and software engineer based in the Greater Portland area. He is thrilled to be returning to the park in *HENRY IV, PART ONE*, last appearing as Laertes in Fenix's production of *HAMLET* in 2015. He has also appeared locally with Acorn Productions, Mad Horse Theatre Company, Maine Playwrights Festival, Saco River Theater, Schoolhouse Arts Center and the Theater Project, to name a few. He co-founded Pie Man Theatre Company in 2015, helping to run the company until 2018 (during which time most of his acting work was done under that shingle). He was also a member of Acorn Productions' Naked Shakespeare Ensemble from 2011-15, and again from 2018-20. He currently serves as a co-director for the PortFringe Festival.



GENEVIEVE BREITBACH (she/her) as Lady Percy & Vernon & Northumberland

Genevieve is thrilled to make her Fenix debut alongside this brilliantly "gorgeous as the sun at midsummer" cast and crew! She has been fortunate enough to have been a part of quite a few local productions, most recently including: *The Little Prince* (Maddy's Theater/CMTM); *The 39 Steps* (Out There Theater Co.); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Portland Players); *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, and *The Sound of Music* (Lyric Music Theater); as well as two special performances at PortFringe and a few seasons of the Maine Playwrights Festival (Acorn Productions). She also loves working at Stages Youth Theater and Portland Stage, encouraging young actors to shine out as their best selves! "War! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!" – Edwin Starr



DREW COPELAND (he/him) as Douglas & Peto Fight Choreographer

Drew is excited for his first production with Fenix Theatre. He's a performer, choreographer, and gymnastics instructor based in Scarborough. He is a proud member of the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD). Recent projects include the Portland Players' *Macbeth* (Fight Director/Siward/Murderer 3) and *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Fight choreographer). He would like to thank Peter Brown, his family, and most importantly his wife Rebecca. Thank you for your continued love and support.



SAM FINN CUTLER (he/him) as Hotspur & Tavern Musician Music Director

Sam is an actor, musician, and Shakespeare enthusiast who is happily returning for a second round with Fenix after last year's *As You Like It*. Originally a Vermonter, Sam studied theater at NYU Tisch, pursued an acting career in New York City, then ultimately gave up on that and moved to Maine. Love to his friends, his family, his partner, and the bard.

HENRY IV, PART ONE

CAST BIOS



MARY FRASER (she/her) as Mistress Quickly

Mary is a Portland based actor who is totally stoked to be joining the cast of *Henry IV, Part One* with Fenix. Recent productions include Patricia Mullholland's *Solitude of Space: Emily Dickinson, the Woman, the Poet* and *Women Laughing Alone with Salad* with Mad Horse Theater in 2025. Mary will join the cast of *Seven Sisters* with Dramatic Repertory Company this fall. So much love to Bill and Lillian – the finest kind.



MICHAEL HOWARD as Sir John Falstaff

Ah, to return to Portland, Maine after ten years—as a part of the splendid Fenix Theatre Company! And as the portly, laudable (for he only offends the virtuous, Sir John Falstaff). Sir John ranks with Hermon Goering in *Two, Roy Cohn* in *Angels in America*, and, certainly, King Lear, as favorite roles in his life. Special thanks to another favorite role, as husband to Linda Ford, back in San Antonio, and to Peter Brown and my great friend, Kevin O'Leary, in Portland, Maine.



RACHEL MORRIS (she/her) as Lady Mortimer & Prince John & Sheriff & Traveller

Rachel Morris holds a BFA in Theater Performance from Hofstra University and is so excited to be making her Portland theater debut this summer in Deering Oaks Park! Her recent theater endeavors include directing for Brunswick's Midcoast Youth Theater, working with many talented children, who inspire her daily. She would like to extend her heartfelt gratitude to all of the cast, crew, and beyond who made this show possible.



KEVIN O'LEARY (he/him) as King Henry IV

Kevin is thrilled to be back with his Fenix pals. Previous Fenix credits include *The Three Sisters* (2017), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2016), and *Hamlet* (2015). KO's love of Shakespeare can be traced back to the summer of 1970 when, at the age of 11, he watched—in awe—as his uncle, the late Robert Joyce (co-founder of The Theatre at Monmouth along with the late, great Dick Sewell) directed *Romeo and Juliet*.

As a playwright, his most recent productions include *God Less America* (2024), *Anonymous: a tale of Mary Shelley* (2023), and *Mars* (2022). His one-act, *Gloria Anderson*, won the "Audience Choice Award" at the Maine Playwrights Festival in 2019. His new full-length, *Alice's Threshold*, premieres this September 30th, starring Marie Stewart Harmon, Sean Ramey, and Tyler Costigan, and is directed by James Hoban. KO is thrilled to be acting—once again—alongside his dear friend, "Sir John," Michael Howard, and is honored to be directed by his longtime friend and collaborator—the sweet Peter Brown. KO is Henry Gabriel O'Leary's "Baba". Thank you for supporting free, local, professional theatre in Deering Oaks! Now, spread the word!

For Tina Packer.



OWEN PHILIP ARTHUR (he/him) as Sir Walter Blunt & Mortimer Fight Choreographer

Owen is absolutely thrilled to be making his Fenix Theatre debut, and only mildly mortified that said debut involves singing. A graduate of MMC's BFA Acting program, Owen has been performing in NYC, Nashville, and most recently Maine. Prior local credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (Paris), *Skylight* (Edward), and *The Lion in Winter* (John). When not acting and playing with swords, you can find him teaching at the rock climbing gym, studying for UNE DPT exams, and playing with swords. All love and thanks to the wonderful Crew, the Cast, and the Ferry folk.



HENRY IV, PART ONE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Peter Brown*

Music Director: Sam Finn Cutler

Fight Choreographers: Owen Philip Arthur & Drew Copeland

Stage Manager: Beth Somerville

Assistant Stage Manager & House Manager: Sara Schuldt

Production Manager: Shane Van Vliet*

Text & Dialect Coach: Kate Manfre*

Props Designer: Tiki Fuhro*

Sound Designer: Chris Fitze

Costume Designer: Kristina Skillin

Intimacy Coordinator: Hollie Pryor

Photography & Digital Marketing: Kat Moraros*

Park Support: *Fenix Board, Friends of Fenix Volunteers

SPECIAL THANKS

Temple Beth El, Portland Parks Department, Portland Stage, Ted Gallant, Elliot Nye, Lyric Music Theater, Waynflete School, Midcoast Youth Theatre, Portland Ovations, Kat Moraros Photography, Patricia Mulholland & Steven Fox

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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Adele Davidson Schwalberg Memorial Fund

Guesthouse Fund

Patricia Mulholland & Steven Fox

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FOR SUPPORTING FENIX THEATRE COMPANY
AND LOCAL MAINE ARTISTS

