

Regarding ELT

Formed in 1952 to let producers know that a talent pool of actors existed in Chicago, Equity Library Theatre remains the Midwest's only ongoing producer of showcases. ELT is open to any and all members of Actors' Equity Association who are in good standing with that union.

ELT offers performance opportunities to actors in many venues from full performance to staged readings, from scene showcases to various workshops and discussions with visiting artists.

Members are encouraged to bring ideas for new projects to one of four yearly meetings. The Alternative Classic Theatre Project began this way in 1986 and has become one of the most successful ventures ELT has produced. Another was the establishment of The Shakespeare Project, which began as a Special Project in May of 1995.

In 1993, we became a resident theatre of the Chicago Cultural Center. Each year we provide high quality, low cost Theatricals to the downtown area. Three to four fully produced plays in the Studio Theatre plus six to twelve one hour presentations in the Main Theatre on the second floor. Our last production at the CCC was William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Our next production will be in February—Anton Chekov's *Uncle Vanya*.

Workshops for children and the elderly have been conducted by ELT Members. These workshops encourage participation from both groups to keep the spirit of the theatre alive and to bring theatre into new areas.

You can also see ELT at work during our summer season; this past summer we presented two productions at Players Workshop Theatre: *Loneley Planet* by Steven Dietz and the World Premiere of *The Ascension of Ivy Buirhewlitz* by Chicago playwright Bret Cisco. Sign our mailing list book; we'll mail you all the details of next year's summer season.

Equity Library Theatre Chicago is a nonprofit organization, and as such, may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you would like to contribute to ELT to help us continue programs such as this, please send any contributions to Treasurer, Equity Library Theatre, 4738 N. Laporte Avenue, Chicago 60630-3801. A confirmation letter for tax purposes, will be sent by return mail.

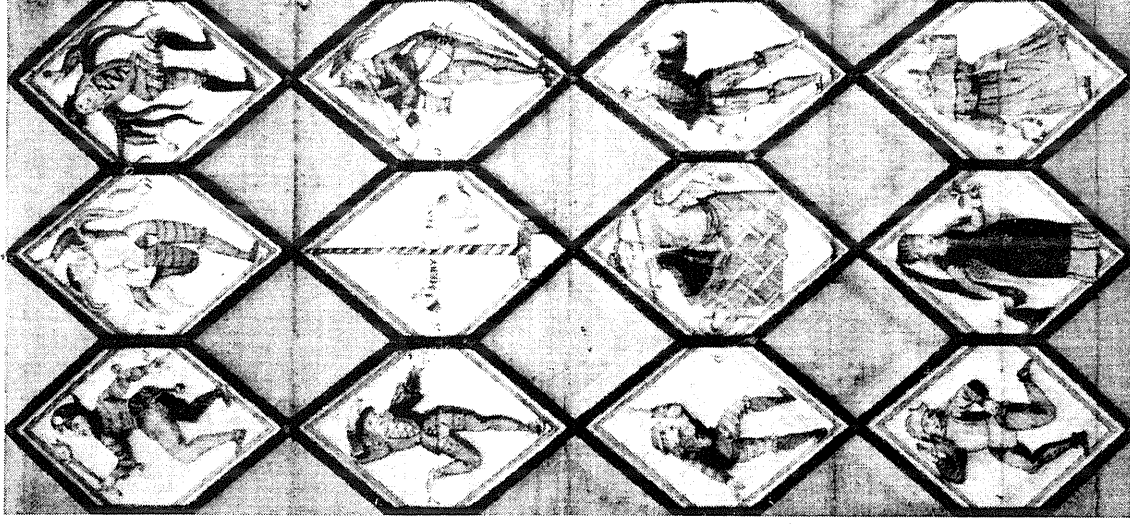
Regarding The Shakespeare Project

The Shakespeare Project, which began as a Special Project of Equity Library Theatre Chicago, is a group of actors dedicated to the exploration of the complete works of William Shakespeare. The group's current endeavor is reading the plays aloud in a presentation that achieves the clarity that could otherwise only be accomplished by fully producing the plays. Assembled by *The Shakespeare Project's* director and producer Mara Polster, these exceptionally skilled actors have previously been seen on the stages of The Shakespeare Repertory, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, The Court Theatre and many other theatres in the Chicago area and around the country.

In January 1996, *The Shakespeare Project* began presenting one play per month at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington, under agreement with Equity Library Theatre and Actors' Equity Association. Starting in June 1996, *The Shakespeare Project* began also presenting each play at The Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan, under contract with The Chicago Park District to augment park programming. At the turning of the New Year, *The Shakespeare Project* is very excited to present "A History of the English Kings" (as represented by Elizabethan Dramatists.) Join us next month for *The Life and Death of King John*. All readings begin at 1:00 p.m. and are free to the public. Donations are accepted. For further information or to book a reading by *The Shakespeare Project*, call (312) 252-8544.

The Shakespeare Project

Presents



A Theatrical Reading of The Winter's Tale

Director: Peter Forster

This is a Special Project of Equity Library Theatre Chicago. All of the actors are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers, and are contributing their talents under a Special Agreement between E.L.T. and A.E.A.

It is not easy to give a precise definition of the last plays, *The Tempest*, *Pericles*, *Cymbeline* and *The Winter's Tale*. They are a curious genre and, with their marked similarities, there are perhaps also more differences between them than is generally allowed. 'Romance' and 'Realism' are dangerous terms, but if one is not too particular they are useful in speaking of elements in these plays. The plays are all to some extent romances, but they all contain realism in plot and character, a picture and interpretation of life which is deeper than mere verisimilitude. Like the others, *The Winter's Tale* can be called a romantic tragi-comedy, but it has a strong clement of realism in plot, incident, character, and language; stronger, perhaps, than in any of the others. The situations involve true human feelings and the characters are much more than conventional symbolic characters of romance. Some of the plot is of the world of fantasy, but that can be said of the plots of all Shakespeare's non-historical plays: they are all romantic in this sense. Hence, although no better term than romantic tragi-comedy can be suggested, it must be emphasized that the elements of realism in the play are strong: by no means everything is merely conventional or symbolic, there is much in the play of which the most important meaning is that meaning which is the most obvious and literal.

This practical, realistic, element in *The Winter's Tale*, woven so closely into the fantasy, is one reason why the play is difficult to analyze. It would be dangerous to yield to the temptation to search too closely for 'realism' simply because most critics ignore it. It would indeed be dangerous to have any single line of approach to a play which may well be 'a supreme instance of Shakespeare's poetic complexity.'

Peter Forster

The Winter's Tale

The Players

(in order of appearance)

Archidamus, a lord of Bohemia..... Ron Butts
 Camillo, a lord of Sicilia Peter Garino
 Polixenes, King of Bohemia..... Richard Marlatt
 Leontes, King of Sicilia Peter Wittrock
 Hermione, queen to Leontes Nancy Nickel
 Mamilius, young prince of Sicilia Finn Wittrock
 Emilia, a lady attending on Hermione..... Mary Becker
 First Lady, attending on Hermione..... Connie McGrail
 Antigonus, a lord of Sicilia Jason Eric Hays
 A Lord, attending on Leontes Kent Klineman
 Paulina, wife to Antigonus Mara Polster
 Jailer..... Dennis Sook
 Servant, of the house of Sicilia Marcus Vaughn
 Cleomones, a lord Sicilia Ron Butts
 Dion, a lord of Sicilia Norm Boucher
 Mariner Ron Butts
 Old Shepherd, reputed father of Perdita Dennis Sook
 Clown, his son Kent Klineman
 Time, a chorus The Company
 Autolycus, a rogue Norm Boucher
 Florizel, prince of Bohemia Marcus Vaughn
 Perdita, daughter to Leontes and Hermione Connie McGrail
 Mopsa, a shepherdess Mary Becker
 A Lord, of Bohemia Finn Wittrock
 First Gentleman, of Sicilia Jason Eric Hays
 Rogero, a gentleman of Sicilia Ron Butts

The Scene: Sicilia and Bohemia

There will be one 10 minute intermission