



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 15 years.

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2009-2010 season:

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Dan Rodden (Cardinal Campeius; Crammer, Archbishop of Canterbury) is pleased to make this his fourteenth production with TSP, having most recently played Clarence and Lord Mayor in *Richard III*. Other TSP credits: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Henry VI*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Henry V*, *My Name is Will*, *Love's Labors Lost*, *Henry IV*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Parvenu*, *Macbeth*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. Recent credits include AEA guest artist as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN; *Marrying Terry* with the Nightingale Group; and Felix in *The Odd Couple* at Drury Lane Oakbrook. Other credits: Oak Park Festival Theatre,

New American Theater, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, The Aardvark, Apple Tree Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the IO Chicago. Regionally: Texas Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Cidermill Playhouse, and Beechwood Theatre Company. Dan lives in Chicago with his lovely wife, actress Gail Rastorfer.



Steve Schine (Buckingham's Surveyor; Earl of Surrey) is honored to return to Shakespeare Project of Chicago after having previously appeared in *Richard III*.

Other Chicago credits include *King Lear* at The Goodman, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Twelfth Night* with Lakeside Shakespeare, *Hunger and Thirst*, *The Earl*, and *Gagarin Way* with A Red Orchid Theatre and *Othello* with the Journeyman. He has also performed with Famous Door, Piven, Strawdog, and Raven Theatres. Steve spent some time in NYC fostering new works with the off-Broadway house, Abingdon Theatre, as well as performing as a guest artist in Anne Bogart's MFA Directing class at Columbia University. Film credits: *Friends Like These*, *Kids and Their Toys*, *The Earl*. His voice can also be heard pitching various products on radio and tv. Steve actively performs with Vet Art Project, a Chicago based non-profit that creates opportunities for veterans and their family members to work in collaboration with artists from all disciplines to create new art about war for public performance and viewing. www.vetartproject.com



David Skidmore (Sir Thomas Lovell) was last seen with TSP in *Richard III*. In addition to his work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, David has acted professionally in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Milwaukee in a variety of contemporary and classical roles. David is currently Board President and is a Founding Member of The Shakespeare Project, and has been involved in many TSP productions over the years, performing such roles as Lear's Fool, Puck, Iago, Cassio, Petruccio, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo and Hamlet (in TSP's full theatrical production in 1999), and directing *Richard III* and *Macbeth*.

David can also be seen regularly as Hamlet in the Project's *50 Minute Hamlet* in Chicago area schools. David received his BA from Brandeis University and MFA in Acting from Temple University, and studied acting and improvisation at the Piven Theatre Workshop. He is currently a branding consultant for the healthcare industry.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM January 23-24, 2010

THE RIVALS BY RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN February 27-28, 2010

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA April 24-25, 2010

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Stephen Spencer (King Henry VIII) is pleased to be back on the boards with The Shakespeare Project. As a Founding Member, he's been involved in over 30 plays including *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Othello* (Iago), *Twelfth Night* (Orsino), *The Winter's Tale* (Autolycus), *King Lear* (Kent to Ray Wild's Lear), *Timon of Athens* (Timon), and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Thurio). He directed *Henry V* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Recent stage work includes *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Wait Until Dark* at Chicago's Court Theatre; the world premier of *Panic* (International

Mystery Writer's Festival); *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Congo Square/Goodman), and Oak Park Festival Theatre's *Comedy of Errors*. Other Chicago roles include Tom in Arthur Miller's *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* and Paul in the Jeff award-winning *The Liquid Moon* at Chicago Dramatists where he's also performed in *Judevine*, *Marisol*, *Wingwalkers*, the title role in *A Fancyfull Historie of Robyn Hood* and countless staged readings. Regional work includes 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 Fringe Festival in Scotland. Steve does voiceovers, commercials and industrials and has appeared in over a dozen independent features and shorts in the Chicago market. Recent film: *Public Enemies*, starring Johnny Depp; *Son of America*; *Greg's Leg*; and *Morning Due* (Cannes 2008).



Jeff Christian (Director, Artistic Director) leads the company into his eighth season, having adapted and directed *In Medea Res* (from Euripides' *Medea*), *Henry VI* (from Shakespeare's trilogy), *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*), Ibsen's *Ghosts*, Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, as well as having staged *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *As You Like It*, the gender-swapped *The Comedy of Errors* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* for the company. Other directing credits include *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Seanachai

Theatre Company), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), the short film *Still Live*, both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeymen; co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award), and James Krag's one-man show *According to Mark*. Acting credits with The Project include Richard III, Brutus, Proteus, Mercutio, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver, Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Aegeus (*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. Other acting credits include work with Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, The Women's Project of New York, Chicago Dramatists, Lakeside Shakespeare, New American Theater, Artists' Ensemble Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Bernie Sahlins' production of *Murder in the Cathedral* and Tennessee Williams' *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Seanachai ensemble, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, is a creative consultant for Tessera Publishing, and writes and directs live action and animated sequences for the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen. Film work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Express*, *The Poker House*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*. He is slated to direct *The Skin of Our Teeth* for The Artistic Home this winter and opens Seanachai's *Mojo Mickybo* this weekend (www.seanachai.org).

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

Henry VIII

by William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by
Jeff Christian

October 31 – November 1, 2009
The Newberry Library
St. John's Church (sponsored by
The Wilmette Public Library)
The Highland Park Public Library



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

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

Artist Biographies



Deborah Clifton (Old Lady) Deborah spent decades in experimental theatre, working in Europe, Japan and across our country. This made her turn to Shakespeare, where she has found much of her work since then. This is her 6th production with The Shakespeare Project and she thanks Jeff Christian for a long draught of the Bard.



Mary Kay Cook (Lady Anne Boleyn) is thrilled to make her Shakespeare Project debut. Theatre highlights include *Troilus and Cressida* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Regional Tony Award), *Mickey Finn* (Royal George Theatre), *Six Degrees of Separation* (Raven Theatre), *Nooner* (Purple Rose Theatre), and *Congress of Women* (National Tour of Greece). Film/television credits include *Stir of Echoes*, *Design* (Sundance Film Festival), *Dimension*, *Project Greenlight 3*, *Cupid*, *Early Edition*, and the recent release *Stash*. Ms. Cook is a graduate of the Theatre School, DePaul University.



Sean Cooper (Duke of Suffolk) has been acting in Chicago for fifteen years. Theatre credits include *The Crowd You're in With* (Goodman Theatre), *These Shining Lives* (Rivendell Theatre) *The Final Toast* (International Mystery Writers Festival), *Wedding Play* (About Face Theatre), *Honus and Me*, *Dandelion Wine* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *Cradle of Man* (Victory Gardens), *Red Herring* (Northlight Theatre), *Mojo* (Mary-Archie) *Eurydice*, *Melancholy Play*, *Mad Forest*, *Book of Days* (Piven Theatre), *Merchant of Venice* (Strawdog Theatre), *A Lesson Before Dying* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Lysistrata* (Running With Scissors), *H2O*, and *K*. (The Neo-Futurists), and a slew of shows with The Shakespeare

Project of Chicago. His film and television work includes *Whirlybird*, *A Pirate's Life*, *The Malcontents*, and a guest starring role on *The Beast*.



Peter Garino (Cardinal Wolsey, Associate Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has contributed to over 40 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. On behalf of The Shakespeare Project, he has recently facilitated his *Sonnet Workshop* and *Page to the Stage Macbeth* for local public and private schools and colleges. Last season, he appeared as Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res* and he directed *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*. Previously, he directed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and appeared as Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mortimer in *The Constant Wife*,

Rev. Manders in *Ghosts*, multiple roles in *Henry V*, Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*, the title role in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust*, Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, he has directed readings of *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his

own adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. He 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. Peter is a member of Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.



Todd Hissong (Cromwell) had a prolific theatrical career in Detroit where he last appeared as Sir Toby in the Attic Theatre's acclaimed production of *Twelfth Night*, directed by Antoni Cimolino (current General Director of The Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada). He worked extensively in local television, earning eight Emmy nominations from the Detroit/Michigan Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He won the award three times - the last for his independent documentary *Death on the Inland Seas* which aired on PBS stations across the country. Literally adding insults to various injuries, he was a founding cast member of The Michigan Renaissance Festival where as Lord High Sheriff he performed stage combat and street theater for 15 years. Inexplicably moving to Chicago, he co-founded The Aspect Theatre Co. and presented 19 Equity staged readings in its two and a half years of activity. Todd produced them all, directed many, appeared in quite a few, and has most fond memories of *Pygmalion*, *Antigone*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The American*, and *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*. A former company member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, he portrayed Polonius in their full production of *Hamlet*, and is a frequent performer of staged readings at Chicago Dramatists. Todd's voice has been heard nationally on numerous commercials and on audiobooks of the New and Old Testament. Further, he has appeared on-camera as a murderer on *America's Most Wanted*, in a ridiculous number of industrial films, and in the NBC/Universal pilot *State of Romance*. Having produced numerous industrial communication films for Ford Motor Co, Domino's Pizza, and the Biora Corporation, Todd is most proud of his work on behalf of the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disabilities on whose behalf he produced two advocacy pieces: *A Question of Caring* and *M.A.C.E.D. - Helping Kids Help Themselves*. Todd has been listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest" (1992-1993), and in "Who's Who in Entertainment" (1998-1999).



Nathan Hosner (Duke of Buckingham; Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester) is delighted to return to The Shakespeare Project, where he was last seen as the title role in *50 Minute Macbeth*, a role he had the good fortune to play this summer in First Folio Theatre's production of the full text. Other recent credits include Bob in *Beau Jest* at The Boarshead Theatre and Roderigo in *Othello*, 2nd Merchant in *Comedy of Errors*, and Porthos in *Three Musketeers* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, where he will return this coming season to play the title role in *Hamlet*. Other credits include productions with Door Shakespeare, Shaw Chicago, Madison Rep, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Nathan is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and a proud Kalamazoo native. Great to be back among so many great Chicago actors!



Richard Marlatt (Norfolk) was a Founding Member of The Shakespeare Project, appearing in countless readings of Shakespeare’s works. Other Chicago area credits include: The Chairman in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* with Noble Fool, Jules in *Sunday in the Park with George* at Ravinia, Tateh in *Ragtime* with Light Opera Works and, most recently, Milton Perry in *The Immigrant* at Illinois Theatre Center. He’s also worked with Marriott Theatre, First Folio Shakespeare Festival, The Goodman, Provision Theatre, Drury Lane, Chicago Shakespeare, Shaw Chicago, and Chicago Dramatists, where he is an Associate Artist. Regionally, he was Claudius and The Ghost in *Hamlet* for Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Morgan in *The Drawer Boy* and Midas in *Metamorphoses* with Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Tito in *Lend Me a Tenor* and Victor Fleming in *Moonlight and Magnolias* with Human Race Theatre, Torvald in *A Doll’s House* at Madison Repertory, Hornbeck in *Inherit the Wind* and Sir Edward Clarke in *Gross Indecency* at Boarshead Theatre, and Trinculo in *The Tempest* and Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew* at Nebraska Shakespeare Festival. He’s played numerous roles at Meadow Brook Theatre, including Sherlock Holmes in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, Henry in *Syncopation*, and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. He’s also worked with: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Little Theatre on the Square, Jewish Ensemble Theatre, and Peninsula Players, among many other companies, and has played Hamlet, Sir John Falstaff, Don Quixote, Dracula, and Ebenezer Scrooge. Twice this year, he played Abraham Lincoln, most recently having written his one-man play, *Abraham Lincoln Carved in Stone*, produced at Nebraska Repertory. Richard is a Director as well, and has trained with The Royal National Theatre Acting Studio in London, The National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York, and he holds a Fine Arts Degree as an Actor and Director.



Jennie Moreau (Queen Katherine) has worked on stage, film, and television in the New York and Chicago areas. Her stage appearances in Chicago include the world premiere of *The Day on Which a Man Dies* by Tennessee Williams, *Cradle of Man* at Victory Gardens Theatre, *Wedding Band* at Steppenwolf, and *Fallout* with Canamac Productions. In New York she performed at Second Stage, working with artists such as Lanford Wilson, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, and Lynda Barry, *The Good Times are Killing Me*. She received a Theatre World award for her performance in Lee Blessing’s *Eleemosynary*, at Manhattan Theatre Club, (with Eileen Heckart and Joanna Gleason). Other New York theatres she has worked at include Playwrights’ Horizons, Minetta Lane Theatre and Manhattan Punch Line. She was an original member of Artificial Intelligence, creating the role of Madeline Monroe, in *Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding*. Jennie has appeared in various soap operas, independent films, and many commercials.

Running Time: Approximately 2 hours including intermission

A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

Henry VIII

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

DUKE OF NORFOLK	Richard Marlatt
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.....	Nathan Hosner
CARDINAL WOLSEY	Peter Garino
CROMWELL.....	Todd Hissong
KING HENRY VIII.....	Stephen Spencer
QUEEN KATHERINE (KATHERINE OF ARAGON).....	Jennie Moreau
BUCKINGHAM’S SURVEYOR	Steve Schine
DUKE OF SUFFOLK.....	Sean Cooper
SIR THOMAS LOVELL.....	David Skidmore
LADY ANNE BOLEYN	Mary Kay Cook
CARDINAL CAMPEIUS.....	Dan Rodden
OLD LADY	Deborah Clifton
EARL OF SURREY	Steve Schine
GARDINER, BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.....	Nathan Hosner
CRANMER, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.....	Dan Rodden



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