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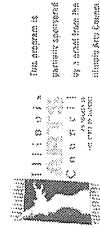
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(Continued)  
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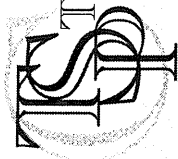
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The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is partially supported by:

and the generous contributions of our program audiences. Thank You!



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Presents

# The Taming of the Shrew

A Theatrical Reading

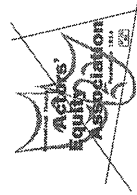
Directed by  
Mara Polster\*

Assistant Director  
Michelle Sterling\*

Stage Manager  
Tom Hagglund

Performances: March 17 & 18, 2001

All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.



## Notes from the Director:

*The Taming of the Shrew* - like Shakespeare's comedy *The Merchant of Venice* and tragedy *Othello* - is difficult for an audience today to view without the filter of our modern sensibilities. In our world there is no woman and likely, not many men left, whom seeing a man "tame" a woman would amuse.

As a tribute to Women's History Month, it was our desire to visit the "taming" from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century point of view. Hoping that we would find such an endeavor supported by the text. Instead what we learned was that, as is Shakespeare's want, it is all much deeper than that.

This is a play in which almost no one is who he or she seems to be. Unlike the other plays, in which people are either telling the truth or saying "I'm not telling the truth", in *Shrew* people are most often pretending, misleading or in Kate's shrewish way, protecting. With this in mind, was Shakespeare really saying what he appeared to be? Does a taming occur, or just the illusion of such?

I find that embodied in a framework of fun and hilarity, this play explores parental favoritism's effect on sibling rivalry and a woman's self-esteem; as well as an unexpected true love as miraculous healing.

Thank you for coming. Enjoy the play!

*-Mara Polster*

## This Month's Artists



**Norm Boucher**  
*Tranio*



**Gary Brichetto**  
*Vincentio, Peter, Tailor*



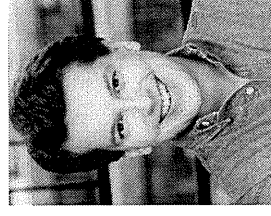
**Jeff Christian**  
*Hortensio*



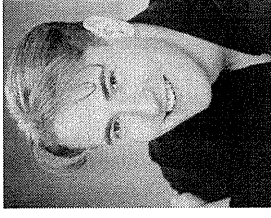
**Colin Douglas**  
*Pedant, Haberdasher*



**Peter Garino\***  
*Baptista*



**John Kooi**  
*Grumio*



**Dan Kuhlman**  
*Lucentio*



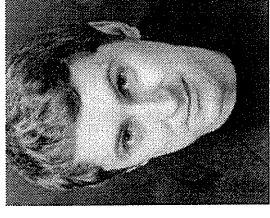
**Connie McGrail\***  
*Katherina*



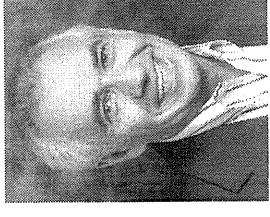
**Kristen Paige**  
*Bianca*



**Mary Ringstad\***  
*Biondello, Widow*



**David Skidmore\***  
*Petruchio*



**Dennis Sook\***  
*Gremio, Haberdasher*

Special Thanks are extended to our Patroness, Carolyn LaMacchia, without whose support the 2001 and 2002 seasons would not be possible. We welcome her to our audience for this weekend's performances.

\* Denotes Artistic Associates of the *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*.

## ★ Adopt Your Favorite Actors!

\*No, we aren't selling humans into slavery here (so don't get too excited about having someone with great talent to clean your home.) But you can Adopt an actor and assist *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* in continuing to hire the exceptionally skilled performers you've come to enjoy, while showing your specific appreciation for a particular actor's work. Adopt one actor or up to an entire cast for one performance, one play, or even the entire season. Call (773) 334-TSP1 for information.

## Profiles

**Mara Polster\*** (Director/Artistic Director) is thrilled to be able to work with such an exceptional group of people and especially grateful that Michelle Sterling came out to play on this one. As the Founding Artistic Director of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, she has seen the group through all of its presentations since 1995 and has directed many including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, and last December's *Timon of Athens*. With *TSP* Mara has played many of the great Shakespearean women including Emilia in *Othello*, Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*, Margaret in *3-Henry VI & Richard III*, Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Lady Macbeth. Prior to the project's inception, Mara acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. She played Agnes in *I Do*, *I Do* at the Evergreen Theatre, Vonnie in *The Roads To Home* at the Eclipse, and Edna/Ma'am White in *Freedom Bound* at the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Other favorite roles include Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, Amiens in *As You Like It*, Emily in *Our Town* and many musicals including *Candide*, *Gyps and Dolls*, *Evita*, *A Little Night Music*, *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *Best Little Whorehouse*, *The King and I*, *Zorba*, and so on. Mara is the proud Mommy of a beautiful 20-month-old, Michael, and thanks her husband Chris, the *TSP* Board, Artistic Associates, supplemental actors and patrons for helping the project go on. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson.

**Michelle Sterling\*** (Assistant Director) received her BA in theater at Temple University and her MFA in theater directing from Tulane University. Here in Chicago she has worked with the Goodman, Wisdom Bridge, the Organic, and Galileo theaters. In Philadelphia she worked with the Wilma and in London with the Lyric Hammersmith theaters. For *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* she directed *Measure for Measure* and *Titus Andronicus* and served two terms as Chairman of the Board.

**Tom Hagglund** is happy to stage manage *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's* production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Tom has previously stage managed *Othello*, *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *My Name Is Will*, *The Tempest* and *All's Well That Ends Well* for *TSP*.

## Join us in April!

For our final offering of the 2001 season.

A dramatic adaptation of

William Shakespeare's seldom-seen, dark, narrative poem

## *The Rape of Lucrece*

Adapted for the stage and directed by Peter Garino\*

Featuring: Rick Carter, John Kooi, Katherine Marie Loague,  
Mary Ringstad\* and Stephen Spencer\*.

Saturday, April 28, 2001 at 1:00pm, Harold Washington Library Center  
Sunday, April 29, 2001 at 1:00pm, Berger Park Cultural Center

# The Players

(In order of appearance)

Lucentio, a gentleman of Pisa ..... Dan Kuhlman  
Tranio, servant to Lucentio ..... Norm Boucher  
Baptista, a rich gentleman of Padua ..... Peter Garino\*  
Katherina, his older daughter ..... Connie McGrail\*  
Bianca, his younger daughter ..... Cristen Paige  
Gremio, a suitor to Bianca ..... Dennis Sook\*  
Hortensio, a suitor to Bianca ..... Jeff Christian  
Biondello, servant to Lucentio ..... Mary Ringstad\*  
Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona ..... David Skidmore\*  
Grumio, servant to Petruchio ..... John Kooi  
A Pedant ..... Colin Douglas  
Peter, Servant to Petruchio ..... Gary Brichetto  
Other Servants to Petruchio ..... The Cast  
Haberdasher ..... Dennis Sook\*  
Tailor ..... Gary Brichetto  
Vincentio ..... Gary Brichetto  
Widow ..... Mary Ringstad\*

Scene: Padua, and Petruchio's country house

*There will be one 10 minute intermission*

## Profiles

**Norm Boucher** (Tranio) is thrilled to be back with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. Norm's favorite roles include Romeo, Hamlet, and King Lear, and he hopes to play them all someday. He has played both. Puck and Bottom for Equity Library Theatre, but not at the same time.

**Gary Brichetto** (Vincentio, Peter, Tailor) is pleased to be making his first appearance with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. He has appeared at numerous Chicago theatres over the past twenty years, most recently in *Love, Sex, and the IRS* at Drury Lane Evergreen Park.

**Jeff Christian** (Hortensio) returns to *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, having played Buckingham in last autumn's *Richard III*. He shared in three Jeff Awards for his work on both parts of *Angels in America*, and has worked locally with Writers' Theatre, Oak Park Festival, Lifeline, Bailiwick, Illinois Theatre Center, Artistic Home, Drury Lane Evergreen Park and what was Shakespeare Repertory. In addition to a number of regional acting credits, he recently directed *Driving Miss Daisy* for New American Theater.

**Colin Douglas** (the Pedant, Nathaniel, Servant) is happy to be making his first appearance with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. Area audiences may have also seen him as Duke Senior in *As You Like It* and Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* around Chicago. Other roles have included Orgon in *Tartuffe*, the title role in *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, Father Jack in *Dancing of Lughnasa* and Mr. McLeavy in *Loot*. Musical roles have included Ben Franklin in *1776*, both Percival Browne and Lord Brookhurst in *The Boy Friend*, Sancho in *Man of La Mancha*, the Major-General in *Pirates of Penzance* and Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*. Later this Spring, Colin will play Herbie in CTM's production of *Gypsy* in Madison, WI, and will teach and direct at the CTM Summer Drama School for a second season.

**Peter Garino**\* (Baptista) has been a company member of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* since 1995 and has appeared in over 20 *TSP* theatrical readings. Last month, he appeared as the Duke of Venice in *Othello*. In December, he directed the world premiere of *The Khe Sanh Bagman*, Leigh Johnson's Vietnam-era trilogy at the Center Theater in Chicago. Next month, he will direct for *TSP* his own adaptation of Shakespeare's narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece*. His original adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name is Will*, received its professional premiere by *TSP* at Oakton Community College. For *TSP* he has directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, and *Pericles*. Other credits include work with Steppenwolf Theatre, Organic Theatre, Body Politic Ensemble, Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Peter trained at Hofstra University (New York), the National Shakespeare Company Conservatory, and received his M.F.A. in Acting at Illinois State University. Thank you Helene and Glen Thomas.

**John Kooi** (Grumio) holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Brandeis University in Massachusetts and a B.A. in Theatre from St. John's University in Minnesota. He directed *Othello* last month for *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. Previous acting appearances with *TSP* include: Egeus and Robin Starvling in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Malcolm in *Macbeth*, Rosencrantz, Barnardo and the Grave Digger in the *TSP* premier production of *Hamlet*, and most recently as Richard in *Richard III*. John also appeared in the premier production of *The Khe Sanh Bagman* this past Fall at the Center Theatre in Chicago. New York credits include *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Butterfingers Angel...* and *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* (by Czechoslovakian playwright Vaclav Havel). Among his Regional credits are *Romeo and Juliet* (The Cleveland Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin conducting), *Visiting Mr. Green*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Immigrant* and *I Hate Hamlet* (Shadowland Theatre), *As You Like It* and *Betrayer* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), *Awake and Sing!* (Rainbow Theatre), *Cantorial* (The Jewish Theatre of New England), *Spike Heels* (Playwright's Platform), and *The Real Inspector Hound* (The Blackburn Theatre).

## Profiles

**Dan Kuhlman** (Lucentio) is happy to be working on his fifth production with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, also having played Roderigo in *Othello*, Lucilius in *Timon of Athens*, Richmond in *Richard III* and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in Pittsburgh, and his favorite roles have included: Boie in *Gross Indecency*, Claudio in *Measure for Measure*, Jerry in *Zoo Story*, and Alan in *Come Blow Your Horn*.

**Connie Mcgrail**\* (Katherina) has appeared with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* in *Henry V* (Katharine), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *King Lear* (Cordelia), *As You Like It* (Celia), *Troilus and Cressida* (Cressida), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Diana), *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff) and *Richard III* (Lady Anne). She has been seen locally with Northlight Repertory, Illinois Theatre Center, the Drury Lanes and Equity Library Theatre (*Strange Interlude*) and regionally with Peninsula Players, Purple Rose Theatre, and Florida's Asolo Theatre. Her next role is that of director of the sixth grade play at Holy Cross School in Deerfield.

**Cristen Paige** (Bianca) This is Cristen's second reading with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, having last appeared as Hermia in *Midsummer*. Since then she appeared in *Evita* at Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, ran the Chicago Marathon and brushed up on her waitressing skills. Cristen studied theatre at Oxford and received a BFA in acting from Boston University. She has worked in musicals, Shakespeare, experimental theatre and children's theatre in New York, Chicago, Louisville and Indianapolis and is currently playing "Kitty" in *Pinocchio* at Marriott's Lincolnshire Theater

**Mary Ringstad**\* (Biondello, Widow) is very happy to be back onstage with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* as a boy! Former *TSP* roles include Anna in the premier production of *My Name Is Will*, Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *I-Henry VI*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Prince Edward in *Edward II* and Falstaff's page in *2-Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Also for *TSP*, Mary directed *Love's Labor's Lost* and served as assistant director for *King Lear*. Mary has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University and is featured performer on the recently released Grammy nominated recording "Ella Jenkins and a Union of Friends Pulling Together" on Smithsonian Folkways. Mary is an Artistic Associate of *TSP* and a member of the Board of Directors as well as a newlywed.

**David Skidmore**\* (Petruchio) received his BA from Brandeis University in Boston and MFA in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, and studied for five years at the Piven Theatre Workshop. Most recently seen in Chicago as Rob in *Dreams of Baby* at Breadline Theatre, he has also appeared professionally in such diverse roles as the Hunchback in NOWtheatre's *Signal to Noise*, Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, Jesus in *The Medieval Mystery Cycle* and Philoctetes in Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* and Sidney in *Smash*; an adaptation of one of G.B. Shaw's novels in Milwaukee Chamber Theater's annual Shaw Festival. David is one of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*'s Artistic Associates and has performed many roles including Puck, Iago, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo, Cassio and Hamlet in *TSP*'s premier full production in March of 1999. He also directed this season's *Richard III* and last's Macbeth. He thanks his wife Kori for her continuing support.

**Dennis Sook**\* (Gremio, Haberdasher) is one of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*'s Artistic Associates and has appeared in many of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*'s Theatrical Readings, most recently in *Othello* as Montano and Lodovico, King Edward in *Richard III* and Francis Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He recently appeared as a poker player in *The Odd Couple* at Candlelight's Forum Theatre. He's glad to be back in Chicago after working in New York for several years, where he appeared in commercials, on soaps, and Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing* and the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond*. Dennis was in the Actors' Studio production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. His career began touring with the National Shakespeare Company for two seasons. Dennis earned his Master of Arts degree from the City College of New York.