

# *The Servant of Two Masters*

*Complete Victory*

Kerri Joann

# The Cast



**Jalen Wilson-Nelem (Truffaldino)** is a junior Acting major who's been in Facing Our Truth: 10- Minute Plays on Trayvon, Race, and Privilege; Macbeth, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Blood at the Root, and FAILURE: A Love Story (premiering on May 13th!). Servant has been challenging, exciting, and full of laughter; with those around him, he's inspired to push past his limits. He thanks friends and family for support, and giving him a reason to perform.



**Gwyneth Labine (Beatrice)** is a junior BFA Acting major at Oakland. Previous productions include Orlando and Appropriate. Gwyneth is so excited for everyone to see the show and is so happy to be part of such a wonderful cast for her first ever Outdoor arts festival! She would like to thank the cast, director and her family for supporting her through everything.



**Kyle Kiesler (Pantalone)** is a junior BFA Acting major at Oakland. He has been in James and the Giant Peach and Macbeth. Kyle is very excited to be doing an outdoor comedy in front of a live audience and hopes to entertain people during this chaotic time in history.



**Isabella Goff (Brighella)** is a junior BFA Acting major and this is her third production. Other shows at Oakland include Macbeth and Appropriate. She would like to thank her director and cast for being so dedicated, driven, and fun to work with throughout this process.



**Brady Jacot (Silvio)** is a freshman studying Acting, Music, and Communications. He is excited to be a part of this production and to work with so many talented individuals. This show has gotten him very “hyped up” about the next few years he will be spending in the Department of Theatre.



**Kassie Dunaj (Dottora)** This is Kassie’s second mainstage production at Oakland! She’s so excited to be sharing live theatre with her family and the rest of the community again. Kassie is a BFA Acting major in her junior year.



**Carleigh Ray (Smeraldina)** is a senior BFA Acting major. You may recognize her from her previous roles such as Officer Barrel in *Urinetown* or Pylades in *Orestes*. She would like to thank her professors, family and friends for all their constant love and support over the last four years.

**Connor Rajan (Florindo)** is a senior Acting major. You may have seen him in *The Seagull*, *Orestes*, *James and the Giant Peach*, or *Blue Stockings*. This is Connor's final play here, and he is thrilled to share this COVID-consciously staged show with all you! Connor thanks his professors for always having his back, and his mother for being the greatest, most powerful person he knows! He dedicates his performance to his late father, Ovig Rajan.



**Jane Lyszak (Clarice)** is in her third year at OU double majoring in Acting and Dance. She previously understudied *Witch One*, *Fleance*, *Young Siward*, and the Porter in *Macbeth* last Winter. After graduation she hopes to choreograph and direct.



Jane Lyszak



**Anna De Valois Konno (Porter/Waiter)** is thrilled to be working on *The Servant of Two Masters*! She is a Freshman BFA Acting major, and this is her second show with Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Anna would like to thank all involved for making this a wonderful experience and her loved ones for all their love and support.



**Haley Lucas (Porter/Waiter)** is an eager freshman BFA Acting major. This is her first show hopefully of many at Oakland. Haley has had an absolute blast playing the role of Porter/Waiter which she won't soon forget. Thanks to the whole cast and crew.

# The Crew

**TessaMarie Beard (Stage Manager)** is a senior BFA Theatre Design and Technology major. She has worked on many productions including The Who's Tommy and Macbeth and is very glad to be rounding off her time at Oakland with The Servant of Two Masters. She would like to thank the whole cast and production team for making this the perfect end to a wonderful 4 years.

**Colin Franz (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a sophomore BFA Theatre Design and Technology major. He's loved every step of the way on this show. It is his first experience as Stage Manager here and he is excited to continue the path. Colin is also interested in costume and scenic design and props.

**Eileen Brennan (Costume Designer)** is a third year BFA Theatre Design and Technology major. Although The Servant of Two Masters is her first realized main stage design, she was the lighting designer for The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (cancelled due to Covid-19, but she still had fun with the team!!!) and master electrician for Macbeth. This show has helped her creative flexibility. Eileen wants to thank her friends, family and wonderful boyfriend for their support throughout this process. She's looking forward to studying and making art with her theatre family next year.

**Kerri Joann (Dramaturge/Assistant Director)** is a double major in Acting and History, and is very grateful for having the opportunity to work as the Dramaturg for The Servant of Two Masters. She is glad to be able to finish her time at OU with such an amazing show!

**Graham Devier (Sound Designer)** is currently a senior BFA Theatre Design and Technology major with a focus in video, projections, and lighting design. He is the scenic designer for How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (hiding behind the Servant set—come see it!). Graham was also the sound designer for Urinetown and projection designer for Macbeth and the opera program's Dialogues of the Carmelites.

**Myth Parks (Props Master)** is a sophomore BFA Theatre Design and Technology major at Oakland. She assisted electrics for Macbeth last year and was a Scenic Artist for Blue Stockings. Myth has an interest in playwriting and props.

**Rachel Daigneault (Scenic Designer)** is a third-year BFA Theatre Design and Technology major. Her interests are painting, lighting, and stage management. She was an intern at Hope Summer Repertory. Her favorite university projects are The Who's Tommy, The Old Man and the Old Moon, and West Side Story. The Servant of Two Masters is her first scenic design and she's thankful to be working with such wonderful, diligent accomplices and friends.

# *Background Information and Explanations*

# What is Commedia dell'Arte and Why Does it Matter?

Commedia dell'Arte was one of the earliest forms of professional theatre in Italy that came about around the 1500's. It involved a group of archetype characters that had specific characteristics and wants, and the actors would take those characteristics and improvise a show. It usually revolved around The Lover's wanting to be together but their parents disapproving, and the servants getting involved in funny ways to help them. The Servant of Two Masters follows a similar plot, and its characters are based on original Commedia characters.



# Goldoni and Commedia

During the mid-1700's when the play was written, theatre in Italy was seeing a decline due to the fact that there was social and political unrest, as well as a growing wealth gap in the country. Goldoni (the playwright of *The Servant of Two Masters*) wanted to revitalize theatre. And he did so by using the Commedia characters and story format to write a full play in order to bring people together to enjoy theatre and laugh once more. This plan worked as it gained the public interest in theatre again, and it brought joy to people during a time that was difficult.

# Masks

In Commedia the actors would wear distinct masks that represented the characters they were playing. They had fixed expressions and were able to be seen from long distances. But Goldoni decided that for his shows he did not want the the actors to wear masks as he wanted them to be able to have an array of expressions, and be able to have a real connection with each other and with the audience. Goldoni strived for realism in acting and emotion that was not seen prior in Commedia or styles that were influenced by Commedia. And in our current lives we've been wearing masks as a way to keep ourselves and other safe. But in doing so we have also found that emoting with our faces has had to change and adjust when interacting with people, as our mouths are covered from view.

# Mask Examples



Arlecchino/ Harlequin (Truffaldino)



Colombina (Smeraldina)



Pantalone



Il Dottore (La Dottora)



Brighella



Innamorati (The Lovers)  
Often did not wear masks, but  
instead wore heavy makeup  
and extravagant costumes

# Thank You!



*“Oh, hello. What a handsome little portrait. Who is it? I feel like I know this person, but I have no idea who it is. He looks a bit like my master Florindo, only much smaller”-  
Truffaldino*

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