OUTCRY Youth THEATRE

ROSENCRANTZ  &  GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

by **Tom Stoppard**

JULY 31-AUGUST 9

The Addison
Performing Arts Centre
Studio Theatre

There will be two ten-minute intermissions

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com

CREW

Directed by
Becca Johnson-Spinos

Stage Managed by
Marisa Saenz

Set Design by
Caleb Ross

Costumes by
Lisa James and Marisa Saenz

Lighting Design by
Jason Johnson-Spinos

Props by
Shayla Holub-Sachdev

Ticket Coordinator: Sally Smith

Volunteer Coordinator: Marian Neleson

Playbill Assistance: Shayla Holub-Sachdev

Cast Party & Gifts Coordinator: Shayla Holub-Sachdev

Production Photography by Jennifer Garcia

Special Thanks: DeWayne Ross, Dan Knoff,
Corbin Ross, Kathryn Ross, Lucas Vandiver,
MrJim and Sue Johnson, and the staff of The Addison

CAST

ROSENCRANTZ
Liam Paynter
Madeline Knoff

GUILDENSTERN
Parker Lindsay
Renee Neleson

THE PLAYER
Apache Browne
Melody Ma

HAMLET
Achilles Witt
Aly Dominguez

CLAUDIUS/ALFRED
Collin O'Keefe
Eli Gibson

POLONIUS/HORATIO
Annie Dominguez
Kensley James

GERTRUDE/OPHELIA
Harley Gathings
Priya Sachdev

SOLDIER/AMBASSADOR
Allie Retta

BIOGRAPHIES



Apache Brown (The Player) is a Hebron High School graduate. This is his tenth show with Ms. Becca. He is thankful for the cast and crew for giving him the opportunity to be a part of this show, for the learning experience, and for the support from his family, friends, and at least 19 fans.



Aly Dominguez (Hamlet) is a rising sophomore at Trinity Christian Academy. This is her 23rd production with Outcry! Her favorite past roles include Teen Fiona (*Shrek),* Olive (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee),* and Grandma (*A Monster Calls*). When not on stage, she enjoys singing, playing instruments, and reading. She thanks her parents for their love and support, Ms. Becca for all her amazing work and for being an incredible director, and the entire cast/crew for all of their dedication!



Annie Dominguez (Polonius/Horatio) is a rising freshman at Trinity Christian Academy. This is her 24th production with Outcry. Some of her favorite past roles include Belle (*Beauty & the Beast Jr.*) and Matilda (*Matilda Jr.*). When not on stage, she enjoys singing, reading, and playing the piano. She thanks her parents for all of their support, Ms. Becca for being an amazing director, and the entire cast and crew for all of their hard work and dedication!



Harley Gathings (Ophelia/Gertrude) is a sophomore at Forney High School, making her thrilling debut with Outcry Youth Theatre. While she hasn't been in many shows yet, Harley is fascinated by the psychology of performance and loves the magic of bringing a character to life. She is fueled by the excitement of this first production and looks forward to many more. She sends endless gratitude to Ms. Becca, the cast, her family, and friends for making this such a happy, memorable first experience.



Eli Gibson (Claudius/Alfred) is 15 years old and has appeared in 18 productions with Outcry Youth Theatre. Favorite roles include Black Dog in *Off to Treasure Island*, Gollum in *The Hobbit*, and Mrs. Bumbrake in *Peter and the Starcatcher.* Eli is also a film actor, writer, and editor working with The Performers Edge. He enjoys playing games with his friends and making people laugh. Eli is a proud member of J-Squad and Becca's Army. He would like to thank Ms. Becca for helping him grow as an actor.

BIOGRAPHIES



Kensley James (Polonius/Horatio) is excited to participate in this production. Kensley is in the 9th grade and 14 years old; she is enjoying the fast-paced world of drama. This is her 25th show with Outcry. One of her favorite performances was as Meg in *A Wrinkle in Time* directed by Jason Johnson-Spinos. When not at rehearsal, she loves to spend time with her friends and family. She would like to thank Ms. Becca for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this exciting production.



Madeline Knoff (Rosencrantz) is an eleventh grader honored to perform in her 37th production with Outcry Theatre. Her favorite roles include Roxane (*Cyrano*), Brutus (*Julius Caesar*), The Witch (*Into the Woods*), Evelyn (*Jekyll & Hyde*), Mad Hatter (*Alice in Wonderland*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Leanne (*Puffs*). She is grateful to her family and friends for their support and thanks her brilliant director, Ms. Becca, along with the amazing cast and crew, for this incredible adventure.



Parker Lindsay (Guildenstern) is in the show. This is his 14th production with Outcry Theatre. His favorite past roles include Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* and Cyrano in *Cyrano*. When not on stage, he figure skates and does those spinny turns they do.



Melody Ma (The Player) is a 16-year-old international student from China. This is her fifth show with Outcry and she's grateful she got to go through the process with her friends! She would like to thank her parents and guardians for supporting her, her double for making everything fun, and her castmates for a great show!

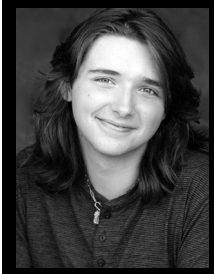


Renee Neleson (Guildenstern) is in 11th grade at Frisco High School. This is her 17th stage production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Some of Renee's favorite past roles include White Rabbit (*Alice in Wonderland*), Jim Hawkins (*Off to Treasure Island*), and Meg (*A Wrinkle in Time*). When not on stage, she enjoys sewing and baking. Renee would like to thank her parents for their love and support.

BIOGRAPHIES



Collin O'Keefe (Claudius/Alfred) is about to be a senior in high school. This is his first show here at Outcry and he hopes you enjoy the show!



Liam Paynter (Rosencrantz) will be pursuing a BFA in Acting at Missouri State University in the fall. This is his last show with Outcry Youth. Favorite past roles include Black Stache *(Peter and the Starcatcher)*, Bottom *(A Midsummer Night's Dream)*, Barfee *(Spelling Bee),* and Farquaad (*Shrek).* He would like to thank Becca and Jason for the many amazing opportunities over the past 7 years and for fostering his passion for theatre. Liam would also like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.



Allie Retta (Soldier/Ambassador) is an eighth grader at Haggard Middle School and is excited to return to the Outcry Youth Theatre stage for her 14th production. Favorite past roles include Mack in *Peter and the Starcatcher* and Tad in *Finding Nemo Jr.* She is a proud member of both J-Squad and Becca's Army. Allie thanks her parents for their endless love and support—and her rescue dog, Jack, who still hasn't figured out what theater is but remains her most enthusiastic fan.



Priya Sachdev (Gertrude/Ophelia) starts at Vines High School this fall. Favorite past roles: Demeter (*Cats*), Rebecca Gibbs (*Our Town*), Peach (*Finding Nemo*), Lavender (*Matilda*), and White Mouse (Tuzer Ballet's Nutcracker). She has trained with Tuzer Ballet for 11 years and is in their Senior Company. She studies film acting with Performer's Edge and is represented by the Horne Agency. She would like to thank Ms. Becca, all the volunteers, and her family for their support.



Achilles Witt (Hamlet) is a junior at the Einstein School. They are beyond excited to take on this iconic role in such an iconic show. Favorite past roles include Mrs Whatsit in *A Wrinkle in Time*, Celeste in *Jekyll + Hyde*, Long John Silver in *Off to Treasure Island*, and Mina Murry in *Dracula*. This is their 16th show with Outcry and 31st theatre production. They would like to thank Ms. Becca for being so supportive and trusting them with such an amazing role, and their parents, who stood by their side no matter what.

BIOGRAPHIES

Becca Johnson-Spinos (Director/Choreographer) is the Artistic Director of Outcry Theatre. Becca has a BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University and an MFA in Directing for Theatre from Baylor University. In North Carolina, Becca worked at Burning Coal Theatre Company as an assistant to the Artistic Director, an assistant director, and an actor. In the Dallas area, she has directed dozens of shows and was named one of the Best Directors for 2018 by John Garcia for Outcry Theatre's production of *Spring's Awakening*.

BECCA'S SYNOPSIS OF HAMLET

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is widely considered one of the greatest plays of all time, and has been performed countless times all over the world to great acclaim. It is the longest of Shakespeare's plays, and Hamlet speaks more lines than any other Shakespearean character. Within that play are two comedic side characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern - and in this version of the story, they are the main characters. But - to understand R*osencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* it is useful to have an understanding of the plot of *Hamlet*.

Prince Hamlet returns to Elsinore from school to attend the funeral of his father, King Hamlet. Hamlet's Uncle Claudius, in haste, has both married his mother, Gertrude, and taken the Danish throne. Hamlet bemoans his father's death and his mother's hasty remarriage. The Ghost of Hamlet's father appears to him (and his friend Horatio) and tells him that he was murdered by Claudius and to avenge his death. Hamlet confides to Horatio that he plans to feign madness and that he is uncertain of the ghost's reliability.

Ophelia has been wooed by Hamlet, though both her father, Polonius, and her brother, Laertes, encourage her to reject his advances. Ophelia tells her father that Hamlet appeared in her chamber and acted erratically and Polonius is convinced Hamlet is mad with love. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Hamlet's friends, arrive and are instructed to spy on him and "glean what afflicts him." Hamlet immediately realizes that they are there to spy on him, and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern let him know that a theatre troupe has arrived at Elsinore.

Hamlet enlists the Players to perform *The Murder of Gonzago*, a play featuring a murder that resembles the death of his father. Hamlet's plan is to gauge Cladius's reaction to the play to see if he is guilty of the murder. Polonius orders Ophelia to return Hamlet's love tokens while he and Claudius spy on them, and Hamlet denies that he ever loved her. The court assembles to watch the play that Hamlet has commissioned and Claudius abruptly rises and leaves the room - leading Hamlet to determine that he is guilty of the murder.

In the Queen's bedchamber, Gertrude and Hamlet fight. Polonius, while spying on the encounter behind a curtain, is murdered by Hamlet. King Claudius sends Hamlet to England with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern with a sealed letter to the English king requesting that Hamlet be executed.

Ophelia is driven mad by her father's death, and her brother Laertes witnesses her madness. Claudius convinces Laertes that Hamlet is responsible for her madness, and he agrees to a duel with Hamlet where he will stab him with a poison-tipped sword. If that plan fails, Claudius will offer him a poisoned cup of wine. Gertrude arrives with news that Ophelia has drowned herself.

Hamlet returns to Denmark, and agrees to a fencing challenge between him and Laertes. Gertrude toasts to him with the poison wine. Laertes slashes Hamlet with the poisoned blade, and in the scuffle Hamlet takes Laertes sword and stabs both him and Claudius. Hamlet dies in Horatio's arms and charges him to tell his story. An ambassador from England arrives to reveal that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead, in accordance with the order they received from King Claudius. Horatio reveals that Claudius never gave that order, and says that if they will listen he will tell them the whole story.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS

GUMDROP and the SPACE ORPHANS

by **Jason Johnson-Spinos**

Ages 10-15
Auditions **August 3 & 5, 2026**
Performs **October 16-25, 2026**

Cox Playhouse in downtown Plano
directed by Jason Johnson-Spinos

Gumdrop and her friends are on the run. They stole a spaceship, fled their orphanage, and are searching the universe for Gumdrop's brother. After escaping a blood-thirsty crowd of angry aliens, they make it to the planet Lorium, ruled over by Iris, a strange woman who seems to be everywhere they go. The populace of Lorium all seem to be under a strange spell, and Gumdrop's brother has no desire to leave. The spell threatens to take over Gumdrop and the girls as well, their old headmaster from the orphanage is in pursuit, and the small family Gumdrop and her friends have made is coming apart.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS



by **Tom Wright**

Ages 12-18
Auditions **August 21, 2026**
Performs **November 13-22, 2026**

The Addison Performing Arts Centre
Studio Theatre
directed by Becca Johnson-Spinos

Arriving from his East Midlands beginnings into a London thick with the grime of industrialization, Joseph Merrick is an anomaly. In a city of factories that churn out uniformity, there is no place for someone like him. But Merrick and the city are evolving into something new. We follow him through the workhouse, the freak show and the hospital, as he searches for acceptance in a society that just wants to stare at him.

Powerful, angry and surprising, Tom Wright's acclaimed play imagines an alternative history of the person who came to be known as "the Elephant Man." It restores Joseph Merrick to the centre of his own story: a man fighting for his right to be and to belong.

In addition to Merrick, it also features an incredible cast of mostly female characters in Joseph's life – including a Ringmaster, a famous actress, and a dying woman, amongst many others.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION



A musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney film
Original Music & Lyrics by **Richard M. Sherman & Robert B. Sherman**
Book by **Julian Fellowes**
New Songs & Add'l Music & Lyrics by **George Stiles & Anthony Drewe**

Performs **September 11-20, 2026**

Courtyard Theater
in downtown Plano
directed and choregraphed by Becca Johnson-Spinos
music directed by Cindy Johnston

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

2025-2026 SEASON SUPPORTERS

MAJOR SUPPORTERS $10,000+

City of Plano
Govenar Family Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas
Texas Commission on the Arts
Town of Addison

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Emily Moore
The Neleson Family
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The Rorem and Million Family
Carmen Toal
Kelly Walton

SUPPORTERS
$10 - $99

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Steve Champion
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Connie Elledge
Kate Fendley
Leo Genyuk
Melissa Gibson
Jeanne Good
Robert Green
Maria Guevara
The Hampton Family
Caitlin Harrell
Wanee Hellums
Megan Joseph
Gene Lavergne
Douglas Lee
Jeanie Luttrell
Riley McClaren
Collin Miller
The Miller Family
Nimisha Pachory
Martin Palacios
Glen Rose
Karsten Schaffhauser
Shannon Sexton
Galen Smith
Suzanne Thomas
Johnathan Thornton
Marie Vaughn
M Evan Willis
Ellen Zeisler

If your name is incorrect or missing, please contact us at outcrytheatre@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Outcry Theatre strives to draw youth and young adults from Plano and the surrounding areas to the theatre as both audience and participants, integrating the arts into their lives, and encouraging them to become lifelong artists and arts appreciators.

ABOUT OUTCRY THEATRE

Outcry Theatre utilizes bold artistic vision, highly physical staging, and an energetic and visceral performance style. With rigorous rehearsals, tenacious attention to detail, and unwavering dedication to excellence, Outcry Theatre focuses on developing stellar performances and exceptional storytelling.

Outcry Theatre serves the Plano community and surrounding DFW area through professional productions; Outcry Reads, presenting works in development by local playwrights; the Outcry Community Theatre program, involving people of all ages; and the Outcry Youth Theatre program, educating students ages 5-18.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Artistic Director
Becca Johnson-Spinos
Marketing Director
Jason Johnson-Spinos
Bookkeeper
Jim Guiou

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Outcry Theatre is funded in part by the City of Plano,
the Govenar Family Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas,
the Texas Commision on the Arts, and the Town of Addison.

Plano

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ADDISON

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