

# Artist Biographies



**James Krag** (Guy) was last seen at the Shakespeare Project as Count D'Aubespine in *Mary Stuart* and as Scarus in *Antony and Cleopatra* and previously as Buckingham in *Richard III* and as Adriano in the gender-switched *Comedy of Errors*. Other recent Project appearances include Jaques in *As You Like It* and the title role of *Pericles* directed by Mr. Garino. Jim most recently appeared as Carson in *Night and Day* at Remy Bumpo and understudied and appeared as Elyot in *Private Lives* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Last year, he appeared at Victory Gardens as EKO in the Pulitzer

Prize nominated play, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. Other Chicago credits include *Well* at the Next Theatre and *The Trip to Bountiful* at the Goodman, *The Best Man* at Remy Bumpo, *Thyestes* at Court Theatre, and *Pacific* at Steppenwolf. New York credits include the original Broadway production of *Burn This, Mill Fire* at the Women's Project, and *Phedre* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include *While You Were Sleeping*, *Mercury Rising*, *Molly*, *Prison Break*, *Early Edition*, *ER*, *Ellen*, *Dharma & Greg* and a recurring role on *Missing Persons*. Jim continues to perform *According to Mark*, his solo show of the Gospel of Mark, directed by Jeff Christian. ([www.accordingtomark.org](http://www.accordingtomark.org))



**Barbara Zahora** (Gal, Associate Artistic Director) recently joined the staff of the Shakespeare Project as Associate Artistic Director, after having performed with them since 2005. Favorite roles for the Project include Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Henry VI Parts 1, 2, and 3* and Constance Middleton in *The Constant Wife*. Barbara played the title character in *Candida* at ShawChicago this fall, and other Chicago credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater, First Folio Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak

Park Festival Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Writers' Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, and many others. She has also performed at Shakespeare's Globe in London as part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. Barbara is proud to be an adjunct faculty member in Roosevelt University's Chicago College of the Performing Arts, as well as a member of Actors' Equity Association.

**Jeff Christian** (Adaptor/Director) served as Artistic Director for eight seasons, adapting and directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry VIII*, the gender-swapped *The Comedy of Errors*, *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*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife*. Other directing credits include *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *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, Enobarbus, Oberson/Bottom/Theseus, 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' recently discovered *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*.

**Peter Garino** (Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has contributed to over 50 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. He directed this season's opening play *Measure For Measure* and appeared in *Mary Stuart* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. In April, Peter will direct *The Tempest*. This past season, he appeared in *Paradise Lost*, directed *Antony & Cleopatra*, played Thomas and David in *The Rivals* and Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*. On behalf of The Shakespeare Project, he has facilitated his *Sonnet Workshop* and *Page to the Stage Macbeth* for local public and private schools and colleges. Previous roles include Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res*, 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, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). His directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles* (1996 and 2008), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his own adaptations of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. Peter attended the National Shakespeare Conservatory and 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. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.

Welcome Oakton Community College Students!

Since 1995, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago has dedicated itself to presenting free theatrical readings of William Shakespeare and other classic dramatists to Chicago area audiences. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago also offers education outreach programs (such as 50 Minute Hamlet) to local schools.

In our theatrical reading series, our artistic focus is rooted in illuminating the timeless truths found in the words of these great plays. Our audience members value the emphasis we place on the text, opening up a unique experience for them unencumbered by scenery, props, costumes and imposed conceptual conceits.

The company draws its talent from the extraordinary pool of local professional actors, all members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors. The actors receive a stipend for their work which is well below their regular union pay scale. The Shakespeare Project actors lend their talents to The Shakespeare Project because they share the Project's mission of making the Shakespeare experience accessible to all, regardless of proximity or economic means.

Our mission is to bring "the world in words" to audiences that might otherwise not be able to experience the genius of the greatest dramatist in the English language. Senior citizens and young people are our primary audiences. We pride ourselves in our ability to offer high quality, free performances to a demographic that is not able to afford local Shakespeare offerings. Our education outreach programs provide abridged performances of Shakespeare's plays and in-class workshops to augment middle-school and high school teachers' studies of Shakespeare and includes 50-Minute Hamlet (which you are seeing today) and workshops around Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and The Sonnets. For our young learner audiences, our approach to the work is driven by a simple goal: to make the student's first experience with Shakespeare a positive one.

Thanks for coming today.

Peter Garino  
Artistic Director  
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

# 50 Minute Hamlet

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

Claudius, *King of Denmark*

Hamlet, *son to the late King Hamlet, and nephew to the present King*

Horatio, *friend to Hamlet*

Polonius, *Lord Chamberlain*

Laertes, *son to Polonius*

Ghost of Hamlet's Father

Gertrude, *Queen of Denmark, and mother to Hamlet*

Ophelia, *Daughter to Polonius*

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, *Courtiers*

A Clown, *gravedigger*

Scene: Denmark

*A discussion of the play will follow this performance.*

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All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association.



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 15 years. With sincere thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2010-2011 season:

Ann Albert, Anonymous, Sunder & Carolyn Bajaj, Lynn & Aaron Broaddus, Jack & Janet Christian, Deborah Clifton, Brooks Davis, James & Martha Fritts, *In Memory of Margaret D. Garino*, C.J. Herhold, Nancy Herzog, Leigh K. Johnson, Arthur Kowitt, Carol E. Lewis, Rhita Lippitz, Kevin & Laura McVey, George & Gerry Messenger, Alice Mills, Marlene Mitchel, Sydelle F. Nelson, Catherine Regaldo, Elanor & Harvard Reiter, Leonard & Elizabeth Ringstad, Mary Ann San Martin, Alfred Saucedo, Chrisopher & Hisae Shea, M.F. Sherman, Thomas & Felicity Skidmore, Melanie Spitz, Myrna Sylvester, Dick & Mary Woods

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### Staff

Peter Garino	Artistic Director
Barbara Zahora	Associate Artistic Director
Melissa Carlson	Director of Education

Play (Shakespeare)	Last Production	Previous Production(s)	
		2010, 2006, 2003,	
Hamlet (50 Minute)	2011	2002	
My Name Is Will	2010	2006, 1999	
Measure For Measure	2010	1996	
Antony & Cleopatra	2010	1998	
A Midsummer Night's Dream	2010	1996	
Henry VIII	2009	1999	
Richard III	2009	1999, 1997	
The Comedy of Errors	2009	1999, 1996	
As You Like It	2008	1998	
Pericles	2008	1996	
Henry VI	2007	1997	
Macbeth (50 Minute)	2007		
Much Ado About Nothing	2007	1996	
Henry V	2006	1997	
Love's Labour's Lost	2006	1998	
Henry IV	2005	1997	
The Winter's Tale	2005	1996	
Macbeth	2004	1996	
The Two Gentlemen of Verona	2004	1996	
All's Well That Ends Well	2003	1998	
King Lear	2003	1998	
The Merchant of Venice	2003	1995	
Romeo and Juliet	2002	1996	
Othello	2001	1998	
The Taming of the Shrew	2001	1996	
The Rape of Lucrece	2001		
Julius Caesar	2001	1996	
Twelfth Night	2001	1997	
Timon of Athens	2000		
Hamlet	1998		
Hamlet (full production)	1999		
The Two Noble Kinsmen	1999		
Cymbeline	1998		
Troilus & Cressida	1998		
Titus Andronicus	1998		
The Tempest	1998		
The Merry Wives of Windsor	2011	1998	
King John	1997		
Richard II	1997		
Coriolanus	1996		
<b>Non-Shakespeare</b>			
Mary Stuart (Schiller)	2011	Adapted by Jeff Christian	
Paradise Lost (Milton)	2010	Adapted by Regina M. Schwartz	
The Rivals (Sheridan)	2010		
In Medea Res (Euripides)	2008	Adapted by Jeff Christian	
The Importance of Being Earnest (Wilde)	2008		
The Constant Wife (Maugham)	2007		
Faust	2005	Adapted by Jeff Christian	
A Woman of No Importance (Wilde)	2005		
The Parvenu (Moliere)	2005	Adapted by Jeff Christian	
Ghosts (Ibsen)	2005		
The Cricket on the Hearth (Dickens)	2003	Adapted by Jeff Christian	
Edward II (Marlowe)	1997		
Edward III (Apocryphal)	1997		

2010-2011 Season (*still to come*)

## **The Tempest** by William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Garino

*"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, rounded with a little sleep."*

The crowning jewel in the group of romances composed at the twilight of Shakespeare's career, *The Tempest* presents some of his most personal reflections on the cycle of life. A banished Duke and his daughter have been exiled to a remote, mysterious island. Over the course of twelve years, the Duke develops magical powers to lead his enemies to the island. The confrontation that ensues meditates on themes of vengeance and forgiveness, death and resurrection. Shakespeare project veteran Fredric Stone is slated to portray Prospero, the banished Duke with magical powers.

*Saturday, April 30, 2011, 10:00AM, The Newberry Library, Chicago*

*Saturday, April 30, 2011, 2:00PM, The Wilmette Public Library*

*Sunday, May 1, 2011, 2:00PM, The Highland Park Public Library*



**THE  
SHAKESPEARE  
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

*the world in words*

PRESENTS

# 50 Minute Hamlet

From

*The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Jeff Christian

**16<sup>th</sup> Season**

March 9, 2011

Oakton Community College



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](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)

P.O. Box 25126, Chicago, Illinois 60625