

2014-2015 Performance Schedule:

Fridays at 7:00PM - The Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles, IL (Pre-registration required)

Saturdays at 10:00AM – The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Street, Chicago, IL

Saturdays at 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL

Sundays at 2:00PM – Highland Park Public Library, 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL

Admission is FREE, seating is limited. All performances are preceded by an introduction to the play that commences 15 minutes prior to curtain.



the world in words

PRESENTS

THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Garino

Assistant Director: James Krag Music & Sound Design: George Zahora Dramaturgy: David Bevington, Regina Schwartz

20th Anniversary Season

October 24-27, 2014
Niles Public Library
The Newberry Library
Wilmette Public Library
Highland Park Public Library
Northwestern University



All actors appearing in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

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> P.O. Box 25126 Chicago, Illinois 60625 773-710-2718

The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 19 years. With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2014-2015 season: Judith Alexander, Anonymous, AJ Arendt, Lynn Broaddus, Lijijana Brkic-Tasic, Carol Colby, Ronald & Gail Denham, James & Martha Fritts, *In Loving Memory of Margaret D. Garino*, Marcia Kazurinsky, Kathy Klawans, Carol Lewis, Marcie Levy, Philip & Dianne Luhmann, George and Gerry Messenger, Edward W. Muir, Jr., Marilyn Richman, Elizabeth Ringstad, *Brian & Melissa Sherman in Memory of John Field Sherman*, Thomas and Felicity Skidmore, Mr. & Mrs. John Thompson, Richard and Mary Woods.

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Attention educators with an interest in Shakespeare!

Now booking in-school performances of The Shakespeare Project of

Chicago's Education Outreach Productions.

email: outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org

Performances available January 19 – March 28, 2015.

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet



Adapted by Barbara Zahora, Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino, "50-Minute Romeo and Juliet" presents an abridged telling of Shakespeare's most enduring love story that places an enhanced emphasis on the journey of the starcrossed lovers. Utilizing four actors, two which

play Romeo and Juliet and two which play all other supporting roles, "50-Minute Romeo and Juliet" contains many of The Bard's most famous lines and speeches while retaining much of his saga's pathos, poetry and passion. *Pictured: Amanda Catania (Juliet) and Behzad Dabu (Romeo)*.



50-Minute Hamlet

Adapted by Jeff Christian, "50-Minute Hamlet" presents Shakespeare's most enduring tragedy. Utilizing just two actors, "50-Minute Hamlet" is the perfect in-classroom accompaniment to students' study of the play that illuminates the play's most important scenes and characters. The

Shakespeare Project of Chicago has presented it to numerous Chicago area schools since its premier in 2002. It has won the acclaim of students and teachers alike each time it has been presented.

Pictured: James Krag (Hamlet) and Gail Rastorfer (Gertrude).

Artist Biographies



Gary Alexander (Oswald) is very pleased to be back with The Shakespeare Project where he appeared last season in Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* and *The Merchant of Venice*. A regular with ShawChicago, he has appeared in 10 productions with that company including, most recently: *Man and Superman, Saint Joan, James Barrie's Quartets, Widowers' Houses, Mrs. Warren's Profession, The Millionairess*, and *Noel Coward in Two Keys*. Other credits include Drury Lane's *A Christmas Carol;* the Goodman Theatre's *Binky Rudich*; the Ravinia Festival's staged productions of *Anyone Can Whistle, Sunday in the Park with George*, and *A Little Night Music*, the revue, *The Music of Rodgers and Hart*, and Ravinia and New York workshop performances of *Misia*. He has appeared in leading roles

with Light Opera Works (*Carnival*, *Candide*, and *Student Prince*); and in *Lion in Winter* for Rising Moon; *Vikings: A Musical in Two Axe* and *Mirandolina* at Noble Fool; *Mad Forest* for Piven Theatre; and *Burying the Bones* and *The Memorandum* at Stage Left. Gary is also a certified yoga instructor.



Tony Dobrowolski (France, Doctor, Old Man, Messenger, Gentleman) is delighted, as always, to be working with The Shakespeare Project again. He has appeared in: All's Well That Ends Well, Edward III, Othello, Troilus and Cressida, Richard II, The Merry Wives of Windsor and The Tempest. In addition he served as dramaturge for The Fair Maid of the West and A Woman Killed With Kindness. Other Chicago credits include productions with: Chicago Shakespeare, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Marriot Lincolnshire, Northlight, National Jewish Theatre and more than thirty productions with ShawChicago.

Regional credits include Madison Rep, Boars Head Theatre, Jewish Ensemble Theatre and Meadow Brook Theatre. Tony has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1989. Tony was recently named an Artistic Associate with Oak Park Festival Theatre. He is also a newlywed, having married his partner of 23 years, Bob, on June 1, 2014.



<u>Kurt Ehrmann</u> (Kent) is honored to be a part of the *King Lear* company. A long time Chicago actor, Kurt has worked with Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Goodman and Court Theatre to name a few. He is a proud member of The Hypocrites, with whom he has performed roles in *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Hairy Ape, Death of a Salesman, The Bald Soprano, Equus, Machinal* and *Rhinoceros* among others. He looks forward to returning to The Hypocrites this winter in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. Kurt has a recurring role on NBC's *Chicago Fire*.

Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). Peter attended the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from Illinois State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Hofstra University, New York. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and SAG/AFTRA.

<u>James Krag</u> (Assistant Director) Jim most recently served as Assistant Director on last season's *All'sWell That Ends Well*. He also appeared as Count Orsino in *Twelfth Night*. Previous appearances include Roderigo in *Othello*, Achilles in *Troilus and Cressida*, Ferdinand in *The Duchess of Malfi* and the Earl of Northumberland in *Richard II*. He can also be seen in The Project's Educational Outreach production of *50-Minute Hamlet*. Other recent Chicago appearances include Carson in *Night and Day* at Remy Bumppo and understudying and appearing as Elyot in *Private Lives* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. For Victory Gardens Theater, Jim originated the role of EKO in the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. New York credits include the original Broadway production of *Burn This, Mill Fire* at the Women's Project, and *Phedre* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include *While You Were Sleeping, Mercury Rising, Molly, Prison Break, Early Edition, ER, Ellen, Dharma & Greg* and a recurring role on *Missing Persons*. Jim continues to perform *According to Mark*, his solo show of the Gospel of Mark, directed by Jeff Christian.

George Zahora (Sound Design/Original Music) has done sound design, in various professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's currently enjoying his fourth season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his sound effects and original music in All's Well That Ends Well, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Fair Maid of the West, Edward III, A Woman Killed With Kindness and Othello, among others. He sincerely appreciates your support of The Project and the excellent Chicago artists it employs, and hopes that his work on King Lear will add context and depth to your experience today.

Sound effects used in this production may include materials created by users of Freesound.org, which are used under a Creative Commons license. Due to printing deadlines, we cannot credit individual users here. Please see our sound designer for an up-to-date list of contributors and effects.



the world in words



Thank you for joining us for this performance of "King Lear" as we celebrate the opening of our 20th season at The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Quite simply, we would not be here today without your ongoing support over these many years. Thanks to you, and the ongoing sponsorship of our libraries, we have been able to pursue our mission of providing free professional theatrical readings of Shakespeare and producing education

outreach productions of Shakespeare in local schools. Today, as it was at our beginning, our focus remains firmly rooted on illuminating the universal truths embodied in the words of the greatest dramatist in the English language. To those of you who might be seeing your first performance of The Shakespeare Project, we say "welcome." If you like what you see today, bring a friend to our next performance.

With gratitude,

Peter Garino Artistic Director

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

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www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR

Dramatis Personae

LEAR, King of Britain	Fredric Stone*+
FOOL	Stephen Spencer*+
GONERIL, daughter to Lear	Michelle Shupe*
REGAN, daughter to Lear	Barbara Zahora*
CORDELIA, daughter to Lear	Erin Neal*
KING OF FRANCE	Tony Dobrowolski*
DUKE OF BURGUNDY	Michael Pesoli*
DUKE OF CORNWALL	Michael Joseph Mitchell*
DUKE OF ALBANY	Matthew Fahey*
EARL OF KENT	Kurt Ehrmann*
EARL OF GLOUCESTER	Charles Stransky*
EDGAR, son to Gloucester	
EDMUND, bastard son to Gloucester	Patrick Lane*
CURAN, a courtier	Michael Pesoli*
OLD MAN, tenant to Gloucester	Tony Dobrowolski*
DOCTOR	Tony Dobrowolski*
OSWALD, steward to Goneril	Gary Alexander*
KNIGHT, attending on Lear	Scott Lynch Giddings*
SERVANTS, to Cornwall	Michael Pesoli*, Erin Neal*
MESSENGERS	Michael Pesoli*, Tony Dobrowolski*
A GENTLEMAN	Tony Dobrowolski*
A CAPTAIN	Michael Joseph Mitchell*
The Scene: Britain	

The Scene: Britain

Running Time: Approximately two hours and fifteen minutes including intermission

A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

⁺ Founding member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago



^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.



Charles Stransky (Gloucester) is delighted to be working with The Shakespeare Project once again. Last season, he appeared in *The Fair Maid of the West*. Previous appearances with The Project include *A Woman Killed With Kindness, The Tempest* and *Measure For Measure*. A veteran character actor of stage, television and film, Charles attended graduate school at Brandeis University, where he earned his MFA Degree in Acting. He then worked in Chicago at the beginning of its burgeoning theatre movement before being called to Broadway. His numerous credits reflect the various venues he has performed in, from regional theatre to Off-Broadway to Broadway, and from day player parts to leading roles on film and television. On Broadway he played Lingk in the original production of

Glengarry Glen Ross and in the Goodman's original production and the national tour. He was in The Lincoln Center Theater's production of *The Front Page* at The Vivian Beaumont, playing Wilson, one of the reporters. He has played in regional theatres throughout the U.S., including the Goodman, Old Globe, Northlight, Capital Repertory, American Players Theatre, Riverside, Kitchen, the Delaware Theatre Company, the State Theatre in Austin, Texas, the Vermont Stage Company, and Wisdom Bridge. On film, he can be seen in *The Spanish Prisoner, Homicide*, and *Things Change*, all written and directed by David Mamet. Other films include *Dad, Stone Cold, Ghost in the Machine, Anger Management, Caleb's Door, Winning Season*, and *Pastime*. He has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA); SAG/AFRA for over thirty years.



Barbara Zahora (Regan) has been The Project's Associate Artistic Director since 2010, and has adapted and directed All's Well That Ends Well, Troilus and Cressida, and The Merry Wives of Windsor for their regular staged reading seasons. She's also collaborated on the adaptation of 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet for their educational programming and will be directing it again this coming winter. Favorite roles with The Project have included Queen Elizabeth in Mary Stuart, Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of Henry VI Parts1, 2, and 3 and Constance Middleton in The Constant Wife. As an actor, Barbara's Chicago credits include ShawChicago, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Goodman

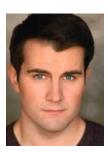
Theatre, Northlight, Lookingglass, First Folio Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and Artemisia Theatre, among others. She has also performed at a variety of places regionally and internationally, such as American Players Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, where she was part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. Barbara teaches at Northwestern's Bienen School of Music and the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She's represented by Paonessa Talent and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He recently directed Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* for The Project. Recent appearances include Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. He will also direct Thomas Midddleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy* in April 2015. Directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *The Reign of King Edward III, A Woman Killed With Kindness, Othello, The Tempest, Richard II, Measure For Measure, Antony and Cleopatra, The Importance of Being Earnest, A Woman of No Importance, Pericles (1996 and 2008), <i>The Taming of the Shrew, 2 Henry IV, A Midsummer Night's Dream,* and his own adaptations of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will,* and *The Rape of Lucrece.* On-stage appearances with The Project include Friar Laurence/Lord Capulet in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet, Agamemnon* in *Troilus & Cressida,* George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII,* Lord Stanley *in Richard III,* Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It,* and many others. Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players and with the Oak Park Festival



Matthew Fahey (Duke of Albany) is a big fan of the wonderful artists that The Shakespeare Project attracts and the words they get to speak. He most recently was honored to be part of the ensemble in the Remy Bumppo production of *Our Class*. He has also worked with Lookingglass Theatre, Theatre Banshee (Los Angeles), Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame, Chicago Dramatists, Court Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Organic Theatre, Victory Gardens, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare on the Green, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Prop Thtr, Timberlake Playhouse and The Free Associates, among others. He is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory, Second City Music Conservatory.

the Annoyance improv program and studied with Del Close at ImprovOlympic. He studied stage combat (SAFD recommended) with Chuck Coyl and John McFarland and is a proud member of Actor's Equity.



Patrick Lane (Edmund) is excited to make his Chicago debut in the The Project's theatrical reading of *King Lear*. Most recently, he was seen Off-Broadway and on the road in The Acting Company's national tour of *Hamlet* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Regional credits include *Colette Collage* (York NYC), *Once in A Lifetime* (A.C.T.), *Tales of the City: A New Musical* (A.C.T.), *Scapin* with Bill Irwin (A.C.T.), *A Christmas Carol* (A.C.T.), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Cal Shakes). He received his BFA from the University of Evansville and his MFA from the American Conservatory Theater. He would like to thank the wonderful team at Stewart Talent and his beautiful wife, Ashley.



Scott Lynch-Giddings (Knight to Lear) is happy to return to The Shakespeare Project where he acted in eight staged readings in the 1990's, including the role of Albany in *King Lear* it produced 19 years ago. In the present millennium he performed in The Project's *Edward III* and *The Fair Maid of the West*. He's been fortunate to play many Shakespearean roles on Chicago stages, favorites including Jacques, Prince Hal, Lysander, and Macbeth in The Project's 1995 taping for CRIS radio. Scott has written and published three plays of his own, including *A Fancyfull Historie of Robin Hood*, produced most recently by Oak Park Festival Theatre, Sacramento Shakespeare Festival, and RWTH Aachen University in Germany.



Michael Joseph Mitchell (Duke of Cornwall) is happy to be back with The Project where has been in several past shows, including Edward III and A Woman Killed With Kindness. Most recently he was Polonius in Hamlet (Oak Park Festival Theatre); and previously in the new musical Signs Of Life (Snap-Two Prods. at Victory Gardens); Making God Laugh (Fox Valley Rep); Scrooge in A Christmas Carol (Drury Lane Oakbrook); Freud (and standby for both Freud & Lewis) in Freud's Last Session (Mercury Theater); Antonio in Merchant Of Venice (First Folio); Ross in The Goat Or, Who Is Sylvia? (Remy Bumppo); The Invasion Of Skokie and Voyeurs De Venus (Chicago Dramatists, where he is an Artistic

Associate); *The Real Thing* (Illinois Theatre Center); *Underneath The Lintel* (City Lit Theatre, Jefferson Award nomination for best solo performance). He is a proud member of the Actors Equity Association.



Erin Neal (Cordelia) is delighted to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where she last performed the role of Helena in All's Well That Ends Well. Her Chicago credits include work with Rivendell, Chicago Dramatists, Remy Bumppo, About Face, The House, Griffin Theatre and Victory Gardens among others. Regionally she has performed with Milwaukee Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, Fusion Theatre and Kitchen Dog Theatre. She also spent several seasons performing with the Stratford Festival. Erin works as a teaching artist sharing the transformative power of the theatre with young students.



Michael Pesoli (Duke of Bugundy, Curan, Servant to Cornwall) is making his debut with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Originally from Oak Brook, Illinois, Michael's previous credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) with the New York Shakespeare Exchange; *Hamlet* (Guildenstern and Osric) and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Reynaldo) with The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Training: Wagner College and The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.



Chris Roe (Edgar) is always happy to be working with The Shakespeare Project. He was last seen as Valentine in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Clem in *The Fair Maid of the West*, and Launcelot Gobbo in *The Merchant of Venice*. He received a MFA from The Alabama Shakespeare Festival/ University of Alabama, and relocated to Chicago from NYC last year. At ASF: *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio), *The Two Gentleman of Verona* (Proteus), *Misalliance, Othello, Cymbeline, The Three Musketeers*. In NYC: *Hamlet* (Hamlet), *As You Like It* (Touchstone), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck and Demetrius) with BAMA Theatre Company.



Michelle Shupe (Goneril) is thrilled to be playing Goneril in The Project's King Lear. She has appeared at various theaters throughout the country, including: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman, Washington Shakespeare Company, Studio Theater, Theater J and many others. She has also has dramaturged a number of The Project's readings including: The Tempest, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Mary Stuart, Measure for Measure, Troilus and Cressida and The Taming of the Shrew to name a few. Michelle is also a co-adaptor of The Project's educational outreach offering, 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet. She has acted with The Project in

various projects, including: 50-Minute Hamlet, The Project's Page to Stage Macbeth and the theatrical readings of Measure for Measure, Antony & Cleopatra and The Duchess of Malfi. She also directed last season's The Merchant of Venice.



Stephen Spencer (Fool) most recently directed a program about Shakespeare and Rhetoric for The Project that opened the Newberry's 2014 Bughouse Square Debates. He played the Duke of Milan in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Forset in The Project's *Fair Maid of the West*. As a Founding Member, he's been involved in over 30 Project readings including *Richard II* (Bullingbrook); *Measure for Measure* (Duke Vincentio); *Antony and Cleopatra* (Antony); *Henry VIII* (Henry); *Macbeth* (Macbeth); *Othello* (Iago); *Twelfth Night* (Orsino); *The Winter's Tale* (Autolycus); *King Lear* (Kent to Ray Wild's Lear); *Timon of Athens* (Timon) and *Troilus and Cressida* (Ulysses). He directed *The Duchess of*

Malfi, Henry V, and The Two Noble Kinsmen. Recent stage includes Jeff-Nominated Our Class (Remy Bumppo Theatre); The Quality of Life (The Den); Blackbird (Riverside Theatre); Blizzard '67 (Chicago Dramatists); Romeo & Juliet and The Winter's Tale (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); Night and Day (Remy Bumppo Theatre); Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and Wait Until Dark (Court Theatre); Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Congo Square/Goodman Theatre) and Comedy of Errors and Love's Labour's Lost (Oak Park Festival Theatre). This winter, he'll be heading south to play Nick Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Steve has appeared in over a dozen independent features and shorts in the Chicago market. Recent film: Public Enemies; Mad Black Men; Harvest; Son of America; Greg's Leg; and Morning Due (Cannes 2008). Always, for Brenda & Keely: "For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings,"



Fredric Stone (King Lear) appeared last this season with The Project as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Previously with The Project he appeared as Lord Audley in *The Reign of King Edward III*, as Master Cranwell in *A Woman Killed With Kindness* and as Brabantio and Gratiano in *Othello*. He has been seen with The Shakespeare Project as Pandarus in *Troilus and Cressida*, as the Duke of York in *Richard II*, as Prospero in *The Tempest* and as Lord Burleigh in *Mary Stuart*. He is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project where he has also appeared as Lepidus, Thyreus, and the Clown in *Antony and Cleopatra* and as Sir Anthony Absolute in *The Rivals*, as well as roles in *As You Like It*, *The Importance of*

Being Earnest, Much Ado About Nothing, Love's Labour's Lost, Faust, Ghosts, The Cricket on the Hearth and many others. In Chicago theatres, he played the role of the Rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora and at The Next theatre in After the Revolution in 2012. He recently returned from the 2014 season at The Illinois Shakespeare Festival where he appeared in Elizabeth Rex (Luddy Beddoes), Antony and Cleopatra (Lepidus) and Much Ado About Nothing (Friar Francis). In 2013 at the Utah Shakespeare Festival he performed in *The Tempest* (Alonso), King John (Philip, King of France) and Twelve Angry Men (Juror #9) in rotating repertory. He was featured in the acclaimed and Jeff recommended production of Scorched for the Silk Road Theatre, in The Chosen (David Malter) at Steppenwolf and in Trojan Women (Agamemnon) at the Goodman. At Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier he's been featured in many productions including Love's Labour's Lost (Boyet), Richard II (Northumberland), The Tempest (Alonso), Henry IV, and Henry V (multiple roles). Previously at the Utah Shakespeare Festival he played roles in Henry V and As You Like It. Other Chicago credits include Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (Writers' Theatre), Fires in the Mirror (Northlight), Beau Jest (Victory Gardens), Isn't It Romantic (Ivanhoe), and work at the Court, Drury Lane Oakbrook, and the Illinois Theatre Center. Broadway and Off Broadway credits include All Over Town and Awake and Sing; tours include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum with Zero Mostel. He has taught a Performing Shakespeare class at Victory Gardens Theatre in past years and currently coaches actors on audition preparation.