



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org)  
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(401)484.0355, [jeff.church.jr@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.church.jr@gmail.com)

**Burbage Theatre Co concludes their 14th Season with  
Shakespeare's darkest comedy: *MEASURE FOR MEASURE***

PAWTUCKET, RI April 14, 2026 —

Following their critically and popularly acclaimed production of Lynn Nottage's *CLYDE'S*, **Burbage Theatre Co concludes their 14th Season with William Shakespeare's darkest comedy, *MEASURE FOR MEASURE* directed by Burbage Theatre Co founding Artistic Director, Jeff Church.** Leading the cast are Burbage Theatre Co artist Alison Russo as Isabella, Trinity Repertory Company member Mauro Hantman as Angelo, and acclaimed local pro Steven Liebhauser as the Duke.

***MEASURE FOR MEASURE* will be presented for 15 performances spanning four weeks from May 14 through June 7 at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.**

***Measure for Measure* is one of Shakespeare's most exciting, underperformed and underappreciated plays—often labeled a 'problem play,' and too quickly set aside. But it contains some of the most compelling drama and bawdy comedy in the canon, scenes of astonishing wit and tension that reveal Shakespeare working at the height of his powers.** It bridges the gap between tragedy and comedy in a way few of his plays attempt. It at times feels closer in spirit to *Romeo and Juliet* or the political intrigue of *Julius Caesar* than to the frothier delights of *Much Ado About Nothing* or *Twelfth Night*—**serious, urgent, and deeply human, yet still replete with raucous laughter.** It is a play about justice, power, mercy, and the dangerous distance between public virtue and private desire, and it could not feel more relevant to the world we are living in now."

**"We are thrilled to have Alison Russo (*Twelfth Night, Thinner than Water, Edward II, Red Velvet*) back to the Burbage stage as Isabella, and to welcome Trinity Rep Company-member Mauro Hantman as Angelo, and one of my favorite local professionals, Steven Liebhauser as Duke Vincentio.** And these are only three of our cast of fourteen exceptional artists – some Burbage veterans and some new faces that we are thrilled to welcome into the fold. The production team that brought you *Clyde's* returns once again, and together we are transforming the Wendy Overly Theatre with a configuration unlike anything audiences have seen at Burbage before. Remarkably, ours marks the first professional production of *Measure for Measure* in Rhode Island in more than three decades. **It is long past time for this play to return to our stages. Don't miss it!"**

— Jeff Church, *Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co*

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of *Measure for Measure* opens on  
May 14 and closes on June 7 after 15 performances.**

*All performances will take place at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre  
59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.*

***Critics and members of the press* are invited to join us on Saturday May 16 at 7:30pm or Sunday May 17 at 2:00pm.  
You can reply to this email or contact [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org) for more information.**

***If you are a member of the press and are unable to attend our Press Performances, just let us know!***

Whether you want to/have to cover the show on another evening, or if you can't cover the show but would still like to see the production – your two press tickets are still guaranteed, just let us know in an email at [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org).

---

21st century RI premiere  
**MEASURE FOR MEASURE**  
By William Shakespeare  
(May 14 - June 7)

When Duke Vincentio leaves Vienna in the hands of the rigid Angelo, a young man named Claudio is sentenced to death for a less-than-illicit affair, prompting his sister Isabella—a novice nun—to plead for mercy. Angelo, outwardly virtuous, reveals his own hypocrisy when he presents Isabella with a sinister and deeply personal bargain that tests her convictions. Disguised as a friar, the Duke secretly observes the chaos that follows, orchestrating a series of deceptions that expose corruption, test virtue, and ultimately force the city to confront the uneasy balance between strict justice and human compassion.

In *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare examines justice, morality, and power in a city struggling to enforce its own laws.

**“There’s a right way and a wrong way to do Shakespeare — and certainly a right and a wrong way to introduce modern touches without ruining the beauty of the language and action — and then there is the Burbage way, which could actually ruin audiences for any other company... such reverent irreverence.”**

—*Providence Journal*

**“This is what we go to the theatre for... Burbage Theatre Co is making Shakespeare come alive.”**

—*East Bay RI*

**“Burbage has pinned down the perfect balance, thematically and emotionally... If you’ve seen other productions [of Shakespeare’s plays] you won’t be disappointed seeing it again at Burbage. And if you haven’t seen the stories told live, this is a great place to start.”**

—*Pawtucket Times*

---

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

### **MEASURE FOR MEASURE**

by William Shakespeare

### ENSEMBLE

Isabella	Alison Russo*
Duke Vincentio	Steven Liebhauser*
Angelo	Mauro Hantman*
Claudio	Victor Machado
Juliet	Michaela Pendola
Escalus	Andrew Stigler
Provost	Julia Curtin
Lucio	Liam Roberts
Mistress Overdone	Steph Rodger
Pompey	Ben Pereira
Froth	Jordan Smith
Elbow	Jack Clarke
Mariana	Rosa Nguyen
Abhorson	Andrew David Scanlan

\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association of America

### PRODUCTION CREW

Jeff Church	Director
Kelli Noonan	Stage Manager/Assistant Director
Sonny Wong	Assistant Stage Manager
Trevor Elliott	Production/Set Design
Grey Rung	Production Associate/Scenic Charge
Andrew Iacovelli	Technical Director/Lighting Design
EJ Caraveo	Costume Design
Brittany Costello	ATD/Props
Jeff Church	Producer



**BURBAGE  
THEATRE<sup>CO</sup>**  
WWW.BURBAGETHEATRE.ORG



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org)  
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

### ***Measure for Measure* CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES**

Thursday May 14 at 7:30pm *Preview Performance*

Friday May 15 at 7:30pm *Preview Performance*

Saturday May 16 at 7:30pm *Opening Night/Pay-What-You-Will*

Sunday May 17 at 2:00pm

Thursday May 21 at 7:30pm

Friday May 22 at 7:30pm

Sunday May 24 at 2:00pm

Thursday May 28 at 7:30pm

Friday May 29 at 7:30pm

Saturday May 30 at 7:30pm

Sunday May 31 at 2:00pm

Thursday June 4 at 7:30pm

Friday June 5 at 7:30pm

Saturday June 6 at 7:30pm

Sunday June 7 at 2:00pm

---

### **TICKET POLICY —**

*“The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State.”* — Warwick Beacon

### **SPECIAL EVENTS PRICES –**

Preview Performances — \$15

**General Admission — \$35**

**Students — \$15**

Group Discounts are available – contact [boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org) for more info.

---

### **Audience, Artist, and Staff Health & Wellness Policy —**

**Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.**

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.

Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting flu-like symptoms or fever that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.