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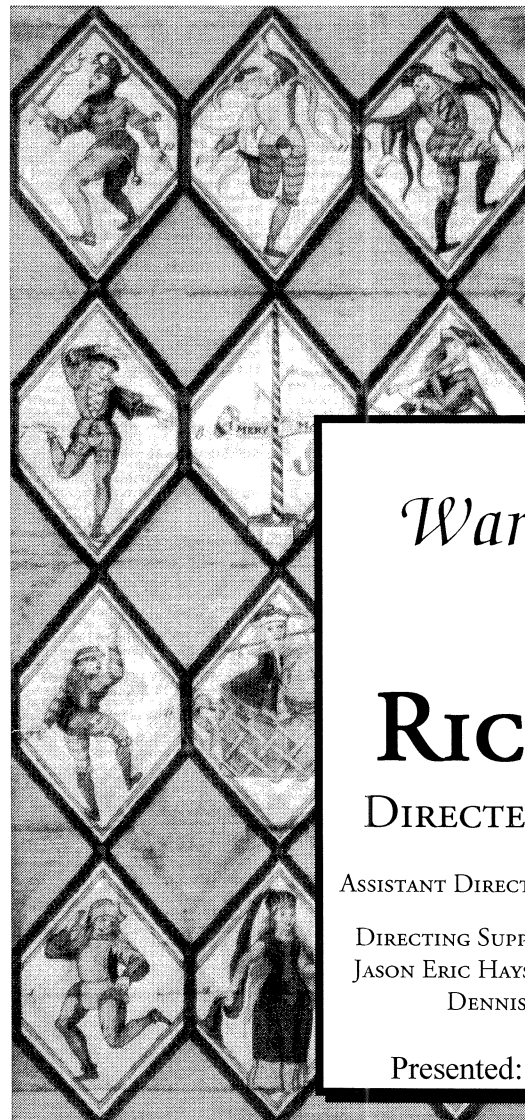
Regarding "The Shakespeare Project of Chicago"

The *Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is an Acting Ensemble made up entirely of members of Actors' Equity Association and dedicated to the exploration of the complete works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists. *TSP Chicago* currently presents monthly "Theatrical Readings" of the complete works of Shakespeare that achieve a clarity usually only accomplished by fully producing the plays. Established as a vehicle to enable Chicago's professional actors to explore great literature while working in the company of others with like experience and interest levels, these exceptionally skilled performers have previously been seen on the stages of The Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf, Shakespeare Repertory, Northlight Theatre, The Court Theater, and many other great stages in the Chicago area and around the country.

Our 1997 Theatrical Reading Series concludes next month in the festive, mysterious & whimsical mood of the winter holidays (and, of course, those "Twelve Days...") with *Twelfth Night*, or *what you will*. Performances will be held at the Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Center on Saturday, December 6th and at the Berger Park Cultural Center on Sunday, December 7th. In January we begin our 1998 Series featuring twelve of the popular favorite plays by William Shakespeare, beginning with *King Lear* and ending with *Hamlet*. All readings are free to the public.

TSP Chicago is a nonprofit organization and may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you wish, you may send contributions to *The Shakespeare Project*, 2706 North Albany Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. To receive information on performance dates and locations as we push toward the completion of the entire canon -with *Hamlet* in December of 1998- fill out a card as you enter or leave the performance and you will be put on our mailing list. For further information or to book a reading, contact *TSP Chicago* at 773/252-5433. (Phone and Fax). Email address TSPchicago@aol.com. Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.

The Shakespeare Project
presents



A
Theatrical Reading

of

The
War of the Roses
Cycle
concludes with

RICHARD III
DIRECTED BY MARA POLSTER

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS: JUDY BLUE AND KRISTAN SCHMIDT

DIRECTING SUPPORT TEAM: JUDY BLUE, BRENDEN FOX,
JASON ERIC HAYS, MARY RINGSTAD, KRISTAN SCHMIDT,
DENNIS SOOK AND KAMERON STEELE.

Presented: November 15th & 16th, 1997



Chicago Public Library



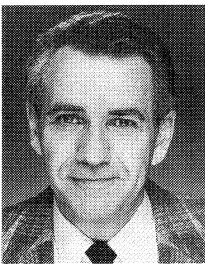
READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!



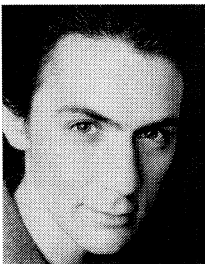
This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council



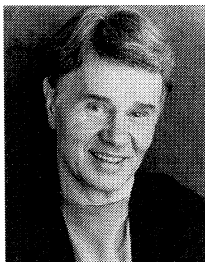
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is graciously supported by the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Center, The Illinois Arts Council and the voluntary contributions of our audiences. All actors with *The Shakespeare Project* are members of Actors' Equity Association the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.



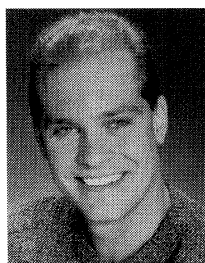
Dennis Sook (James Tyrrel, Cardinal) has appeared in many of *TSP's* readings and recently appeared as a poker player in *The Odd Couple* at Candlelight's Forum Theatre. He's glad to be back in Chicago after working in New York for several years, where he appeared in commercials, on the soaps, and Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing* and the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond*. Dennis was also 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.



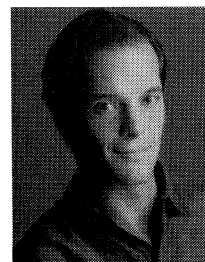
Kameron Steele (Lord Grey, Richmond) recently appeared as Christy Mahon in the Chicago Humanities Festival production of *The Playboy of the Western World*. Off and Off-Off Broadway credits include Ben in *The Dumb Waiter* (Classic Stage Company), Cassio in *Othello* (Horace Mann Theatre), Odysseus in *Penthesilea* (Juliard School/The Salon), and Frank in James Joyce's *Eveline* (Trilogy Theatre). Some regional credits include, Calaban in *The Tempest* (StageWest, MA), Simon in *Hay Fever* (Centennial Theatre Festival, CT) and most recently as Gerald in *An Inspector Calls* (Wayside Theatre, VA). Kameron has also appeared in Japan on stage and television with Tadashi Suzuki's SCOT Company as, Romeo's Ghost in *Juliet*, which toured to the '93 Saratoga International Theatre Festival.



Bob Thorson (Brakenbury, Stanley) last appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Salisbury in *Henry VI, part 2*. He most recently appeared as Sagot in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," directed by Randall Arney, at the Briar Street Theatre. Other Chicago credits include work at Chicago Dramatists Workshop, Victory Gardens and The Body Politic. Bob was a company member at the Cleveland Play House for five years, appearing in over 30 productions there. He also directed Chekov's "Swan Song" at the Play House. Around the country Bob has worked for Princeton Theatre Company in New Jersey, Mountain Playhouse in Pennsylvania, and at theatres in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chatautauqua, and New York where he appeared in "The Student Prince" with the Metropolitan Opera company.



David Turrentine (Buckingham) Regional credits: Milwaukee Repertory Theatre: The Son in *Them*. Meadowbrook Theatre: Richmond in *Richard III*, Jack in *The Rose Tattoo*. Boarshead Theatre: Phillip in *The Lion in Winter*. Equity Library Theatre: Lucentio in *Taming of the Shrew*. University of California, San Diego: Longaville in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Face in *The Alchemist*. Master of Fine Arts in Acting from U.C.S.D. Stage Manager for three seasons at Writers Theatre - Chicago. Currently a self-employed income tax preparer.



Mark Ulrich (King Edward IV, Bishop of Ely) has been acting with *The Shakespeare Project* since November of 1996, when he first played Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mark was recently seen as Prince Hal in *Henry IV, part 2* and as young John Talbot in *Henry VI, part 1*. Mark has also appeared in *The Shakespeare Project* readings of *The Life and Death of King John* in January and revival performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* in April of 1997 at the Oakton Community College. He has also performed with Organic/Touchstone Theatre, Next Act Theatre and New American Theatre, among others.

The Shakespeare Project

Presents

RICHARD III

The Players

(in order of appearance)

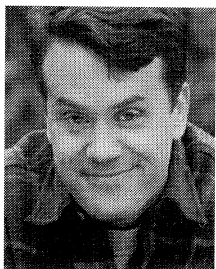
Old Queen Margaret..... Mary Becker
 Richard, *Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III*..... Terry Hamilton
 King Edward the Fourth..... Mark Ulrich
 Elizabeth, *Queen to King Edward IV*..... Nancy Nickel
 George, *Duke of Clarence (brother to the King & Richard)*..... David Skidmore
 Sir Robert Brakenbury, *Keeper of the Tower*..... Bob Thorson
 Lord Hastings..... Hollis Huston
 Lady Anne, *widow of Edward Prince of Wales, son to Henry VI; afterwards married to Richard, Duke of Gloucester*..... Mary Ringstad
 Sir William Catesby..... Andrew Powdermaker
 Sir James Tyrrel Dennis Sook
 Women attending on Anne..... Connie McGrail & Sharon Carlson
 Lord Grey, *son to Queen Elizabeth*..... Kameron Steele
 Earl Rivers (*Anthony Woodville*), *brother to Queen Elizabeth*..... Craig Bryant
 Duke of Buckingham..... David Turrentine
 Lord Stanley, *called also Earl of Derby*..... Bob Thorson
 Second Murderer..... Craig Bryant
 Mistress Shore..... Connie McGrail
 Duchess of York, *mother to King Edward, Clarence & Richard*..... Sharon Carlson
 Richard, Duke of York, son to King Edward..... Connie McGrail
 A Messenger..... Mark Ulrich
 Edward, *Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward V*..... Mary Ringstad
 Cardinal Bouchier..... Dennis Sook
 A Messenger..... David Skidmore
 John Morton, *Bishop of Ely*..... Mark Ulrich
 Lord Lovel..... David Skidmore
 Lord Mayor of London..... Hollis Huston
 Young Elizabeth, *daughter to King Edward and Elizabeth*..... Connie McGrail
 A Messenger..... Hollis Huston
 Henry, *Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII*..... Kameron Steele
 Duke of Norfolk..... Craig Bryant
 Sir James Blunt..... David Skidmore
 Ghosts, Soldiers and Citizens..... The Company

THE SCENE: LONDON AND OTHER PARTS OF ENGLAND

THERE WILL BE ONE 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION



Mary Becker (Queen Margaret) has worked at regional theatres such as Old Log in Excelsior, MN, the Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee, and Off-Broadway at Carnegie Hall Playhouse. For **TSP** Mary has done *Coriolanus* (his mom), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winters Tale*, and Eleanor in *The Life and Death of King John*, playing his mom, Eleanor of Aquitaine. (Having played Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, she developed a serious awe and fondness for the amazing and intriguing dynasty and dynamics, of the English kings ...and queens.) Local credits include work with Equity Library Theatre, Victory Gardens, Northlight and Chicago Dramatists' Workshop.



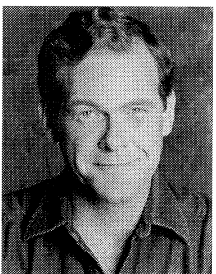
Craig Bryant (Earl Rivers, 2nd Murderer, Duke of Norfolk) recently appeared as Richard in *The Shakespeare Project's Richard II*. Craig has appeared in productions at the Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Repertory, Mayfaire Theatre, and various local stages with the comedy troupe, "Wilde Boys". He has performed regionally at the Hartford Stage Company and The Indiana Repertory Theatre and also toured nationally in John Houseman's "The Acting Company".



Sharon Carlson (Duchess of York) comes to *Richard III*, directly from playing Anne McClain, a cigar chomping, mystery-writing mother in *A Talent for Murder*, at the Drury Lane Theatre. Previously she played the Antipholus twins' mother in *Comedy of Errors* (NY), and the meatpie specialist, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* (OH). Some favorite regional productions in which she was featured include: *All My Sons*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *A...My Name is Alice*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Cabaret*, *Bypsy*, *Grovers' Corners*, *The Music Man*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Once In a Lifetime* and in '98, she's off to NYC to assistant direct a new Disney offering.



Terry Hamilton (Richard III) was last seen as Doc in *Mr. Roberts* for Powertap Productions and previous to that as Claudius and The Ghost in Powertap and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's Production of *Hamlet*. He last appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as York in *Henry VI, parts 2 & 3*. He has appeared on Broadway, off-off Broadway, and regional, summer stock and Dinner Theaters throughout the country. Mr. Hamilton has studied with Lee Strasberg and Snonia Moore in New York, and Shakespeare with Peter Forster here in Chicago.

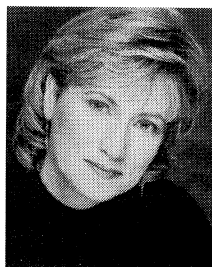


Hollis Huston (Hastings, Lord Mayor) is a reformed clown and recovering university professor who now makes his living as a performer in Chicago. His theatre credits include work with The Goodman, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Detroit Repertory, New Harmony Theatre, the St. Louis Muny Opera and Starlight Musicals Indianapolis. Some favorite roles include Giovanni in Dario Fo's *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*, Alan in Maltby/ Shire's *Baby*, and Uncle Billy in *It's a Wonderful Life*. He played Sgt. O'Hare in the HBO movie *Truman*, Mayor Dent in *The Untouchables*, and the Frankenstein Monster for Bud Lite. In other commercials he plays various truck drivers, construction workers and middle-American dads. Though he has been called a poor

man's Nick Nolte, he prefers to think of himself as a Midwestern Zero Mostel.



Connie McGrail (Mistress Shore, Baby York, Baby Elizabeth) has appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Katharine in *Henry V* and Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*. Shakespearean credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *King John* (Prince Henry), *The Tempest* (Miranda), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Peaseblossom), and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Diana). She has been seen locally with Northlight Repertory, Illinois Theatre Center, Alternative Shakespeare Co., and the Drury Lanes, and regionally with Peninsula Players (Door County, WI), Midland Theatre (KC, MO), Purple Rose Theatre (Chelsea, MI), and Florida's Asolo Theatre. Connie can currently be seen as Belle in Drury Lane Oakbrook's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*.



Nancy Nickel (Queen Elizabeth) is a long time company member of *The Shakespeare Project*, and has taken part in many readings, playing the Queen in *Richard II*, Queen Isabella in *Edward II*, Hermione in *The Winter's Tale* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, among others. As a member of the Board of Directors, she spearheads **TSP's** Education and Outreach programs. Nancy has performed with many of the theaters in the Chicago area, most notably National Jewish Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, and Shakespeare Repertory in their award-winning production of *The Tale of Cymbeline*. As guest artist at the University of Indiana in South Bend, she provided coaching for students and has taught acting workshop's at St. Scholastica High School. Nancy looks forward to directing *Twelfth Night* for

The Shakespeare Project next month.



Andrew Powdermaker (Catesby) is excited to be performing with *The Shakespeare Project* again where he last played the Lords Clifford and Oxford in last months *3-Henry VI*. Other **TSP** roles include: Somerset in *1-Henry VI*, Montjoy in *Henry V*, Justice Shallow in *2-Henry IV*, and Angus and the Porter in *Macbeth*. Andrew recently played Lieutenant Osborne in *Journey's End* for ELT. Favorite roles include; Lysander in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Chestnut Hill Shakespeare in the Park, and Warren in *Moon Over the Brewery* in the Walnut Street Theatre's showcase studio. Andrew recently completed work in the film *Last Call*. Look for it in the

Chicago Film Festival next year.



Mary Ringstad (Lady Anne, Prince Edward) is pleased to be joining the talents of *The Shakespeare Project* for this reading of *Richard III*. **TSP** audiences may remember her from *Edward II*, *Henry IV part 2*, and *Henry VI part 1*. Mary also played Margaret in *Much Ado* for **TSP** at Oakton Community College. Mary has performed in theatres throughout Chicagoland and across the country, particularly when she appeared in the National Tour of *CATS*. Mary has a MFA in Acting from Ohio University. (Hey all you golfers: Ask me about the new book!)



David Skidmore (Clarence, Lovell, Blunt, Messenger) was seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as *Henry VI* and prior to that as Hotspur in *Henry IV, part 1*. He recently returned from the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, where he appeared in *The Cure at Troy* and in their 15th annual Shaw Festival. David has also appeared professionally in such roles at Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys*, Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, and Malcolm in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, as well as Romeo and other roles in *The Shakespeare Project's* ongoing series of staged readings for the Chicago Park District. David grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, received a BA from Brandeis University in Boston and an MFA in Acting from Temple University in

Philadelphia. He thanks his wife Kori for all her support.

With the presentation of this spelbinding play, **Richard III**, we pull to a close *The Shakespeare Project's* eleven month Reading Series, **A History of the English Kings** (as represented by Elizabethan dramatists). One of Shakespeare's first great creations, Richard of Gloucester's wit, acute political acumen, and energy enthrall us at the same time that we are appalled by his diabolical sadism. The play is haunted with fulfilled predictions, nightmares, and the persistence of it's charismatic villain's ambition. The final defeat of this extraordinary figure makes the power of fate seem all the more awesome. And in the magnificence of this dazzling villain-hero, the "War of the Roses", at last reaches its tumultuous end.

In January of 1997, this series began with Shakespeare's **King John**, which tells of the son of Henry II and brother of King Richard I (Coeur-de-lion) and his struggles for power with France and within his own family. We see John succeeded at the end of the play by his son, Henry III, who history tell us then reigned for 57 years, followed by his son, King Edward I.

We then picked up the story with Christopher Marlowe's **Edward II** and it's vivid characterization of this king's stormy reign and imminent demise. The play concludes with a promising young prince ascending the throne, the much renowned King Edward the Third.

The Reign of King Edward the Third, an Apocryphal play, tells the story of this King's manhood in battle, both to achieve his mother Isabella's seat in France, and with his own

honor. **Edward III** ends with the king's infamous young son, Edward the Black Prince, having proved himself a warrior and the *perfect* heir apparent to the English Throne.

However, as we learn in Shakespeare's **Richard II**, because of the Black Prince's fatal illness, this never came to pass. Instead we hear the story of one king's painful journey to self awareness as we revisit themes of political manipulation, intrigue, familial struggle and true leadership abilities. We witness the death of King Richard following his "voluntary" abdication of the throne to his cousin Henry Bullingbrook.

Henry IV, parts 1 & 2 acquaint us with the political disquiet that haunted Henry IV's reign. With the line of legitimacy interrupted, Shakespeare introduces us to many new questions in our search for the perfect king. We frolic with the young Prince Hal and Sir John Falstaff, Mistress Quickly, Bardolph, and Poin at the Boar's Head Tavern in part one. In part two we follow them off to war again, as they weed through the mire of rumor and truth. Upon the death of Henry IV, we see Henry the Fifth's ascension to the throne and his rejection of his alternative father-figure - and one of our favorite characters - Sir John Falstaff.

Henry V treats us to the triumphant reign of our long awaited "perfect" king, accented with victories in France and Henry's betrothal to Katherine, the French king's daughter. The play ends with the acquiescent marriage of the two kingdoms.

Henry VI, parts 1, 2 & 3 The War of the Roses Cycle opens with the funeral of *Henry V*, two years after the closing events of that play. Crowned King of England and France at the age of nine months, Henry VI's reign was wracked with Civil War and ill-advised misrule. As a result of the events portrayed in *Richard II*, the various descendants of the "seven sons of Edward III" are left questioning each other's claims to the throne. Following the death of Henry V, political in-fighting ensued over who would rule the realm in the name of the infant King Henry VI. The result is the chasm between the houses of Lancaster (bearing the Red Rose) and York (bearing the White Rose). *Henry VI, part 3* begins soon after the conflict between the two houses has escalated to armed rebellion and ends with the rise of the Yorkists with the re-crowning of Edward IV, the murder of King Henry and his heir, Prince Edward, as well as the banishment of the widow, Queen Margaret. All of this, evidence of the acceleration in political maneuvering by our dearly detested, Richard of Gloucester.

