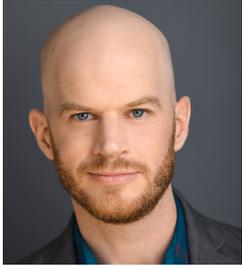


# Artist Biographies



**Rena Ahmed** (Phrynia, Marcus, Painter) is a versatile performer who has been featured in numerous productions of opera, operetta, musical theater, theater, cabaret and concert works throughout the Chicago area. She was the founder and Artistic Director of Third Eye Theatre Ensemble, an award-winning opera company that produced new and seldom performed works that inspire conversation. She is delighted to be making her debut with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.



**Josh Bernaski** (Lucilius, Titus, Second Bandit) is thrilled to be working again with The Shakespeare Project, after last appearing in *Richard III*. Over the past year, Josh has been bouncing around the country as Tigger in *Disney's Winnie the Pooh*, performing with the Off-Broadway, Chicago, LA, and National Tour companies. Throughout Chicago, Josh has also worked with Manual Cinema, First Folio, Lifeline Theatre, Drury Lane and others, and is currently understudying *Silent Sky* at Citadel Theatre. Josh often works at regional theaters across the country, and previously toured five years throughout South America and the Middle East with Artspot Educational Theatre. Proud graduate of Temple University, represented by BMG Talent, founder of The Connecting Routes Project.



**Aaron Spencer** (Lucius, Philotus, Merchant, Third Bandit) a graduate of the University of Utah's acting program, has showcased his talent on several Chicago stages including Interrobang Theatre and Drinking and Writing Theatre. When not acting, Aaron is also an accomplished oil painter.



**Isabella Crider** (Caphis, Timandra) is making her debut with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. She is a student at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts where she was seen in *A Wave O' the Sea* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. At Montverde Academy Theatre Conservatory her roles included Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



**Joe Fernandez** (Lucullus, Second Senator, First Bandit) is excited to be returning to Shakespeare after a decade long hiatus since he appeared in *Shakespeare's Women* at Marquette University where he was awarded the Chris Farley Scholarship. Joe has performed in productions with Northlight Theater, Goodman Theater, Milwaukee Repertory and American Theater Company but has primarily been doing standup comedy over the past ten years. He currently has two full-length specials out, *Ugly* on Tubi and *Demented. Live at the Chicago Laugh Factory* out now on YouTube. Has he also beat Hannibal Buress in consecutive games of NBA Jam and improvised yelling at Oliver Platt in an episode of *Chicago Med*. Yes he has and they're the credits he's most proud of.



**Peter Garino** (Timon) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. Recent directing credits for The Project include *Celebrating the Holidays in Verse and Song*, and *Isabella Andreini: Portrait of a Diva*. He is co-director (with Helene Augustyniak) of the film *By Help of Devils*, in which he portrays 14 of Shakespeare's villains. Selected appearances with The Project include Polonius in *Hamlet*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Helicanus in *Pericles*, the Duke of Florence in *Women Beware Women*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale*, the title role in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well*, and the title role in *The Merchant of Venice*. For The Shakespeare Project he has directed *Richard III*, *The Roaring Girl*, *A Baker Street Christmas Caper*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dream Upon Avon* and Rowan Williams' *Shakeshafte*, among many others. Peter directed the Chicago premier of Tom Stoppard's *Darkside* (Incorporating *The Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd). Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players, the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. 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. Love to Helene and Glen.



**Tim Kough** (First Senator, Sempronius) is honored to work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago for the first time. He is an actor, musician, songwriter, audiobook narrator and playwright. Favorite roles include Harry Truman in *Truman and the Birth of Israel*, Snelgrave in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and Zhdanov in *Master Class*. His albums *Blurr* and *Dreams and Demons* have sold across the globe. Tim is a founding member of Authentic Chicago Ensemble and his play, *Safe Landing: How the Owls Saved Me* is slated for production in Fall 2024.



**Dina Monk** (Servilius, Ventidius) is thrilled to work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago for the first time! Chicago credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Back Room Shakespeare Project), *Private Lives* (Raven Theatre), Jane Austen's *Emma*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (First Folio Theatre), *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story* (Oak Park Festival Theatre), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *Coriolanus* (Commission Theatre), *Groundswell* (Prop Thtr). Regional credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), *As You Like It: Books in Brooks* (Montana Shakes!), *The Winter's Tale*; *Love's Labour's Lost* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival). She has a BFA in Acting from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and studied at BADA in the Midsummer in Oxford program. She is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent. Visit [dinamonk.com](http://dinamonk.com) for more info about her past work.

# TIMON OF ATHENS

## Dramatis Personae



**Kendal Romero** (Flaminius, Poet) is delighted to be making her debut with The Shakespeare Project! Some Chicago credits include *Night of the Hunter* (City Lit), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre Above the Law), *Failure: A Love Story* (Oil Lamp Theater), and *Darkling* (Third Eye Theatre + Theater Wit). She has worked on multiple local and national commercials along with a variety of independent films. She also has taken a fancy to writing with a couple short scripts being featured at *Cut to the Chase Festival* at The Artistic Home and NYC Midnight Competition. Kendal is proudly represented by Lily's Talent and if you'd like to say "howdy", is on IG: @romero.kendal. And a massive thanks to Estella for reminding her of the magic of being yourself.



**Richard Shavzin** (Apemantus) has acted a bunch—some with The Shakespeare Project—and has also been seen at Northlight, Victory Gardens, National Jewish Theatre, American Blues, Madison Repertory, the Royal Alexandra (Toronto), the Organic, the Annoyance, and Strawdog, where he was Artistic Director from 1993-1998. The recipient of two Jeffs, Richard has directed at theaters across Chicago. He is an Associate Artist at Chicago Dramatists, and is Artistic Affiliate Emeritus with American Blues. He currently serves on the Central Regional Board of Actors' Equity, the Board of Directors of the SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local, and the Executive Board of the Illinois AFL-CIO.



**Erin Sloan** (Flavius) is a member of Actor's Equity and was an Affiliated Teaching Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. She holds an MFA in Classical Acting from The Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. She has several regional theatrical credits including Baltimore Shakespeare Festival, Ford's Theatre, and Taffety Punk Theatre Company in Washington D.C. Erin is originally from Oklahoma and was a company member with Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park for 10 years. She helped to co-found OSP's Young Company and taught master acting classes to students from around the state of Oklahoma. Erin co-founded The Enlightenment Theatre Project with her

colleague Dan Crane and the company produced a staged readings of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* and *The Tempest* and a fully staged production of *Twelfth Night* at the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. Erin has also appeared in the Emmy Award winning *Electronic Field Trips* produced by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. In Chicago, Erin has appeared with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago in *Women Beware Women*, *Jefferson and Adams*, and *The California Incident*.



**Esther Williamson** (Alcibiades) is a Shakespeare lover and all-around word nerd. Previous collaborations with Michelle Shupe include *Twelfth Night* with Taffety Punk Theatre Co. and both *Measure for Measure* and *Romeo and Juliet* with the Riot Grrrls. She holds an MFA in Classical Acting from The Shakespeare Theatre's Academy for Classical Acting in Washington, DC. Esther would love it if you joined her Zoom-based Shakespeare classes; visit [www.estherwilliamson.com](http://www.estherwilliamson.com) for more information.

TIMON, a noble Athenian ..... Peter Garino\*+  
FLAVIUS, his steward ..... Erin Sloan\*

### Servants of Timon:

LUCILIUS ..... Josh Bernaski  
FLAMINIUS ..... Kendal Romero  
SERVILIUS ..... Dina Monk

APEMANTUS, a Cynic philosopher ..... Richard Shavzin\*

ALCIBIADES, an Athenian captain ..... Esther Williamson\*

### His concubines:

PHRYNIA ..... Rena Ahmed  
TIMANDRA ..... Isabella Crider

FIRST SENATOR ..... Tim Kough

SECOND SENATOR ..... Joe Fernandez

### Friends of Timon:

LUCIUS ..... Brynne Clippard  
LUCULLUS ..... Joe Fernandez  
SEMPRONIUS ..... Tim Kough  
VENTIDIUS ..... Dina Monk

### Servants of Timon's creditors:

CAPHIS, servant to a senator ..... Isabella Crider  
TITUS ..... Josh Bernaski  
MARCUS ..... Rena Ahmed  
PHILOTUS ..... Brynne Clippard

A POET ..... Kendal Romero

A PAINTER ..... Rena Ahmed

A JEWELER ..... Dina Monk

A MERCHANT ..... Brynne Clippard

### BANDITTI, thieves:

First Bandit ..... Joe Fernandez

Second Bandit ..... Josh Bernaski

Third Bandit ..... Aaron Spencer

Running Time: Approximately two hours and twenty minutes including intermission

A discussion of the play will follow this performance

\* Members of Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding Member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

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**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**  
By William Shakespeare

June 15, 2024  
10:00AM  
Newberry Library

Pre-registration required  
Seating is limited

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**SHAKESPEARE**  
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*the world in words*

PRESENTS

**TIMON OF ATHENS**

by

*William Shakespeare*

Directed by Michelle Shupe

Stage Manager: Christopher Prentice

March 9, 2024

**Newberry Library**

[www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)  
P.O. Box 25126  
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March 9, 2024

We're back!

We last performed Shakespeare here at the Newberry Library on February 22, 2020. The play was *Romeo and Juliet*. Romeo is forced to quarantine in Mantua due to an outbreak of the plague. He is unable to make it back to Verona to see his beloved Juliet before she takes her life. On that same day four years ago, a cruise ship was not permitted to dock on the west coast due to its passengers being infected with a deadly virus. In Sonnet 56, Shakespeare describes the separation of two lovers:

“Let this sad interim like the ocean be  
Which parts the shore, where two contracted new  
Come daily to the banks, that when they see  
Return of love, more blest may be the view.”

We are blessed today to see each of you again in your seats here at the Newberry after our “sad interim.” Thank you for your patience and loyalty.



Cast and crew of *Romeo and Juliet* (February 2020)

**Christopher Prentice** (Stage Manager) is just beside himself to return to The Project for this *Timon!* For The Project: creative/technical: text coach and dramaturg (*Midsummer*) and assistant director and stage manager (*Darkside*); as an actor: favorite roles include Richard III, Thomas Heywood (*Christmas Comes But Once a Year*), Sherlock Holmes (*A Baker Street Christmas Caper*), Starbuck, Touchstone, Edmund Campion (*Shakeshafte*), Berowne, Alsemero (*The Changeling*), Philip the Bastard, Leontes, Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*), and Vindici (*The Revenger's Tragedy*), among others. Other theater: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Stratford Festival (five seasons), Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, and Signal Ensemble Theatre (co-founder). christopher-prentice.com

**Michelle Shupe** (Director) is thrilled to be directing *Timon of Athens* with this incredibly gifted team. She has been active with The Project for many years: acting, directing, assistant directing and serving as dramaturge. Directing credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* 2020, *Titus Andronicus* 2018, *Women Beware Women* (co-director) 2017, The Project's 2015 summer benefit *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, *Merchant of Venice*, The Project's 2013 summer benefit *Reflections from a Shakespeare Garden* (director and co-adaptor). As an adaptor, she also assisted with the adaptation of *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. Outside The Project, Michelle has directed at Taffety Punk, Roosevelt University and assistant directed at both Venus Theater and the Washington International School. In the fall, she will return to Taffety Punk in DC to direct *Macbeth*. As an actor, she has appeared in these favorite Shakespeare Project readings: *Shakespeare for my Father*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *King Lear* and *Three Interludes*. She has appeared at various theaters throughout the country, including: Milwaukee Rep, Theatre Squared, Shaw Chicago, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and many others. Michelle thanks Cam Magee for assistance in preparation of the script for *Timon of Athens*.

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