

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

presents

The
10th Anniversary Season
2004-05

Macbeth
by William Shakespeare

Directed by Mara Polster
Saturday, October 30, 2004
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm
And Sunday, October 31, 2004
The Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts- 2pm

Directed by Jeff Christian
Saturday, November 20, 2004
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm
And Sunday, November 21, 2004
The Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts- 2pm

The Parvenu
adapted by Jeff Christian from
Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
by Moliere

The Winter's Tale
by William Shakespeare

Directed by Laura St. John
Saturday, February 12, 2005
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm
And Sunday, February 13, 2005
The Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts- 2pm

Directed by Peter Garino
Saturday, April 23, 2005
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm
And Sunday, April 24, 2005
The Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts- 2pm

A Woman of No Importance
by Oscar Wilde

Please join our email list for updates:
www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

50 Minute Hamlet, adapted by Jeff Christian from William Shakespeare
August 2004 – June 2005
Various schools throughout the Chicago area

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

presents

The Parvenu

adapted by Jeff Christian from
Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
by Moliere

a theatrical reading

Directed by
Jeff Christian*

Stage Manager
Laura St. John*

November 20, 2004: The Newberry Library & The Wilmette Public Library,
November 21, 2004: Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts

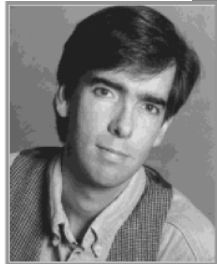


All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*
are members of Actors' Equity Association
the union of professional actors and stage managers.

This Month's Artists About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago



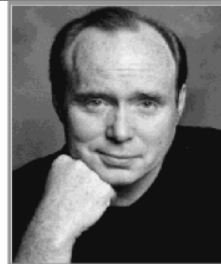
Deborah Clifton
Nicole



Will Clinger
The Lackey



Molly Glynn
Dorimene



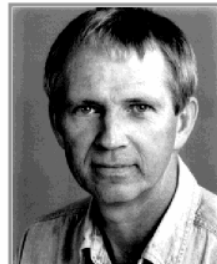
Todd Hissong
Fencing Master



Nathan M. Hosner
Cleonte



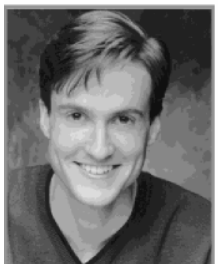
Gary Houston
Monsieur Jourdain



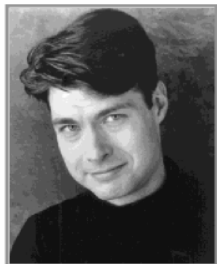
John Kishline
Covielle



Gail Rastorfer
Lucile



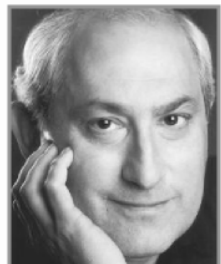
Bruch Reed
Dancing Master



Dan Rodden
Music Master



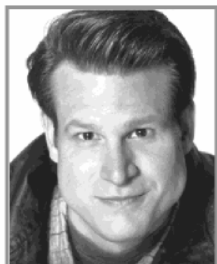
Kathy Scambiaterra
Madame Jourdain



Fredric Stone*
Philosophy Master



Mark Ulrich
Dora nte



Jeff Christian*
Artistic Director



Laura St. John*
Stage Manager



Mara Polster*
Founding Director

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began in 1995, providing free public performances of the complete works of William Shakespeare, offering several performances of one play per month at various public venues. From that time, our mission became to meet three goals: (1) To provide to our community, free or easily affordable professional performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists; (2) To create the opportunity for professional actors to explore this great literature; and (3) To provide exceptional theatre experiences for audiences and artists by maintaining an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and skill of the actors, all of whom are members of Actors' Equity Association.

We made our public debut with *Macbeth* in 1995, and in little over three years, completed William Shakespeare's canon with *Hamlet* in December of 1998. Our 1997 Season: The History of the English Kings, traversed the entirety of the great Elizabethan history plays in chronological order including *King John*, *Edward II* (by Christopher Marlowe), *Edward III* (an apocryphal play), *Richard II*, both parts of *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, all three parts of *Henry VI*, and ending with *Richard III*. (we saved *Henry VIII* for 1999) To date we have performed well over 50 plays and again, William Shakespeare's canon in its entirety.

In 1999, adding to our five theatrical reading offerings, we presented our first fully realized production, *Hamlet*, opening in March of 1999. We also produced our first original adaptation, of *My Name Is Will*, (an exciting dramatic adaptation of William Shakespeare's sonnets and songs by Artistic Associate Peter Garino), debuting as a reading in 1999 and then as a full production in 2000. Our original adaptation (also by Peter Garino) of Shakespeare's dark narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece* was performed in 2001 and we began development of our newest adaptation, *50 Minute Hamlet* in 2002, which we produced for its first fully realized production in 2003. This production of *50 Minute Hamlet*, adapted and directed by Jeff Christian (appointed Artistic Director in August of 2002) is now performing regularly at Chicago area schools and is available for booking for the 2005 school year.

Kicking off our Tenth Anniversary Season (which we have dedicated to our friend Chuck Lippitz), we revisited The Tragedy of *Macbeth* -- a destructive tale of ambition that sadly never loses its power and relevance. We are delighted to switch gears today by bringing you this wild ride through French farce, and hope you will join us later in the season for Shakespeare's lyrical romance play, *The Winter's Tale* and Oscar Wilde's scathingly witty comedy, *A Woman of No Importance*. We are honored to continue our partnerships with The Wilmette Public Library, The Newberry Library and The Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts, and look forward to working with them to fulfill our mission by offering exciting, free performances of the works of Shakespeare and other great dramatists. Maintaining an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and skill of the professional actors, all of whom are members of Actors' Equity Association. And our Education Program furthers this mission by bringing age-appropriate Shakespearean productions to the children of Chicago area schools. We sincerely appreciate your continued attendance, enthusiasm and financial support.

Profiles

Deborah Clifton (Nicole) is clearly giddy to make her debut in this TSP production. She was a Theatre X company member for years and years, acting, writing and directing plays and won an OBIE somewhere back there. She's performed at various theatres in Milwaukee and Madison and in Chicago at the Goodman (understudy for *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*) and The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*King John*) and with Aspect Theater (*Media*). She has a fine tall son named Sam and will be playing love scenes opposite her husband, John Kishline, yet again, in this Moliere play. That's why they call it acting.

Will Clinger (The Lackey) Will last appeared with Shakespeare Project as Launce in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He has been acting on Chicago stages since 1982, most recently as Leopold Bloom in the Irish Repertory's production of *A Dublin Bloom* and Pastor Steve in *Eric LaRue* at A Red Orchid Theater. Other Chicago credits include *Fuddy Meers* at Apple Tree Theater, *How I Learned to Drive* at Illinois Theater Center, *Hamlet! The Musical* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and *Moon Under Miami* at Remains Theater. He has traveled with the Second City National Touring Company, and is one third of the bluegrass band "The Famous Brothers".

Molly Glynn (Dorimene) is delighted to be working with the Shakespeare Project for the first time. Molly most recently appeared in a remount of Steppenwolf's *Orange Flower Water* for the Galway Arts Festival. Prior to that, she was seen in *Strictly Dishonorable* with American Theatre Company, and in *Holes* at First Stage Milwaukee. Other Chicago credits: *Orange Flower Water* (Steppenwolf); *Adriana in The Comedy of Errors* (First Folio Shakespeare Festival); *Holiday* (Remy Bumppo); *Hellcab* (Famous Door); *Pygmalion* (Apple Tree); *The Boarding House* (Next Theatre); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Steppenwolf/Fox Theatricals); *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* (Seanachai); *Look Back in Anger* (Bailiwick), understudying *Dinner With Friends* and *Light Up the Sky* (Goodman Theatre), as well as work with Strawdog, Stage Left, The Playwrights' Center, and Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Regional: *The Tempest* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* (American Stage Festival). Molly recently completed work on *And Then I Woke Up* for Scott Smith, one of this year's Top 3 Director finalists in Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's Project Greenlight competition. Other Film/Television credits: *Last Day, No Sleep 'til Madison*, *What Are You Having?*, *Early Edition* for CBS, and numerous television commercials. Molly will be appearing in *Permanent Collection* at Northlight this winter.

Todd Hissong (Fencing Master) Co-Producer of The Aspect Theatre Co., Todd last directed Aspect's reading of *Pygmalion*. Other directing credits include Aspects' readings of *An Enemy of the People*, *Antigone*, and *Pygmalion*. Was last seen onstage as Botvinnik in Aspect's reading of *A Walk in the Woods*, and prior to that as Don Pedro in *Much Ado...*, The Chief in *Belle of the Golden West*, Buck in *The American*, Glas in *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*, and as Moliere in *Noxious Humors*. A former company member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, he was last seen as Polonius in their full production of *Hamlet* in 1999. Todd has had a prolific theatrical career in his native Detroit where he last appeared as Sir Toby in the Attic Theatre's acclaimed production of *Twelfth Night*, and worked extensively in local television, earning three Emmys - the last one for his independent documentary *Death on the Inland Seas* which aired on PBS stations across the country. Todd's voice has been heard nationally on numerous commercials, and he is currently President of the Chicago Branch of the Screen Actors Guild. In his spare time,



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- FUN FACTS ABOUT SHAKESPEARE...**
- The average American's vocabulary is around 10,000 words - 15,000 if you are REALLY smart. Shakespeare had a vocabulary of over 29,000 words.
 - Although universally regarded as a genius, William Shakespeare was the son of a gloomaker and was given only an average education. Always intensely curious about the world around him, Shakespeare would later rely on scenes remembered from his childhood, common country customs and superstitions, fairs and other popular entertainments as raw material for his plays.
 - The words "assassination" and "bump" were invented by Shakespeare. If you say "bump" it off, you are also quoting Shakespeare. Other inventions included "pukie" and "bedroom".
 - The animal world is well represented in Shakespeare's works. Over 3,000 references to some 180 different species of animals-both real and imaginary-have been identified in the plays. Everything from simple country wildlife-birds, bats, hedgehogs, insects, wild boar and deer-to more exotic species-rhinoceros, tiger, elephant and bear, as well as the mythical unicorn, phoenix, and dragon.

- MATCH THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION...**
- How old was Shakespeare when he died? >Othello
 - Who spoke the famous words, "A horse, a horse! my kingdom for a horse!"? >Ghost of Hamlet's father
 - Which comedy, often billed as a "dark comedy", is generally obsessed with death? >Twelfth Night
 - In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet's birthday is revealed to be on August 1st. How old does she expect to turn? >14
 - In which play does a man named Lorenzo love Jessica, the daughter of Shylock? >Regan
 - In which play is Lago the villain? >52
 - Which plays opens with "If music be the food of love, play on..."? >Richard III
 - What character instructs Hamlet to "revenge his foul and most unnatural murder"? >Measure for Measure
 - Goneril and Cordelia are two of King Lear's daughters. Who is the third? >The Merchant of Venice

Profiles

Kathy Scambiatterra (Madame Jourdain) In Chicago, Ms. Scambiatterra has performed at numerous theaters, including Center Theater, Wisdom Bridge, Pegasus Players, Bailiwick Repertory and The Goodman Theatre. She last worked with Jeff Christian on his adaptation of *Medea* as Medea for Aspect Theater. She has appeared at The Artistic Home as Lady in *Orpheus Descending* and in Chekov's *The Boor*. Previous to that, she appeared in the Los Angeles production of the award-winning *The Quick Change Room* directed by Orson Bean for the Pacific Resident Theater Company. Other notable roles include Isabella in *Measure For Measure*, Lysistrata in Center Theater's *Lysistrata 2411 A.D.* and Macon in Beth Henley's *Abundance*, for which she received a Jeff Award nomination. Since becoming artistic director of The Artistic Home six years ago, she has directed David Rabe's *In The Boom Boom Room*, Clifford Odet's *Waiting For Lefty*, Kondoleon's *Self-Torture and Strenuous Exercise*, Sygne's *In The Shadow of the Glen*, Miller's *After The Fall*, Elmer Rice's *Street Scene* and currently Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. Ms. Scambiatterra heads the on-going actor training program at The Artistic Home.

Fredric Stone* (Philosophy Master) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project after last being seen as Engstrand in *Ghosts* and Caleb Plummer in last winter's premier adaptation of *Cricket on the Hearth*. He just finished doing *The Chosen* at Steppenwolf. Recently he played the Duke and Antonio in *Two Gentleman of Verona* at Shakespeare on the Green in Lake Forest and Agamemnon in Mary Zimmerman's acclaimed production of *Trojan Women* at the Goodman Theatre last spring. He has spent much time at Chicago Shakespeare Theater in productions of *Love's Labor's Lost* (Boyet), *The Tempest* (Alonso), *Richard II* (Northumberland), *Henry IV parts 1 and 2* (Norththumberland, Francis, Vernon, and Silence); *Henry V* (multiple roles), *The Winter's Tale* (Camillo), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Gremio). Other Chicago credits include *Fires in the Mirror* (Northlight), *Beau Jest* (Victory Gardens), *Isn't it Romantic* (Ivanhoe), as well as work at the Court Theatre, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, and Illinois Theatre Center. Regional credits at New American Theatre, BoarsHead Theatre, Madison Repertory and First Stage Milwaukee. Broadway and Off B'way credits include *All Over Town* and *Awake and Sing* and tours include *A Funny Thing Happened... Forum* with Zero Mostel. Film and Television credits include *Thief*, *The Untouchables*, *Crime Story*, and *Missing Persons*. Mr. Stone also created and performs a one-person Shakespeare show, *Will and Testament (a life after death comedy)* that he tours. He teaches a "Performing Shakespeare" class at Victory Gardens Theatre.

Mark Ulrich (Dorante) has appeared in numerous readings for The Shakespeare Project. His most recent involvement was in last season's *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* which firmly situated TSP as his most favorite theatre company in the country. Other theatricals in Mark's vitae include Writers' Theatre, Rivendell, and Northlight, to name a few.

Jeff Christian* (Director, Artistic Director) leads the company into his third season, having adapted and directed the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, Ibsen's *Ghosts* and Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, as well as having staged *King Lear*. Other directing credits include *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), the national touring production of the interactive comedy *Sister Bernie's Bingo Bash*, *Cruise Control* (Artistic Home; also playwright), *Land of the Free* (Artistic Home; written with Mark Ulrich), *Crate Expectations* (Chicago Dramatists; written with Nathan Carver), *Singer & Saw* (Actors' Gymnasium; written with Nathan Carver), *A Walk in the Woods* and his adaptation of *Medea* (Aspect Theatre), and both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeymen; co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award). Acting credits with TSP include Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Buckingham in *Richard III*, Proteus in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*,

Profiles

Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Hortensio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*. Other acting credits include work with Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, The Women's Project of New York, New American Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Bernie Sahlins' production of *Murder in the Cathedral*, and Lt. Osborne in Seanachai's *After Dark*-winning and Jeff nominated production of *Journey's End*. He is a member of both the Seanachai and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, has appeared in a number of independent films and recently worked on Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*, and holds BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin. He will perform in *The Grapes of Wrath* in both Syracuse and Indianapolis this winter.

Laura St. John* (Stage Manager) was pleased to open The Shakespeare Project's Tenth Anniversary Season last month as Lady Macbeth and can be seen regularly as "Gal" (better known as every role except Hamlet) in The Shakespeare Project's school production of *50 Minute Hamlet*, the role which she developed for the 2002 season's premier theatrical reading of the piece. Laura has worked with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago since 1999 and became their Education Director in 2002. Through her work with TSP and other projects, she hopes to bring the arts to as many kids as possible. Laura is a Drama Artist with Reading-In-Motion- a drama based reading program servicing the children of the Chicago Public Schools. She is a founding member and Director of Children's Programs at New World Repertory Theatre and a collaborator on the children's book *Through the Cracks* (Davis Publications). Also with the Project, Laura has directed and played the role of Maria in December of 2001's *Twelfth Night*. Other TSP roles include Calpurnia (*Julius Caesar*), 3rd Witch (*Macbeth*), and the Player Queen (*Hamlet*).

Mara Polster* (Founding Director) During her tenure as Artistic Director, Mara guided The Shakespeare Project through over 50 productions and the entirety of William Shakespeare's canon, directing such plays as *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and playing many great Shakespearean women, like Emilia, Tamora, Margaret, Paulina, Isabella, Katherina and Lady Macbeth. Mara has acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. Mara is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis and her work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson, and now continues commemorating our beloved Chuck Lippitz.

A discussion of the play will

follow this Performance!

You are all welcome. Please stay,

Profiles

meet the cast, and share your ideas and

King Henry IV, Part II

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⁵ Hamlet

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The Players

(In order of appearance)

Monsieur Jourdain Gary Houston

The Lackey Will Clinger

Music Master Dan Rodden

Dancing Master Bruch Reed

Fencing Master Todd Hissong

Philosophy Master Fredric Stone*

Nicole Deborah Clifton

Madame Jourdain Kathy Scambiaterra

Dorante Mark Ulrich

Cleonte Nathan M. Hosner

Covielle John Kishline

Lucile Gail Rastorfer

Dorimene Molly Glynn

The Setting, at least in Monsieur Jourdain's mind, is 17th Century France

The Parvenu will be performed without intermission.

* Denotes Artistic Associates of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

Thank You to our Benefactors!

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Founding Director

Mara Polster

Education Director

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Melissa F. Sherman

Mary L. Smith

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Laura St. John

Marlon St. John

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Nathan M. Hosner (Cleonte) is very pleased to be returning to The Shakespeare Project, where he was last seen playing Malcolm in *Macbeth* and prior to that as Oswald in *Ghosts*. Recent credits include Edmund in *King Lear* and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Jason Posner in *Wit* at The BoarsHead Theatre, and a role on *As The World Turns*. Nathan was lucky enough to escape the blustery cold of Chicago last winter by playing Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and a variety of Shakespearean roles as a member of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's graduate company on the inaugural voyage of the Cunard ocean liner Queen Mary 2.

Gary Houston (M. Jourdain) just appeared in the Theatre at the Center revival of *The Petrified Forest* and last season in Victory Gardens' *Free Man of Color* and Irish Rep's *A Dublin Bloom*. His brush with French theatre up to now hasn't

involved Moliere but instead has been his directing Boris Vian's *Les Batisseurs d'Empire* (*The Empire Builders*) for Pary Production Co., a troupe he founded and for most of its years headed. Still, he felt very French playing Nelson Algren as Algren fell in love with Simone de Beauvoir and imbibed Paris on a visit in John Susman's *Nelson & Simone* at Live Bait.

years with her husband, Dan Rodden.

Bruch Reed (Dancing Master) Mr. Reed is pleased to make his Shakespeare Project debut. He was last seen as Cecil Graham in Northlight Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*. He has also been privileged to work with Mary-Arrchie, Defiant, Roadworks, Goodman, Red Hen, Steppenwolf, greasy joan, Court, European Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Fest, Famous Door, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, and About Face. He hopes to walk again by January

John Kishline (Covielle) is pleased to appear in his third TSP fandango having done *King Lear* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Kish was a founding member of Theatre X in Milwaukee during the Pleistocene Age and massaged 150 plays there, winning an OBIE along the way. He's also worked at other Milwaukee theaters, in Madison, and performed a bunch in Europe and 28 of these United Blue and Red States. John just finished a long run as Murray the cop in *The Odd Couple* and then swerved into *The Crucible*, busting more laughs as he called down Satan on political enemies. He's written some plays which were nominated for awards but all he's won is a golfing trophy. Deborah Clifton is still married to him and they have a very tall son named Sam.

Gail Rastorfer (Lucile) This marks Gail's fifth production with TSP. Other TSP credits

include *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Twelfth Night*. Other regional and Chicago credits include: *Lend Me A Tenor* at Theatre at the Center, Rosalind in *As You Like It* at Indiana Repertory Theatre, *Twelfth Night* at First Folio Shakespeare Festival, *The Rose Tattoo* at Goodman Theatre, *The Gamester* at Northlight Theatre, and various productions at Drury Lane Evergreen Park (may it rest in peace). Gail has been living in Chicago for the last 9

Dan Rodden (Music Master) Dan was most recently seen with TSP in *Macbeth* and prior to that in *All's Well That Ends Well*. Other credits include New American Theater, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Aardvark Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the ImprovOlympic. Regionally: Texas Shakespeare Festival; Nebraska Theatre Caravan; Cidermill Playhouse, and Beechwood Theatre Company. Special thanks to his lovely wife Gail for her love and support.