THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION 40TH ANNIVERSARY
National Shakespeare Competition 2023

THE STANLEY H. KAPLAN PENTHOUSE, SAMUEL B. & DAVID ROSE BUILDING
165 W 65TH ST, NEW YORK, NY
Lincoln Center, New York City | April 24
## 2023 Contestants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contestant Name</th>
<th>ESU Branch</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Logan Yates</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Tracey Buot</td>
<td>St. Pius X Catholic High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Kelsey Barnes</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>Charles Hobby</td>
<td>Round Rock High School</td>
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<td>3. Crystaliz Frometa</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Juliet Bailey</td>
<td>The Rivers School</td>
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<td>4. Casey Kerr</td>
<td>Central Florida</td>
<td>Gail Chase</td>
<td>Lake Nona High School</td>
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<td>5. Ashley Sheffe</td>
<td>Central Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Doug Hewlett</td>
<td>Carlisle High School</td>
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<td>6. Violet Craghead-Way</td>
<td>Charlottesville</td>
<td>David Becker</td>
<td>Charlottesville High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Tyler Riederer</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Wes Schultz</td>
<td>Brookfield Academy</td>
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<td>8. Vivian Megenhardt</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Scott Sumerak</td>
<td>Shaker Heights High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Gracie Tyson</td>
<td>Colonial NC</td>
<td>Kristine Boccia</td>
<td>J.H. Rose High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Ben Feldman</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Shawn Hann</td>
<td>Denver School of the Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. CJ Clemons</td>
<td>E-Branch</td>
<td>Carol Spears</td>
<td>South Broward High School</td>
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<td>13. Eli Zirolli</td>
<td>Greenwich</td>
<td>Amy Mahoney</td>
<td>Hall High School</td>
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<td>14. Elena Hollenbeak</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Lyn Ackerman</td>
<td>St. Andrew's Schools - The Priory</td>
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<td>15. Pierre Beatrix Madlangbayan</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Alice / Robyn Hilt</td>
<td>Garden City High School</td>
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<td>16. Sarai Aboagye</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Claire LaNicca</td>
<td>Campbell County High School</td>
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<td>17. Aidan Casey</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Cecille Deason</td>
<td>Turner Ashby High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Stella Cockrum</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>William Goldyn</td>
<td>Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Abigail Petit</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>Heather Wall</td>
<td>Shanan Homeschool Co-op</td>
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<td>20. Theo Ciperski</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>Jessica Fox</td>
<td>Gulliver Prep</td>
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<td>21. Syed Shah-Batiz</td>
<td>Tuscon</td>
<td>Shannon Kerstetter</td>
<td>Mountain View High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Claire Liotta</td>
<td>Monmouth County, NJ</td>
<td>Smita Ganatra</td>
<td>Glen Ridge High School</td>
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<td>Tucker Claremont</td>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>Amy Carvelli</td>
<td>Community School of Naples</td>
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<td>Jacob West</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Gary Mendoza</td>
<td>Covington High School</td>
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<td>Nicole Beverly Chien</td>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>John Anderson</td>
<td>The Rudolph Steiner School</td>
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<td>Jackson McCormick</td>
<td>Oklahoma &amp; W. Arkansas (Tulsa)</td>
<td>Rebekah Peddy</td>
<td>Cascia Hall</td>
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<td>Zoe Cano</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>Gretchen Porro</td>
<td>Cascia Hall</td>
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<td>Lucy Shea</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Tom MacFarlane</td>
<td>Friends’ Central School</td>
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<td>Clara Newton</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Shira Schwartz</td>
<td>Basha High School</td>
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<td>TJ Lake</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Danielle Potter</td>
<td>McMinnville High School</td>
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<td>Leah Waessa</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>Scott Pateson</td>
<td>Livingston High School</td>
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<td>Ali Patalano</td>
<td>Research Triangle, NC</td>
<td>Laura Levine</td>
<td>Apex High School</td>
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<td>Elisa DaRosa</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Deloris Grant</td>
<td>Central Falls High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayush Gupta</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Heidi Handelsman</td>
<td>Pacific Ridge High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Salazar</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Michele Sanner</td>
<td>Novato High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faithlyn Volitis</td>
<td>Sandhills, NC</td>
<td>Chase Coston</td>
<td>Union Pines</td>
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<td>Leah Horan</td>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td>Jonathan Cook</td>
<td>Savannah Arts Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milo Mechem-Miller</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Daniela Melgar</td>
<td>Mercer Island High School</td>
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<td>Anka Chiorini</td>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>Joseph DeChick</td>
<td>Jamesville-DeWitt High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiera Kuehnle</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Amy Byroad</td>
<td>Catalina Foothills High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ele Rocha</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Donavan Arizmendi</td>
<td>The Madeira School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Semi-Finals Schedule  9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The Judges

Reese Antoinette, Actress and Interdisciplinary Artist
Diana Green, Performing Artist, Writer, and Money Coach
Melinda Hall, Director, Actor, Producer
Tyler Moss, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Shakespeare Forum

Program

Welcome
Karen Karpowich, Executive Director of ESU

Introduction of the judges and competition rules

Semifinal Competition
Contestants present a monologue and sonnet
First Session: 1-14
Second Session: 15-28
Third Session: 29-41

Judges retire to deliberate
Finals Schedule  4:00 – 6:00 PM

The Judges

James Elliot, Actor and Director
Dana Ivey, Actor
Catherine Loomis, Professor and Author
Sarah Topham, Actor

Program

Welcome
Karen Karpowich, Executive Director of ESU

Introduction of the judges and competition rules

Final Competition
Contestants present a monologue and sonnet

Judges retire to deliberate

People’s Choice Award
Sponsored by the ESU Cleveland Branch

Announcement of Winners
Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Chairman, ESU

Presentation of Prizes
THIRD PLACE: Cash prize of $1,000
SECOND PLACE: American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp
FIRST PLACE: British American Drama Academy Mid-Summer Conservatory Program

Presentation of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition Cup
Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Chairman, ESU

Closing Remarks
Program subject to change
ESU NSC Judges

Reese Antoinette
Actress and Interdisciplinary Artist

Reese Antoinette is a Caribbean-American actress and interdisciplinary artist. She is currently a recurring guest star on Apple TV’s Bad Monkey (Spring 2023), and in RICKY, a short film debuting at Sundance Film Festival 2023. Reese has been an advocate for women, immigrants and youth empowerment in New York City for over a decade. She also served as the Graduate Student Senator, and Head of Diversity for NYU Student Government. Reese is a graduate of NYU Tisch MFA in Acting, British American Drama Academy at Oxford University, and Manhattan College BA in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in music. She is the co-founder of The ORIXA Project, An immersive theatrical experience that explores black women narratives throughout time and space in VR and AR technology. She is currently an Artist-in-Residence at Columbia University: Barnard College’s Movement Lab.

James Elliot
Actor and Director

With over three decades of acting and directing under his belt, Jim Elliott has happily worked on 14 of Shakespeare’s plays. Some of his more memorable acting roles include Petruchio, Hamlet, Romeo and Cassio. He started his directing career with As You Like It, before moving onto critically successful runs of A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Twelfth Night. In addition to Shakespeare, Jim currently teaches Shakespeare at the Actor’s Studio Drama School at Pace University and The Terry Knickerbocker Studio in Brooklyn. He also teaches acting, scene study and film acting at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and speech and presentation at The Cooper Union. Jim was the Producing Director at Urban Empire, during which time he premiered Jonathan Marc Sherman’s Evolution. He directed the ABC Diversity showcase for two years and directs regularly with the Three Graces Theater Co., Including the premiere of Craig Pospisil’s Dissonance which was just published in the Best Short Plays of 2011 by Applause Books. Jim has produced one feature length and two short films. He is the screenwriter, producer and director of the award-nominated Helen at Risk with Didi Conn. Jim received a BA from Williams College and an MFA from UT-Austin.
Diana Green
Performing Artist, Writer, and Money Coach

Diana Green was the Founder of The Children’s Shakespeare Theatre and its Artistic Director for the company’s first 21 years. She directed over 80 full-length productions and was also the fight choreographer and costume designer for the company. During her tenure, the company served hundreds of young actors from Rockland, Westchester and Bergen counties. In 2016, CST was chosen to represent the entire USA at the World Festival of Children’s Theatre. Currently Diana co-hosts an irreverent podcast about Shakespeare called FckShakespeare wherein they uncover all the naughty bits going scene by scene through the plays. In the fall she will be attending the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon to get her Masters in Shakespeare & Creativity.

Melinda Hall
Director, Actor, Producer

Melinda Hall (she/her) is an artist who expresses herself as a writer, director, actor, photographer and videographer. She has written and directed for stage, video and film. Ms. Hall created and produces the Annual Shakespeare’s Birthday Sonnet Slam which is in its 13th year and is a grantee of the LMCC Creative Engagement Award. In 2022, Ms. Hall directed for The Parsnip Ship at the O’Donnell in Brooklyn, and before that, staged readings for the Dramatist Guild Foundation and a variety of short films and videos. She has been an acting coach and teacher for NYFA, Stella Adler Conservatory, L.A. and for private clients for over 15 years.

She is a member of SAG-AFTRA (where she has been the Shakespeare moderator at their NYC Conservatory for over 10 years), AEA and The Dramatist Guild. Melinda currently teaches a weekly Deep Dive Shakespeare course online for professional actors. She is a Reader at the Folger Shakespeare Library and a passionate autodidact. @snappynyc

Dana Ivey
Actor

Dana has worked in the U.S. and Canada since 1965. She has received five Tony nominations: for Heartbreak House and Sunday in the Park in the same year and for The Last Night of Ballyhoo, The Rivals, and Butley. She received an Obie Award for creating the role of Daisy in Driving Miss Daisy, for Mrs. Warren’s Profession and for Quartermaine’s Terms. On Broadway she also appeared in Present Laughter, Waiting in the Wings, Pack of Lies, Henry IV, Sex and Longing, The Rivals, Heartbreak House, Major Barbara, and The Importance of Being Earnest. She played Gertrude to Kevin Kline’s Hamlet and was Big Mama at the Kennedy Center in Cat on A Hot Tin Roof. She most recently played Mrs. Candor in School for Scandal for the Red Bull Theatre. In 2008 she was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate from Rollins College. Among her films are Addams Family, Legally Blonde 2, Rush Hour 3, Ghost Town, Sabrina, Two Weeks Notice, The Color Purple, and The Help.
Dr. Catherine Loomis
Professor and Author

Dr. Catherine Loomis holds a PhD in Renaissance Literature from the University of Rochester, and an MA in Shakespeare and Performance from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. From 1997 until 2017 she taught Shakespeare and other literature courses at the University of New Orleans, leaving as a tenured full professor. She has also taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Loomis is the author of *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Volume* (2002), a collection of the documents we use to construct Shakespeare’s biography, and of *The Death of Elizabeth I: Remembering and Reconstructing the Virgin Queen* (2010), a study of the literary response to the death of Queen Elizabeth I. With Dr. Sid Ray, she is the co-editor of *Shaping Shakespeare for Performance: The Bear Stage* (2015), a collection of essays on the staging practices used by Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Dr. Loomis has published numerous scholarly essays on Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I, and serves as president of the Queen Elizabeth I Society, a group of scholars dedicated to the study of Elizabethan history, art history, and literature.

Sara Topham
Actor


Tyler Moss
Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Shakespeare Forum

Tyler Moss is an actor and the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of The Shakespeare Forum which has held free and low cost workshops since 2009. Acting credits include: *Cyrano de Bergerac, Hamlet, Henry V*, as well as roles in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Cymbeline, Macbeth, King Lear, The Miser, Speed of Darkness*, and *Waiting for Lefty*. In 2010 he won a FringeNYC Excellence in Performance Award for his original portrayal of Jameson Parks in *Terror Superhighway*. Tyler participated in the ESU Shakespeare competition in 1997 and has been a judge on and off since 2007.
The 2023 ESU National Shakespeare Competition was made possible by major funding from

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Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill Cup

“When I started the Shakespeare competition in 1983, I really didn’t have any idea as to the number of students from across America whose knowledge and love of Shakespeare would be encouraged by this effort. And now, I am equally amazed that even a global pandemic cannot stop the power and influence of Shakespeare from allowing young adults like yourselves to take his words, interpret them, and then present them to the world.”

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, addressing the 2021 ESU National Shakespeare Competition audience

The historic hallmarked silver Cup was made in London, during 1933, in the reign of King George V by the renowned firm of Richard Comyns.

We thank the generous donors to the ESU Centennial National Shakespeare Endowment Fund
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Excerpts from the introduction speech and award presentation speech by Ambassador Dr. Paul Beresford Hill CBE, then Chairman of the Board, The English-Speaking Union of the United States and Founder, National Shakespeare Competition

“You contestants have done a brilliant job inspiring us. And each one of you, in my opinion, are winners. A great round of applause for the teachers. Behind every successful student there are some really great teachers. Thank you very much indeed to our judges for your time, energy and effort, and for making this unique opportunity, and unique experience, all the more unique by your vision, wisdom and care for these young people.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event. It was great that we got everyone together. Congratulations to our winners and to the ESU.”

In 1983, while headmaster of the Anglo American School in New York, Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill conceived of a Shakespeare competition to be a part of the Britain Salutes New York Festival. The Festival committee accepted his proposal, and Edwina Sandys, a committee member and granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, authorized its funding. Subsequently, the English-Speaking Union developed and expanded the competition through its network of Branches to become its flagship national educational program. The NSC has benefited more than 300,000 students to date.
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The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition is a performance-based education program in which high school students nationwide read, analyze, and perform Shakespeare’s works. Students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. Since 1983 more than 325,000 students have brought the timeless works of Shakespeare to life and expressed his words with understanding, feeling and clarity. The National Shakespeare Competition has been recognized by the Globe Center, the Children’s Theatre Foundation of America and the American Academy of Achievement.

The English-Speaking Union celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural programs for students, teachers, immigrants and members.

TLab offers teachers and lifelong learners educational enrichment programs in the United Kingdom at Oxford, the University of Edinburgh and Shakespeare’s Globe in London.

Middle School Debate builds research, critical thinking and public speaking skills through debate.

English in Action pairs English language learners with trained volunteers to improve their fluency through weekly conversations.

Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) is a free program that facilitates the full integration of recent immigrants by providing English classes, professional development, cultural learning and civic engagement.

Luard Morse Scholarship sends students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to study for a semester at a British university of their choosing.

Secondary School Exchange sends American and British high school graduates to secondary schools for a gap year abroad.