**COMING THIS FALL!**

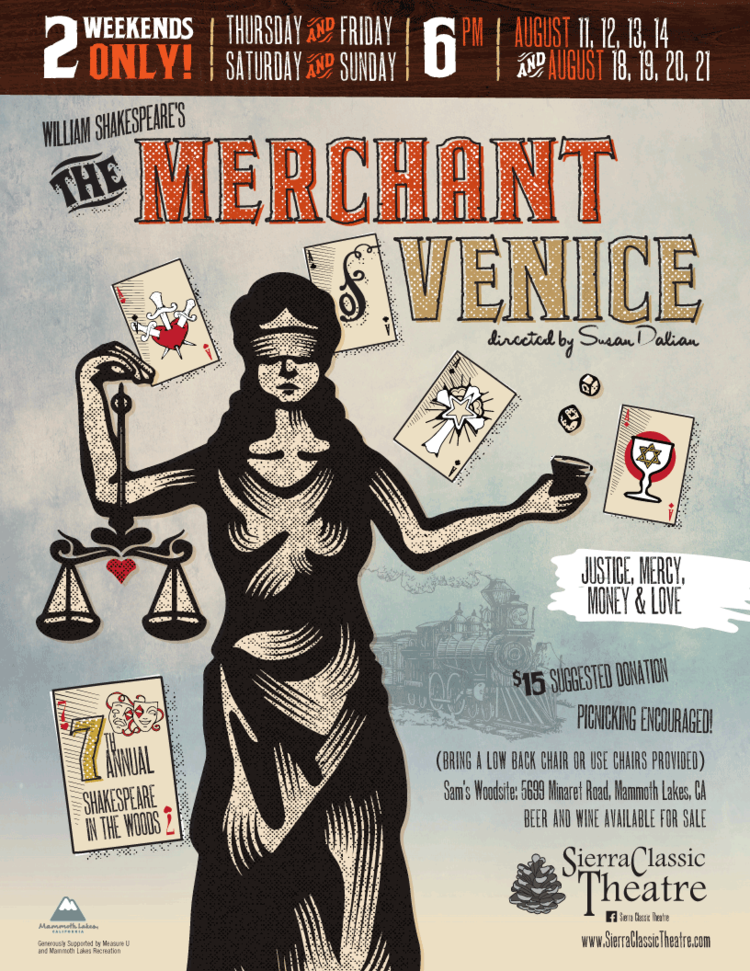
Don’t miss Sierra Classic Theatre’s upcoming 18th Annual Murder Mystery Fundraiser. These comedic dinner theater productions are written by our members and skewer (in the nicest possible way) local people and events. Stay tuned for more details and for audition announcements.

**HELP SUPPORT SCT!**

Sierra Classic Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and we welcome your financial support. Please help us continue to provide engaging community theatre productions with your tax-deductible donation. You may donate online by visiting our website: sierraclassictheatre.com or by sending a check to PO Box 543, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546





**About The Merchant of Venice**

This version of Shakespeare’s well known play has been set in the western railroad frontier, circa 1869. Antonio, a merchant of Venice, Wyoming, offers to help his friend and kinsman Bassanio with a loan that will allow him to travel in wealth and style to woo Portia, a wealthy heiress in the nearby town of Belmont. Antonio is momentarily short of cash, so they turn to the Jewish moneylender Shylock and his business associate Tubal for help.

The town drunk Gobbo and his silly son Launcelot Gobbo engage in a comic scene of son trying to trick father while Launcelot is making the tough decision to leave his boss Shylock for a better job with Bassanio.

Back at the Rialto Saloon, we learn from talk between Antonio's friends Solanio and Saleria, that Antonio has had some misfortunes on the railroad. Shylock and Antonio are enemies, and when Antonio can’t repay Bassanio’s debt in time, Shylock insists on enforcing the harsh terms of the deal, in the name of justice and the law. Adding to the tension, Shylock's daughter, Jessica, runs away with Lorenzo, aided by Gratiano and other Venetians. Shylock demands Antonio's arrest, and a trial with the local Marshall is set.

Meanwhile in Belmont, Bassanio’s love, Portia, has more suitors on her hands: The Prince of Morocco and The Prince of Arragon. Portia's right-hand woman, Nerissa, helps her through it. Portia hopes Bassanio will prevail both in love and with Shylock, and she devises a clever scheme to assure success. She and Nerissa disguise themselves and come to Venice to intervene on Antonio's behalf. As the trial plays out, the Bard masterfully intertwines the themes of justice, love and mercy.

For more history and perspective on the play, visit: http://www.shmoop.com/merchant-of-venice/

**SPECIAL THANKS!**

*Our production of The Merchant of Venice was*

*made possible through the generous assistance of:*

The Frome Family Foundation, Alex Printing (Bishop), Kenyon Sandvigen, Sarah Lawrence, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, High Country Lumber, Tom Johnson, Sean Turner, Joyce Turner, Mammoth Brewing Company, the Sporrer Family, Mary Walker, Neil McConnell, DIY Mammoth, Greg Martin, Shira Dubrovner and Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, Mammoth Museum, Cai Lepre & Second Chance Thrift Store, Cast Off Thrift Store, Jessica & Ben Manning, Roberto's Café, A-Frame Liquor, M&M Events, Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Measure U, Sam Walker, all the Moms - and our wonderful volunteers!

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**About SCT**

Sierra Classic Theatre was founded in 1999 with the goal of emphasizing “classic” plays because they are well-written, thought-provoking works. They stand alone in their impact. We’re proud to present these timeless plays to our community.

While we operate from Mammoth Lakes, CA, we often perform in surrounding Eastern Sierra communities. We are supported by volunteers, both on and off stage, and the primary financing for our productions comes from our annual fall Murder Mystery Fundraising Dinner and through the ticket sales and donations for our spring and summer shows.

SCT is always looking for new members, actors and volunteers. Visit our website: www.sierraclassictheatre.com for more details.

**Our Mission**

We strive to create an artistically adventurous environment that attracts and excites diverse members of the community by providing an expanded understanding of life through the art of theatre.

**2015-16 Board of Directors (“The Court”)**

President (Queen) Allison McDonell Page

Vice President (Viceroy) Charles Scatolini

Treasurer (Minister of Finance) Jennifer Chase

Secretary (The Scribe) Michael Dostrow

Publicity (Jester) Marlene Piper

**SIERRA CLASSIC THEATRE PRESENTS**

William Shakespeare’s

The Merchant of Venice

Directed by Susan Dalian

**CAST**

***Venice***

Antonio, a wealthy merchant of Venice . . . . . . . . . . . . Charles Scatolini

Shylock, a wealthy moneylender of Venice . . . . . . . . . . .Shaun Reitman

Bassanio, a young man . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Matthew Chaconas

Gratiano, Bassanio's close friend . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Jimmy Daveron

Duke (The Marshall) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Michael Aguirre

Lorenzo, Jessica's secret boyfriend . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Jordan Kost

Jessica, Shylock's young daughter . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lesley-Anne Hoxie

Solanio, Rialto Saloon proprietor . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Jesse Rea

Saleria, Rialto Saloon proprietor . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Stacy Corless

Tubal, Shylock's business associate . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Max Soeffing

Launcelot Gobbo, a young man . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Lee Andre Daniels

Old Gobbo, the town drunk . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Jeff Frome

Sofie, a saloon girl . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Kaysie Williams

Leonardo, a young boy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .. . . . . . . . . . . .Oden Gilbert

Dr. Browner, Medicine Man . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Maurice Cooper

The Jailer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Kevin Sprague

***Belmont***

Portia, a wealthy heiress . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Airen Neeley

Nerissa, Portia's right hand gal . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Samantha Taylor

Jean, a young ward of Portia's . . . . .Taylor Williams/Katie Rose Bernard

Aki, a young ward of Portia's . . . . .Alejandra Hernandez/Maya Johnson

Shirean, a young ward of Portia's . . . . . . Sophie McMahan/Jenna Lynch

The Prince of Morocco, a suitor of Portia's. . . . . . . . . . . Maurice Cooper

The Prince of Arragon, a suitor of Portia's . . . . . . . . . . . .Kevin Sprague

Stephano, a musician of Portia's . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Joshua Mann

**A note from the Director**

I am excited to return to a third season of *Shakespeare in the Woods*.

This year I wanted to bring a little drama into the comedy mix. It seemed appropriate given the world we are living in and the questions we find swirling in our minds about our future. Shakespeare poses some of these same questions through the various themes of this play. At the end of the day, are we so different from one another? How shall we treat each other within these cultural differences that we inhabit? Where is the respect? And when you push someone to their limits through degrading their religious, racial and cultural beliefs - what is their tipping point?

No other Shakespeare play tackles this issue with better storytelling than *The Merchant of Venice*. I thought the backdrop of an 1869 Venice, Wyoming Territory would be a good place to start, as it was a time and place filled with businessmen and women thriving financially during great economic growth and land development in America. It was a time of displacement for recently emancipated African Americans and the fast growing relocation and annihilation of the Native American people. It was also a time when European and Asian immigrants alongside white and black Americans were working to build a railroad across the nation and “fit in” with the burgeoning American Melting Pot.

I chose this world to tell the tale of two wealthy merchants at odds with each other, a classic love story with a fantasy element, and a “courtroom drama” that was perhaps the genre’s original. And, of course, it wouldn’t be Shakespeare without witty slapstick humor and stock comedic characters. Simply put, this play has it all. There are sensitive issues brought up in this play. I hope that you can keep your mind open and learn something about yourself and the world as our fine, talented and funny cast presents you with exciting storytelling. *Susan Dalian*

reform synagogue, Am Shalom, also in Mentor - Shaun asked Cantor David Wolinksky if it was alright that his only line in the play was to berate Sky Masterson for “not being a good Christian\*.” His Cantor calmed his nerves by citing the wisest of ancient Jewish texts, reminding Shaun that he was, in the words of Deuteronomy 6-13, “only acting.” Shaun remains a native of northeast Ohio and a graduate of Ithaca College. \*Actual line could not be found in time for print, but this is pretty darn close.

**CHARLES SCATOLINI** (Antonio) is performing in his fifth SCT Shakespeare in the Woods. He served as dialogue coach for the other two shows in which he didn't appear on stage. He is pleased to have performed throughout the Eastern Sierra since moving to Mammoth Lakes in 1973. Charles is also proud of his involvement in the several local arts organizations he has worked with and supported. He is currently Viceroy on the Board of SCT. He is very grateful to be on this outdoor stage again and hear "the mountain pines... wag their high tops... When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven."

**MAX SOEFFING** (Tubal) came from farm country in New York State four years ago solely to be a part of Shakespeare in the Woods! He makes his living teaching snowboarding in the winter and is a DJ at local radio station KMMT 106.5FM. This is his first Shakespeare production and he's pumped on it super hard. Find him out in the backcountry or long boarding around town!

**KEVIN SPRAGUE** (Prince of Arragon and The Jailer) is acting in his first production with Sierra Classic Theater. He is a long-time community theater participant at home in Bishop, and is excited to dip his toes in the Mammoth acting scene. He would like to thank Susan for the opportunity and coaching, the cast and crew for being so talented and supportive, and his family for being awesome.

**SAMANTHA TAYLOR** (Nerissa) is excited to be working with the talented and all-around-amazing people that make up Sierra Classic Theatre. It's been a few years since Sam last performed in Shakespeare in the Woods. She was Feste in *Twelfth Night*. You may have recently seen her in Sierra Classic Theatre's staged reading of *Rapture, Blister, Burn* as Avery or in the SCT murder mystery last fall, *The Real Housewives of Tusktown* as “Pat Chouli”. Besides acting, Sam enjoys writing novels, hiking long distances, and cooking vegan food.

**KAYSIE WILLIAMS** (Sofie, the Saloon Girl) debuts with Sierra Classic Theatre in her first production since junior high. Kaysie has lived in Mammoth since 1998 and has enjoyed watching our local thespians perform over the years. She teaches community high school for Mono County Office of Education and she also teaches group exercise classes. Kaysie has two daughters, Taylor and Mia, who are also both interested in theater. She has enjoyed the opportunity to work with the talented cast and director for this production. Kaysie would like to thank Chuck Scatolini for encouraging her to read at the audition when really she was only there for her daughter to audition.

**TAYLOR WILLIAMS** (Portia’s Ward, “Jean,” Aug. 11-Aug 14) is excited to appear in her first Shakespeare production. Taylor has also appeared in six Showboat Youth Theater summer productions, Disney’s *Aladdin Jr*. and starred as Jackie in Sierra Classic Theater’s *Jackie’s Journey to Neverswamp*. Taylor is a cheerleader for Mammoth Youth Football, plays volleyball and will be in eighth grade at Mammoth Middle School this fall. Her hobbies include singing and hanging out with friends. Taylor would like to thank the director for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this great production!

**LESLEY-ANNE HOXIE** (Jessica) grew up in the San Diego theatre scene, performing at notable venues such as La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe and North Coast Repertory Theatre. Before working for Mammoth Lakes Recreation, she interned for Congresswoman Susan Davis in San Diego and was the Community Manager for a tech startup in San Francisco. She was last seen in *Of Mice and Men* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre and will be in *Exit Laughing* this September.

**MAYA JOHNSON** (Portia’s Ward, “Aki,” Aug. 18-Aug. 21) is in her third production with SCT. She played Valerius, a young outlaw, in SCT’s *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and the fairy Peaseblossom in *A (Mammoth) Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Maya has also been seen in the television shows *Modern Family*, and *Top Chef: Masters Challenge* and modeled kids clothing for American Apparel. Her passions are singing, dancing and doing gymnastics.

**JORDAN KOST** (Lorenzo) has been involved in several Playhouse 395 productions and attended an intensive theatre art program (CSSSA) in summer of 2015. In Jordan’s spare time, he loves advocating for the arts, running excruciating distances as part of the Bishop High School cross country team, being his gregarious self and trying to understand Shakespeare in English class. He would like to thank his family (especially his mother), loved ones and this talented cast for their support and Susan for trusting him in this role.

**JENNA LYNCH** (Portia’s Ward, “Shirean,” Aug. 11-Aug. 14th) returns to SCT this summer after appearing in last summer’s *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* as Valerius and Julia’s Little Sister. She has participated in a number of local plays beginning at age five. Jenna is on the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team, Mammoth Lakes Sharks (swim team), enjoys playing soccer and loves her two dogs Zeus and Riley.

**JOSHUA MANN** (Stephano) is a Mammoth musician and ski bum who loves life. This is his second Shakespeare in the Woods performance.

**SOPHIE McMAHAN** (Portia’s Ward, “Shirean,” Aug. 18-Aug 21) has performed in *The Comedy of Errors*, as Antipholus of Syracuse at Mammoth Elementary School. This is Sophie’s first time performing with Sierra Classic Theatre and she is excited to have this special opportunity. She’s honored to work with Susan Dalian and this incredibly talented cast and crew. She is thrilled to embark upon her lifelong dream to be a great actor.

**AIREN NEELEY** (Portia) is delighted to participate in her second production with SCT. You may have seen her last spring as the vivacious redhead, Suzanne, in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Airen has lived in Mammoth Lakes for nearly five years, and when she is not binge watching *Downton Abbey*, you can catch her at Von's in the wine aisle.

**JESSE REA** (Solanio) was last seen as Albert Einstein in SCT’s *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and as Launce in last summer’s *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He has been involved in theater since the 8th grade. He has lived in Mammoth Lakes for almost two years, enjoying all kinds of outdoor activities - especially hiking in the Eastern Sierra. Past roles have included Charlie Brown in *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Marcellus in *Music Man*, Ching Ho in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Mordecai in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Lt. Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls.* Jesse would like to thank his parents for every opportunity to act and chase his dreams.

**SHAUN REITMAN** (Shylock) had a crisis of conscience while playing a member of the Salvation Army Band in his first play ever, the musical *Guys and Dolls* at Memorial Jr. High School in Mentor, Ohio. Studying for his Bar Mitzvah at the same time – at the beautiful

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Susan Dalian

Producers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lesley Bruns & Stacy Corless

Stage Manager . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Neal Covert

Assistant Director . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jack Lam

Technical Director . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Brian Knowles

Technical Assistant . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Kaiya Kirk

Stage Crew . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Trinity Dostrow, Sisi Manning

Stage, Lighting & Sound Provided by . . . . . . . Eastern Sierra Audio

Set Build & Design . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Evan Hurley

Costume Design . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Susan Dalian

Props & Costume Assistants . . . Jarrett Jackson & Sarah McConnell

Original Music Composed by . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Patterson

Music Arranged by . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Josh Mann

Poster & Program Design . . . . . . Kerry Martyr Design & Production

Volunteer Coordinator . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jarrett Jackson

*Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the*

*performance and refrain from flash photography.*

**OUR CAST AND CREW**

**SUSAN DALIAN** (Director) directed the last two seasons of Shakespeare in the Woods for SCT - *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *A (Mammoth) Midsummer Night’s Dream.* She co-wrote, directed and played the role of Boo Tae-Tae *The Real Housewives of Tusktown* in SCT’s 2015 Murder Mystery. She also played Ruth Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Writing, producing, and directing credits include the short film *Upholstered and Stuffed*, and the play *Ambrosia* performed at the 2005 New York Fringe Festival. Regional acting credits include roles with such companies as San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, ACT/San Francisco, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Indiana Repertory, CA Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The Actors’ Gang, and Los Angeles Women’s Shakespeare Company. Film credits include roles in *Undisputed, The Brothers, The Kid*. Television credits include roles in *90210, What I Like About You, The Hughleys,* and *Star Trek: Voyager* and the voice of Haku in the anime series *Naruto.* Susan holds a BFA from Boston University and is a proud graduate of Baltimore School for the Arts.

**NEAL COVERT** (Stage Manager) is really excited to be stage managing this year’s Shakespeare in the Woods production. He has run light and sound tech for *Boeing, Boeing, Go Dog Go, The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and *Church Basement Ladies* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. He is honored to be working with an amazing cast and crew and is looking forward to being a part of the theatre for many shows to come!

**MICHAEL AGUIRRE** (Duke aka “The Marshall”) appeared as Peter Quince in SCT’s *A (Mammoth) Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Antonio and Outlaw #1 in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He was also Juror #7 in *Twelve Angry Jurors* with Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. He followed the trail back to the Edison Theatre joining the cast of *Of Mice and Men*. “The challenge for me is memorizing lines, especially the Shakespeare stuff. It might come easy to a younger guy, but not for someone like me who has spent the last 20 years trying to remember where I put the car keys.” Michael will play Lord Capulet in the upcoming Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre’s fall production of *Romeo and Juliet.*

**KATIE ROSE BERNARD** (Portia’s Ward, “Jean,” Aug. 18-Aug 21) is ten years old and entering 5th grade this fall. Her dream is to be either an actress, comedian or chef when she’s older. This is the second Shakespeare play she has been in, after performing in *Macbeth* in “Much Ado About Shakespeare” at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. She has also been in numerous school plays and has straight A's on her report card. Her hobbies include drawing, painting, ice hockey, skateboarding and skiing.

**MATTHEW CHACONAS** (Bassanio) was last seen with SCT in the role of The Visitor in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He played Howard P. Whipt in the SCT Murder Mystery *The Real Housewives of Tusktown*. Last summer Matt debuted with SCT playing Speed in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He was also in *Go, Dog, Go* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre and this fall he will play the role of Bobby Grayson in *Exit Laughing* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Matthew has also done runway and print modeling in New York City and numerous other places as well as taken roles in gold rush reenactments in Alaska.

**MAURICE COOPER** (Prince of Morocco and Dr. Browner Medicine Man) has been on stage for nearly a decade; being in productions such as *Little Shop of Horrors, Lysistrata, For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* and Ibsen's *The Enemy of the People*. He recently performed in *Luxurious Bracebridge Dinner* at The Historic Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park and the world premiere of the opera *Tawawa House* by Zenobia Powell. This will be Maurice's first time in a Shakespeare production and he likes to thank this awesome cast and of course, Susan...wait-for-it...Dalian for taking him on this awesome adventure!

**STACY CORLESS** (Saleria) is a founding member of Sierra Classic Theatre. She has appeared in many SCT Shakespeare productions including *The Tempest* (Miranda), *As You Like It* (Rosalind) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice). Behind the scenes, Stacy is co-producing this year’s show, wrote and directed several of SCT’s murder mysteries and served on the board of directors. Her current role as District 5 representative on the Mono County Board of Supervisors is her biggest artistic and professional challenge yet. She thanks Susan and the SCT board for their dedication, and her husband Ron for his patience!

**LEE ANDRE DANIELS** (Launcelot Gobbo) was born in Tarzana and was raised in the Central Valley where he attended Roosevelt High School and Roosevelt School of Arts. This is where Lee scored an understudy role in the musical *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.* Needless to say, the understudy show was a smash hit. Lee now lives in the town of Mammoth Lakes. He is cool guy who simply loves the occasional romantic comedy, pina coladas & getting caught in the rain.

**JIMMY DAVERON** (Gratiano) has played Spike in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike,* and Demetrius in *A (Mammoth) Midsummer Night's Dream* with SCT, and a juror in *Twelve Angry Jurors* with Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. The role that most prepared him for this play was Cowboy Jimmy at the Bruin Woods summer camp in 2011. He didn't bathe, had a feather mullet, and exclusively wore a cowboy hat and “picnickerbockers”, with either no shoes or cowboy boots. He'd like to thank his director and the rest of his cast for letting him skip a few rehearsals and his boss for letting him skip a lot of work.

**JEFF FROME** (Old Gobbo) was born and raised a Cheesehead. He lived in Mammoth in the early 70’s and made a lot of lifelong friends. He left to work in the woods of Humboldt County for many years and has now happily returned. He is very fortunate to work with Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and loves Kathy Copeland! Jeff is still new to the thespian community having performed as Sir Eglamour in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Candy in *Of Mice and Men* at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. He is so lucky to be working with such a wonderful and professional cast. He thanks the director for the opportunity!

**ODEN GILBERT** (Leonardo) is in his second show with Sierra Classic Theatre. Last year he played the role of Moyses in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He was recently in the 4th grade school play *By the Great Horn Spoon* as Quartz Jackson. Before that Oden performed in *The Emperor’s New Clothes* in which he was TheEmperor, *Vacation on Mars* and *Hansel and Gretel*. Oden also performed in *Little Mermaid Jr*. which was put on by Playhouse 395 and the Children’s Theatre Workshop.

**ALEJANDRA HERNANDEZ** (Portia’s Ward, “Aki,” Aug. 11-Aug. 14) has lived in Mammoth Lakes since she was born. She is ten years old. She lives in a family of five with her brother, parents and pet snake Anabele. She loves dogs and exercise. Someday Alejandra hopes to be a veterinarian. She is excited to be working with Susan and her friends.