



CAT's 26th Annual NYC Student Shakespeare Festival began with 29 classes from 17 schools. When Covid-19 forced us all to stay home, a few of our partner schools needed to step back – focusing on keeping students engaged and learning new technologies – and return next year, when we all look forward to being back in the wonderful Lucille Lortel Theatre.

We pushed forward and, in partnership with 16 teachers and 211 students from 17 classes in 8 schools, we created the virtual Festival you will see in the following pages.

CAT's NYC Student Shakespeare Festival Team:

Co-Festival Directors & Teaching Artists:

Laura Butler Rivera, Javier González, David Skeist

NYCSSF Program Manager:

Krista Fogle

NYCSSF is sponsored by:

The **NYC Department of Cultural Affairs** and **NYS Council on the Arts** with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NYS Legislature, with additional support from **Penguin Group USA**, **The Lucille Lortel Foundation**, **NYC Department of Education**, and **Participating Schools:**

Brooklyn College Academy
Business Technology Early College HS (5 classes)
Cobble Hill School of American Studies (2 classes)
Convent of the Sacred Heart (3 classes)
Energy Tech High School
HERO High
Information Technology High School
International High School at LaGuardia Community College

The Laurel Hill School
Muscota New School PS 314
PS 212 Q
PS 316 Elijah G. Stroud (4 classes)
The Renaissance Charter School
The Waterside Children's Studio School PS 317
William E. Grady Career & Technical Education High School
York Early College Academy (3 classes)



Special thanks to:

Brian Donnelly, Laura Shedd, Chris Tokar, Dr. Jeanne Houck,
and to all of our amazing teachers, whether they stuck with us or bowed out, they're all superheroes.

For more information about the NYC Student Shakespeare Festival, visit www.CATShakespeare.org

Story of Your Life

ADAPTED FROM: *The Tempest, Hamlet, King Lear*

CREATED BY: Brooklyn College Academy

DIRECTED BY: Debra Ehara

ILLUSTRATIONS BY: Keyanna Weston and Nyanza Charles

Is hope a lie that harms us or does it help us persevere?

Story of Your Life is an immigration story about a family torn apart by ICE officers. The whole family is headed to the New World but are met at the Customs Office by ICE officers who separate the mother and father from their two children. The mother and father are sent to a detention center and the children are left alone. The play asks the question, "Is hope a lie that harms us or does it help us persevere?"

[Click here for Story of Your Life](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Donya Sanderson
Fahmidah Islam
Faith Cumberbatch
Jacqueline Tiros Lezama
James Duong

Jeremiah Boney
Julie Pinargote
Keyanna Weston
Kyle Irving
Laury Benjamin

Nyanza Charles
Oluomachi Uwakwe
Rayne Byard
Saadiya Taylor

A special thanks for the whole CAT Organization, especially Javier Gonzalez, David Skeist, Laura Butler Rivera, and Krista Fogle for encouraging us to complete our piece, despite the many obstacles. Completing the piece was a reminder of the healing power of art and the joy of collaboration.

The Old Future

ADAPTED FROM: *Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, Richard II, Coriolanus*

CREATED BY: Business Technology Early College High School (BTECH)

DIRECTED BY: Susan Friedenburg

ASSISTED BY: Alice Browne

EDITED BY: Isaiah David

A failed experiment has created a global pandemic. A group of teenagers travel back in time to stop the pandemic before it started. Visiting a laboratory, a restaurant and a zoo, the teenagers finally find the source of the pandemic, but will they be able to stop it on time?

[Click here for The Old Future](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Eddie Asitimbay
Erum Bokhari
Javier Cuate

Isaiah David
Kezia Dillon
Kenan Esso

Laiba Hamayoun
Adam Mangar
Rajkumarie Nandalall

Thanks to our amazing teaching artists, David and Javier, who worked endlessly to help us pull this off!

Lady M's Quest • These Dreams that Shake us Nightly • Prophecy

ADAPTED FROM: *MacBeth*

CREATED BY: Convent of the Sacred Heart

DIRECTED BY: Rebecca Ashley

[Click here for Lady M's Quest, These Dreams that Shake us Nightly, and Prophecy](#)

Lady M's Quest

What does it take for a woman to hold power over a man?

4Q's brainstorm resulted in many discussions about women and power. We know how hard women have had to work to have their voices heard. We were sympathetic to Lady MacBeth, and wondered if she had conspired with the witches. After all, they had a source of power that she didn't. In our film, we explore how Lady M might have worked with the witches to set MacBeth on the course to seek Duncan's throne.

ENSEMBLE:

Lillian (Lily) Carlson	Anne Moores (Anne) Mikolasko	Blake Seith
Emmi Chuard	Andrea Moraleda	Mia Stadelmaier
Sophie Corner	Emilie Paillat	Felicity Strauss
Jeanne Melanie Facchini Munné	Isabella (Bella) Ramirez	Zahra Toure
Isabella Gonzalez	Sarah Rodriguez	Olivia Tucker
Mary Louise (Lulu) Koch	Lucia Romano	Mei Scott (Mei Mei) Van Bergh

These Dreams that Shake us Nightly

Can the guilt someone feels become a living nightmare?

When 4K was working on our concept, we got hooked on the idea of nightmares. MacBeth references many times in the text that he has trouble sleeping after all of the terrible things he does. Our film takes you into a nightmare that we imagined MacBeth might have right after he kills King Duncan. The dream convinces MacBeth to cover his tracks in another murderous plot- by murdering his best friend, Banquo. We begin where we left off: with Lady M calling on the spirits to invoke cruelty.

ENSEMBLE:

Bailey Averett	Elisa Guzman	Mariana (Mari) Paiva
Sofia Bacidore	Zara Hansen	Ella (Ellie) Rodgers
Charlotte Bonner	Julia Harris	Brooke Saracco
Veronica Carhart	Courtney Iagrossi	Ann French Trumbo
Natalina Giammarco	Corinne Lessar	Leigh Westergaard
Ashton Gibbins	Naomi Mykoniatis	

Lady M's Quest • These Dreams that Shake us Nightly • Prophecy (continued)

ADAPTED FROM: *MacBeth*

CREATED BY: **Convent of the Sacred Heart**

DIRECTED BY: **Rebecca Ashley**

[Click here for Lady M's Quest, These Dreams that Shake us Nightly, and Prophecy](#)

Prophecy

Would seeing your future self change how you live your life?

Our final film comes to you from 4B. After 4B's initial brainstorm, we were really into the idea of prophecy, and what it means to know your future. In our film, MacBeth repeatedly sees a ghostly version of himself contemplating his various crimes. Desperate to know how things will turn out, he goes to the witches, who show him 3 prophecies. While he learns how to guard himself against MacDuff, he can't be protected from seeing the harm he does to his friend's family and his wife's mental state.

ENSEMBLE:

Anna Bengtson
Valentina Grace Fraiberger
Arianna Frangos
Lila Gambrell
Claire Healy

Livia Hurlock
Victoria Manice
Eleanor Minias
Arden Muldoon
Suhaila O'Dowd

Caroline Riley
Allegra Rosania
Julia Tyree
Georgiana (Georgia) Ursano

Thanks to Laura Butler Rivera (also see credits at end of our film)

Remember Thy Friends

ADAPTED FROM: *Coriolanus, Midsummer Night's Dream, Timons of Athens*

CREATED BY: **PS 316 Elijah G. Stroud**

DIRECTED BY: **Julie Kowalchick**

PROJECT STARTED/SUPPORTED BY: **Farzana Begum, Jayson Rund, Cilon Wilson, Jilian Weihs**

How does seeking popularity on a virtual platform affect human relationships?

Two friends become very competitive for fame on Tik Tok, causing them to lose what was most valuable: their friendship.

[Click here for Remember Thy Friends](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Kiley Bernard
Noah Blackman
Kai'lei Bishop
Jainna Cannon-Bright
Anric Carolino
Kaydeon Cedeno
Neko Curtis
London Davis
Chariah Demery

Meryem Demirovic
Taylor Hylton
T'Alicia Hinton
Raeleah Heusner
Mayah James
Darron James
Jada Joseph
Nyo Keenan-Gathing
Lauryn Killbrew-Dixon

Lenox LaRocque Nedd
Josiah Luxama
O'Ilijah Morales
Morris Nelson, Jr.
Aiden Nieves-Wilbur
Michelle O'Brien
Jesiah Perry
Nancy Revels
Saadiya Sealey

The Game's Afoot

ADAPTED FROM: *Henry IV, Antony & Cleopatra, Hamlet, King John, Macbeth, Richard III & II, All's Well that Ends Well*

CREATED BY: Energy Tech High School

DIRECTED BY: Brian Gold

How would the murder of a loved one and not knowing who did it affect your mental health?

The Game's Afoot is a horror story about a group of friends who go on a weekend getaway to decompress in the woods. They gather around a campfire to play a murder mystery game, but when the game begins, the friends realize that something isn't right. Their murder mystery game becomes reality and their mental health is tested as stress heightens, paranoia sets in, and their getaway becomes a hope of getting away.

[Click here for The Game's Afoot](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Daniel A.	Arafat H.	Camila M. G.	Omir T.
Jennifer A.	Tahomid K.	Norman N.	Martin Y.
Rajiv D.	Tom M.	Mikyle O.	

Thanks to Matt Flood, Hope Barter, Bethany Antonelli, Antonette Bartelucci, the Staff of Energy Tech

Hold Me Not, Let Me Go

ADAPTED FROM: *Romeo & Juliet, Othello*

CREATED BY: HERO High

DIRECTED BY: Rachel Brill & Mia Gorla

How can a scarred history of repetitive injustice change in the present for a peaceful future?

Hold Me Not, Let Me Go is about an interracial couple who find themselves racially attacked at a peaceful protest for Michael Brown. And while also witnessing a violent injustice Flashbacks of past occurrences highlight the repetition of Racial Injustice. Until Juliet voices her thoughts and change occurs for the better; Leading to a peaceful future for their child.

[Click here for Hold Me Not, Let Me Go](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Miguel Acevedo	Mohamed Elnage	Damariz K Lopez	Katherina Reynoso
Arly Acuria	Jacqueline Faux	Kayla Lukle	Araceli Rodriguez
Dewan Al Adiath	Diamond Flowers	Nasya Marcano	David Rodriguez
Areli Bautista	Mariama Fofana	Andrea Martinez	Matthew Rodriguez
Thierno Barry	Cory Freeman	Andy Martinez	Devika Roopnarain
Destiny Bay	Massias Gallop	Oscar Martinez	Aleksandro Roman Rosendo
Ethan Bones	Genesis Grullon	Tamisha Mena	Fatou Saho
Francis Catalano	Destinee Holloman	Yahaira Natal	Charizma Simpkins
Deborah Coller	Matthews Jamilla	Appiahkubi Nana	Miya Velez
Destiny Cruz Nava	Matthew Javier	Nyequa Ndiaye	Myranda Velez
Alanis Davila Garcia	Ariel Jimenez Ramos	Celeste Ortiz	Brian Volquez
Sandesh Dyer	Purindra Lall	Jaylen Perlata	Debra Wilkes
Rachel David	Chrisleidy Lopez	Winglis Polanco	Desiree Wright
Sekuoumar Diakite			

Fairy Tale Feud

ADAPTED FROM: *As You Like It*

CREATED BY: Muscota New School PS 314

DIRECTED BY: Dayna Beegun

ASSISTED BY: Carolyn Silverberg, Shelly Feldman Sussler, Tara Mooney

A pessimistic owl and her friend, an optimistic tree, tell the story of how one day their eternal argument was interrupted by a grouchy old man and a fool in the forest.

[Click here for Fairy Tale Feud](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Aaliyah Bello	Elsie Davis	Koko Onuma
Everett Benjamin	Dargenys Delacruz	Lily Perez
Clementine Bennett-Villari	Emiliano Dietrich-Jiménez	Andy Quiroz
Madison Bostick	Ilaria Hawley	Sherli Reye
Anais de Brousse	Santiago Jimenez	Leah Sanchez
Mabel Byrne	Zoe Lam	Nina Skelton
Ashley Casao	Vera Levy	Ziomara Smith
Maximus Cato	Lucia Moreno	Flora Vivar

Thanks to the one and only David Skeist, dramaturge extraordinaire!

Spies in Disguise

ADAPTED FROM: *Winter's Tale, Twelfth Night*

CREATED BY: The Waterside Children's Studio School PS 317

DIRECTED BY: Denise Getchius-Staines

How do you find hope in the face of uncertainty?

A group of Spies hides in disguise, inside a dark room. Outside, the Opposing Army, awaits the right moment to break in. After capturing the spies, the army's efforts to obtain a ransom are put to a stop. Amidst some confusion about her intentions, a double agent helps the spies break free. The opposing army's leader is so furious, that she throws her own army into jail and during the spies' celebration, the double agent is truly revealed.

[Click here for Spies in Disguise](#)

ENSEMBLE:

Natalie Crespo	Leah Krasowsky	Julissa Sanchez	Rachel Johnstone
Tessa Francis	CJ Krzciuk	Sophia Zabava	Erin Kenton
Ruth Gilliam	Sasha Novetsky	Lillie Zurheide	Jaelyn Soto
Ashley Benitez	N'Dya Nunez	Eliana Baez	Cereza Brenes
Isabella Cohen	Haileyana Pacheco	Geelad Weinstein	Gala Pinto
Stella Francis	Maria Riley	Namoi Gilliam	Noah Krzciuk

Thanks to Ms. Gerendasi, our principal, for making Shakespeare a part of our school, Mrs. Camuti for making sure our technology platform went smoothly, and all of our actors' parents – for without their help on the other side of the screen we would have had no wifi troubleshooting, no google meet reminders, and no actors to perform!!