

**Will Clinger** (Painter, Sempronius and Chorus) Will has been writing and performing for the theater in Chicago for the past eighteen years. In addition to acting with numerous local theaters, he has traveled with the Second City National Touring Company, written and appeared in the *play Dr. Harlon's One-Way Ticket* at the Victory Gardens Theater and, as half of the musical comedy team "Clinger and FitzGerald," performed their original revues for extended runs in Chicago, Minneapolis and Milwaukee. Will has also acted in a number of television shows, including *The Untouchables*, *Early Edition*, *America's Most Wanted*, and *Jack and Mike*. In film he can be seen in *Serious Business* and the soon-to-be-released *No Sleep 'Till Madison*. Will bears a striking resemblance to Willie B. Famous of The Famous Brothers bluegrass band, and is now in his ninth season as the host of *Wild Chicago* on Channel 11.

**Julie Ganey** (Lucius, Caphis and Chorus) was most recently seen in Theatre at the Center's *Proposals*, and Irish Repertory's *The Mai*, and has also appeared in productions at theatres including Shattered Globe, Steppenwolf, Lifeline, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Drury Lane Evergreen Park and Chicago Dramatists. She has also written and performed for educators and corporations literally all over the country with the comedy troupe Wavelength, and leads improvisation-based workshops on manners for American Girl Place. Julie lives with her husband, Brad Harbaugh, who is also a writer and actor.

**Dan Kuhlman** (Lucilius and Chorus) is happy to be working on his third production with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, also having played Richmond in *Richard III* and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* earlier this year. 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*. He would like to thank everyone who braved the cold to come see the show, and wishes them happy holidays.

**Katherine Marie Logue** (Flavius) prior to moving to Chicago lived in NYC enjoying a diverse body of work (Greeks to Chekhov—as well as originating roles in plays by Constance Congdon and Edwin Sanchez) at various theatres there. She was directed by Christopher Martin at Classic Stage company, performing in rotating rep. Regionally, Kate had the good fortune to be directed by Marshall Mason in *Hot L. Baltimore* and *Summer and Smoke* in rep. For *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, she has played Mistress Quickly in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and performed (as understudy) Gertrude in TSP's first full production, *Hamlet*. For Equity Library Theatre, she was delighted to play Peter Quince in the Hiking version of *Midsummer* and toured to NYC playing Mary (aka Adam) in *As You HIKE IT*. For Chicago Dramatists Workshop reading series of new plays, she played Annick in *Honor the Dead*.

**Jonathyn Rayfield** (Lucullus and Chorus) is very happy to rejoin *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* for this production of *Timon of Athens*. He has just ended the National Tour of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* and will be seen later this year in the Showtime original motion picture *Lord, Light and Calling*. In Chicago Mr. Rayfield has appeared in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and *Dreamgirls*. He performed a leading role in the National Tour of *Big River*. Mr. Rayfield has also been seen in the 1998 TSP productions of *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and in the title role of *Othello*. He would like to thank Mara Polster and TSP for this opportunity to keep alive the voice of the Bard.

**R. John Roberts** (Apemantus) has recently returned from the highly successful inaugural production of Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame, playing Baptista in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and leaves next week to appear as Serge in the hopefully equally as successful production of *Art* at the Human Race Theatre in Dayton, Ohio. His Chicago credits include several productions with Equity Library Theatre including critically acclaimed performances in *Vieux Carre*, *Short Plays by William Inge* and the recent "hiking version" of *Robyn Hood of Barnsdale Wood*. Richard (that's the "R") is the Artistic Director of THEM theatre company, and appeared in their first major production as George Bernard Shaw and "A" in *by & about*, G.B.S. He has also been very active as director but that's another resume.

**Daniel Scott** (Alcibiades and Chorus) is delighted to make his third appearance with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, having just played Catesby in *Richard III* and Peter Quince in last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dan is Associate Artistic Director and Director-in-Residence of the Bog Theatre in Des Plaines, for which he recently adapted *The Secret Garden*. Directing credits include *Steel Magnolias*, *Little Women*, *Our Town*, *The Diviners*, and *The Crucible*.

**Dennis Sook** (Ventidius, Senator and Chorus) 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 as *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.

**Stephen Spencer** (Timon) is a founding member of the Core Acting Company of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* and this past summer played Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Prior to that he directed *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and appeared as Buckingham and Surrey in *Henry VIII*, Berowne in *Love's Labor's Lost*; Richard, Duke of Gloucester in *Henry VI, part 3*; Buckingham in *Henry VI, part 2*; Fluellen in *Henry V*; Edward, the Black Prince in *Edward III*; Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*; Lord Dumaine the younger in *All's Well That Ends Well*; Ross, Salisbury and Exton in *Richard II* and Macduff in *Macbeth*. He appeared in *Season's Greetings* at the Forum where he's performed in *Judevine*, *Marisol* and *Wingwalkers*. Other Chicago credits include *The Sea* with The Cypress Group and *Limbo Tales* at Café Voltaire. Regional theaters include Florida's Asolo State Theatre and The Ruth Foreman Theatre; the Utah Shakespearean Festival; Wisconsin's Evergreen Theatre and New Jersey's Cape May Playhouse. He toured throughout Russia, starting with Moscow's Leninsky Komsomol Theatre, and performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Steve works commercially doing Corporate Theatre for The Breakthrough Group and attempts to eke-out other work doing voiceovers, commercials, industrials, and big-time film and television.

**Melissa Van Kersen** (Poet, Servilius) was last seen in the Irish repertory of Chicago's production of *Buckets* 'O Beckett, Melissa is pleased to be joining *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* for the first time. Originally from Indianapolis, Melissa has lived and worked in Chicago for the past six year. Other Chicago companies she has had the pleasure to create with include Footsteps, Profiles, Yugen, Fourth Wall, Green Highway, Theatre Q, and NOW Theatre. When she is not busy on stage, her favorite activities include cooking, travelling and her boyfriend, Brian. They plan to move to New York City in the fall of 2001.

**Mike Vaughn** (Merchant, Flaminius) is happy to make his fourth visit with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, where previously he appeared in *Richard III*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and *Macbeth*. Other Chicago credits include *Windell Green* at Chicago Dramatists and two seasons on the Soap Opera *Hungry Harts* at Columbia College, where he is currently a senior. As a member of SAG/AFTRA for 23 years, Mike is a strong supporter of the strike against the advertising industry.

**Pat Vern-Harris** (Senator and Chorus) recently performed the role of Mrs. Scranton in *The Boy In the Basement* at the Inge Theatre Festival and last summer was Ethel in *On Golden Pond* in Dayton, Ohio. She spent two years with *Show Boat* including the North American tour. Other favorite roles include the Duchess of York in *Richard III* at the Missouri Rep, Fanny in *Painting Churches* at the Theatre Project of St. Louis and the Mayor's Wife with Tommy Tune in *Bye, Bye Birdie* at the St. Louis Muny Opera. Film's include *Two Fathers: Justice II*, *The Day After* and *Mr. And Mrs. Bridges*. Special thanks to Jim. What a guy!

## Notes from the Director:

Thank you for joining *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* for this production of *The Life of Timon of Athens*. Not your average holiday fare. But nonetheless a passionate exploration of openhearted generosity and surprising ingratitude.

Most scholars consider *Timon* to be an unfinished work, and I as a mere pedant, must concur. Although this play contains some of the most poignant speeches we've encountered so far and a searing cynicism more clearly stated than in any of the author's other works, the play can be very difficult to follow. There are many characters that begin and go nowhere. There are characters so nonspecific they hadn't even received a name of their own yet. There are themes carried by one character that are abandoned and then curiously picked up by other non-related characters—not to mention the repetition and rewording of ideas, as if to represent the rough trial-and-error of the writer.

For these reasons, and, frankly for the sake of my own comprehension, I have taken the liberty of reducing the number of characters to create fewer but more specific and three-dimensional personalities. I cut characters that may have been intended for future development, but as is, were not. I trimmed down and—a couple of times—cut out scenes that did nothing for the furtherance of the more prominent plot lines. Yet, for the most part, I have left the play true to its own language and (for better or worse) fragmentation for you to witness for yourselves.

All of this having been said and done, let me say definitively that I would not venture an opinion denying William Shakespeare (or whoever you want to say wrote the rest of the canon) authorship of *Timon*. Nor do I think that, having been completed, this would have been a lesser-appreciated tragedy or “problem play.”

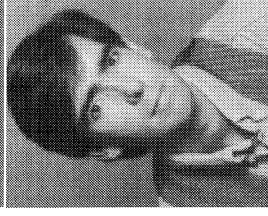
On the contrary, I am so moved by some of the exquisite language contained herein, particularly in soliloquy, that I find myself wondering if perhaps Hamlet's “To Be or Not to Be” speech existed long before there was a melancholy Dane or a fratricide in Denmark. Was it once just as a string of thoughts spilled onto parchment by a tired and wounded poet with never a thought of the story that we hold so dear?

I guess that is not such a far out thought. Of course that is how some (perhaps most) pieces of art came to be. The boon for me has simply been that I never thought of these dusty old treasures in their infant states before. *Timon* is our “genetic link” holding insight into the babyhood of Shakespeare's masterpieces.

Happy Holidays and enjoy the humor, sadness, beauty and unpleasantness of this play in the spirit of the gift-giving season. We'll look for you all at our next production, *Othello*, playing February 10 and 11, 2001. Happy New Year.

**-Mara Polster**

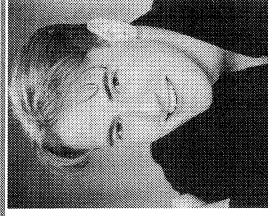
## This Month's Artists



**Will Clinger\***  
Painter, Sempronius  
& Chorus



**Julie Ganey**  
Lucius, Caphis  
& Chorus



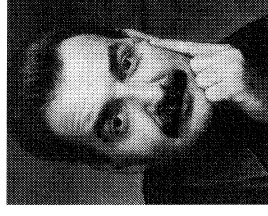
**Dan Kuhlman**  
Lucilius & Chorus



**Katherine Marie Loague**  
Flavius



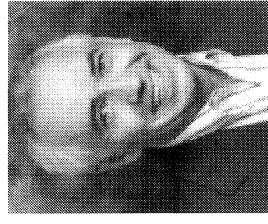
**★ Jonathyn Rayfield\***  
Lucullus & Chorus



**R. John Roberts**  
Apemantus



**Daniel Scott**  
Alcibiades & Chorus



**★ Dennis Sook\***  
Ventidius, Senator  
& Chorus



**Stephen Spencer\***  
Timon



**Melissa Van Kersen**  
Poet, Servilius



**Mike Vaughn**  
Merchant, Flaminius



**Pat Vern-Harris**  
Senator & Chorus



**Judy Blue\***  
Stage Manager



**Connie McGrail\***  
Stage Manager



**Mara Polster\***  
Director

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Favorite  
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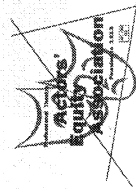
Nita Lee Wilson

*The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is partially supported by:



Performances: December 16 & 17, 2000

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



# The Life of Timon of Athens A Theatrical Reading

Directed by  
 Mara Polster

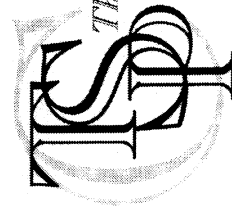
Stage Managers  
 Judy Blue and Connie McGail

**Mara Polster** (Director) has 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, Vonnice 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. With **TSP**, she has played many of the great Shakespearean women including Emilia in *Othello*, Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*, Margaret in *3-Henry VI*, Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, Katharina in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Lady Macbeth. Mara is Founding Artistic Director of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. Special thanks to Chris, Mikey, Jim and Nita for getting her through this week. **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** is the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMaccchia and Michael Alan Wilson.

**Judy Blue** (Stage Manager) most recently appeared with Theater at the Center in *Getting Away With Murder* and with T.H.E.M Theatre Company as Ellen Terry in *By & About G.B.S.* Prior to that she appeared at the Organic Theatre Company as Lyssa Dent Hughes in *An American Daughter*. She is one of **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's** Artistic Associates and has played many roles including Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Imogen in *Cymbeline*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, Regan in *King Lear*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Hero in *Much Ado*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*, Portia in *Merchant of Venice* and originating her role in the premier of *My Name Is Will*. Judy was Viola in Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Twelfth Night*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* at Stage West and Phebe in *As You Like It* at the Dallas Theater Center. In Chicago, roles include Desirée in *A Little Night Music* at The Goodman and Arlene in Apple Tree's *Baby*. She has appeared opposite Timothy Busfield in *Fool For Love* at B Street Theatre in CA and favorite roles include *Evita* and *Piaf* and also Alice and Elizabeth in the world premiers of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*. Other theaters include Baltimore Theatre Project, Movement Theatre Int'l, Henry Street New Federal Theatre in New York.

**Connie McGrail** (Stage Manager) is one of **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's** Artistic Associates and has appeared in *Henry V* (Katherine), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *King Lear* (Cordelia), *As You Like It* (Celia), *Troilus and Cressida* (Cressida), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Diana) and *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff). She has been seen locally with Northlight Repertory, Illinois Theatre Center, The Cypress Group, Alternative Shakespeare Co., the Drury Lanes and Equity Library Theatre (*Strange Interlude*) and regionally with Peninsula Players, Purple Rose Theatre, and Florida's Asolo Theatre. She is currently in *A Christmas Carol* at Drury Lane Oakbrook.

WE'VE MOVED!



*The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*  
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Chicago, Illinois 60625  
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# The Players

(In order of appearance)

Poet.....	Melissa Van Kersen
Painter.....	Will Clinger
Merchant.....	Mike Vaughn
Jeweller.....	Pat Vern-Harris
Timon.....	Stephen Spencer
Ventidius' Messenger.....	Daniel Scott
Lucilius.....	Dan Kuhlman
Flavius.....	Katherine Marie Loague
Old Athenian.....	Dennis Sook
Apemantus.....	R. John Roberts
Alcibiades.....	Daniel Scott
Lucullus.....	Jonathyn Rayfield
Lucius.....	Julie Ganey
Ventidius.....	Dennis Sook
Servilius.....	Melissa Van Kersen
Flaminius.....	Mike Vaughn
Sempronius.....	Will Clinger
Senator.....	Pat Vern-Harris
Senator.....	Julie Ganey
Chorus of Servants.....	Will Clinger
	Dennis Sook
	Dan Kuhlman
	Julie Ganey
	Jonathyn Rayfield
	Pat Vern-Harris
Senator.....	Will Clinger
Senator.....	Dennis Sook
Bandit.....	Dan Kuhlman
Bandit.....	Julie Ganey
Bandit.....	Jonathyn Rayfield
Soldier.....	Mike Vaughn

Scene: Athens and other parts of Greece

There will be one 10 minute intermission