

Still to come this season:



2012-2013 Performance Schedule:

Fridays at 7:00PM - The Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles, IL (Pre-registration required)

Saturdays at 10:00AM – The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Street, Chicago, IL

Saturdays at 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL

Sundays at 2:00PM – Highland Park Public Library, 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL

Admission is FREE, seating is limited. All performances are preceded by an introduction to the play that commences 15 minutes prior to curtain.

THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

**THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO,
THE MOOR OF VENICE**
by William Shakespeare

Directed by
Peter Garino

Assistant Director, Brynne Barnard
Sound Design, George Zahora
Dramaturgy, Michelle Shupe

18th Season

October 26-28, 2012
The Niles Public Library
The Newberry Library
The Wilmette Public Library
The Highland Park Public Library



Actors* (as indicated by an asterisk in the Dramatis Personae) are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-710-2718

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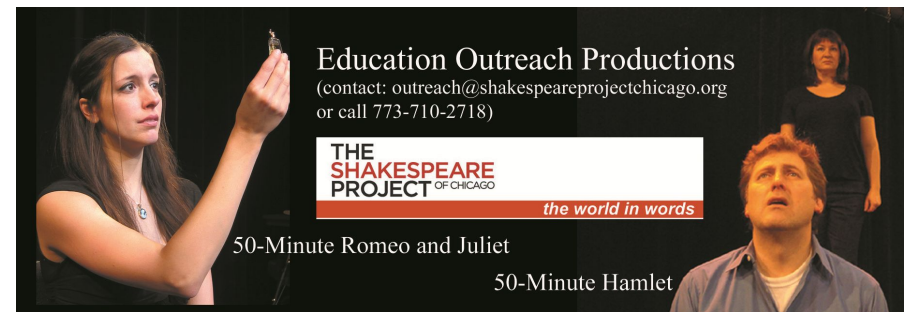
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Barbara Zahora	Associate Artistic Director

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email: outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org and learn how The Shakespeare Project can bring these productions to your school.

Artist Biographies



Cassandra Bissell* (Desdemona) is very excited to be working with the Shakespeare Project for the first time! Chicago credits include work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater (*The Tempest*, *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet*, *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth*, *Richard II*, *King John*), Court Theater (*Arcadia*, *Hamlet*), Steppenwolf Theatre Co. (*The Berlin Circle*), Victory Gardens (*Memory House*), Next Theatre Co. (*In The Blood*, *Measure for Measure*), Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (*Mary's Wedding*) and Shakespeare on the Green (*Othello*). She has performed in six seasons at Peninsula Players in Door County, Wisconsin (*A Man for All Seasons*, *Proof*, *Doubt*, *The Lady's Not for*

Burning, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Opus*.) Regional credits include work with Milwaukee Rep (*My Name is Asher Lev*, *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*), Actors' Theatre of Louisville (*Memory House*, *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*) and Cleveland Playhouse (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Noises Off*). Cassandra holds a degree in Gender Studies from the University of Chicago.



Jeff Christian* (Iago) led the company for eight seasons, having adapted and directed *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 *The Taming of the Shrew*, *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *As You Like It*, Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, Sheridan's *The Rivals*, Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* and Regina M.

Schwartz's adaptation of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. 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), *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), *Kill Me* (WildClaw) 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, Caliban, Oberson/Bottom/Theseus, Ajax, Enobarbus, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver, Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Leicester (*Mary Stuart*), Aegeus (*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50-Minute Hamlet*, Satan (*Paradise Lost*) and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. Other acting credits include work with The Goodman, 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 and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, teaches directing in Columbia College's Department of Film & Video, 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*, *The Last Rider*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*. Jeff thanks you for your continued support of The Project.

Peter Garino* (Director) is the Artistic Director and a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. He has contributed to over 60 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. He is co-adaptor with Barbara Zahora and Michelle Shupe of The Project's newest education outreach production, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. This past season, he appeared as Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Delio in *The Duchess of Malfi* and directed and appeared in *Richard II*. Other recent work for The Project includes direction for *The Tempest*, and *Measure For Measure*. Recent onstage appearances for The Project include Sir Amias Paulet in *Mary Stuart* and George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Paradise Lost*, *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. 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 *Antony and Cleopatra*, *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 and SAG/AFTRA. Special thanks to Helene and Glen.

Michelle Shupe* (Dramaturge) is the Dramaturge for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has worked on The Project's readings of *Othello*, *the Moor of Venice*, *The Tempest*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Mary Stuart*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Richard II*. Michelle made her acting debut with The Project in 2010 in *Antony & Cleopatra* and has since appeared as Mariana in *Measure for Measure*, the Duchess in *The Duchess of Malfi*, Gal in The Project's *50-Minute Hamlet*, and Lady Macbeth in The Project's *Page to Stage Macbeth* education outreach program. Locally, Michelle has been seen on stage at the Broadway in Chicago Playhouse, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Goodman Theater and the Glimer Gallery.

George Zahora (Sound Designer) has done sound design, in professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's now in his third season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his work earlier this year in *Troilus and Cressida*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Duchess of Malfi*. He hopes his work on *Othello* will deepen and enrich your experience today.

Brynne Barnard (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be working with The Project again. She has had the pleasure of working with this talented and gracious group of artists as an understudy for *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. A recent graduate of Illinois State University's theatre program, Brynne has worked onstage with the Plagiarists in *Caesura: A Butchery* and in the premier of Balal Dardai's *The Opening* at the Abby Festival in Chicago this year. She looks forward to the challenges of starting a career in Chicago, and is grateful to *The Shakespeare Project* for their continued support and heart.



On behalf of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, welcome to our 18th season of free theatrical readings!

We have an exciting series of plays to share with you this season and I hope you come back to see what we have in store for you. Tell a friend – and let them in on one of Chicago’s best-kept cultural secrets. Be sure to sign our email list today if you’ve not already done so.

We are proud of our continued success in our Education Outreach program with our touring productions of “50-Minute Romeo and Juliet” and “50-Minute Hamlet.” Our goal is to make young learners’ first experience with Shakespeare positive, and we believe we deliver on that promise every time we give a performance. How do we know?

Students and teachers tell us in talk-backs we hold -- just like the one we will hold today after this performance of “Othello.”

You help us realize our goals of bringing Shakespeare to new audiences through your attendance here today and through your financial support of The Project – for those of you who are in a position to do so.

A special welcome to our new friends seeing us today at our newest venue, The Niles Public Library. And we say a fond “welcome back” to our good friends at The Newberry Library, and the Wilmette and Highland Park Public Libraries. Without your support, we simply wouldn’t be here today.

Thank you. And enjoy “Othello.”

With best wishes,

Peter Garino
Artistic Director
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
peter@shakespeareprojectchicago.org
www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

RODERIGO (*a gulled gentleman*) James Krag*
IAGO (*a villain, ancient or standard bearer, 3rd in line to Othello*) Jeff Christian*
BRABANTIO (*father to Desdemona*) Fredric Stone*
OTHELLO (*the Moor*) Donte Fitzgerald*
CASSIO (*an honorable Lieutenant*) Matthew Fahey*
FIRST OFFICER Royen Kent ^{EMC}
SAILOR Jeff Kurysz ^{EMC}
DUKE OF VENICE Tony Dobrowolski*
MONTANO (*Governor of Cyprus*) Jack McLaughlin-Gray*
FIRST GENTLEMAN Jeff Kurysz ^{EMC}
THIRD GENTLEMAN Royen Kent ^{EMC}
DESDEMONA (*Wife to Othello*) Cassandra Bissell*
EMILIA (*Wife to Iago*) Gail Rastorfer*
HERALD Royen Kent ^{EMC}
CLOWN Tony Dobrowolski*
BIANCA (*A courtesan*) Hannah Gomez ^{EMC}
LODOVICO (*a noble Venetian, kinsman to Brabantio*) Rod Thomas*
GRATIANO (*a noble Venetian, kinsman to Brabantio*) Fredric Stone*

The Scene: Venice, Cyprus

Running Time: Approximately two hours and fifteen minutes including intermission
A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

* Members of Actors' Equity Association. ^{EMC} Equity Membership Candidate

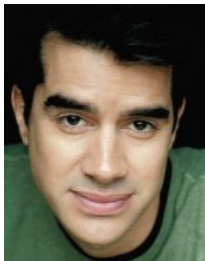


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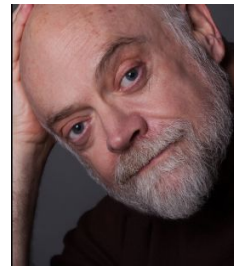
Fredric Stone* (Brabantio/Gratiano) appeared last season with The Shakespeare Project as Pandarus in *Troilus and Cressida*, in *The Duchess of Malfi*, and as the Duke of York in *Richard II*. He was also seen as Prospero in *The Tempest* and as Lord Burleigh in *Mary Stuart*. He is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project, where he has appeared as Lepidus, Thyreus, and the Clown in *Antony and Cleopatra* and as Sir Anthony Absolute in *The Rivals*, as well as roles in *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Faust*, *Ghosts*, *The Cricket on the Hearth* and many others. In Chicago theatres, he recently performed at The Next

theatre in *After the Revolution*. He was also featured in the acclaimed and Jeff recommended production of *Scorched* for the Silk Road Theatre. He was in *The Chosen* (David Malter) at Steppenwolf and as Agamemnon in *Trojan Women* at the Goodman. At Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier he's been featured in many productions including *Love's Labour's Lost* (Boyet), *Richard II* (Northumberland), *The Tempest* (Alonso), *Henry IV*, and *Henry V* (multiple roles). At the summer Utah Shakespeare Festival he played roles in *Henry V* and *As You Like It*. Other Chicago credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Writers' Theatre), *Fires in the Mirror* (Northlight), *Beau Jest* (Victory Gardens), *Isn't It Romantic* (Ivanhoe), and work at the Court, Drury Lane Oakbrook and Illinois Theatre Center. Broadway and Off Broadway credits include *All Over Town* and *Awake and Sing*; tours include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Zero Mostel. Mr. Stone also created, performed and toured in a one-person Shakespeare show, *Will and Testament* (a life after death comedy). He teaches Shakespeare and coaches actors privately.



Rod Thomas* (Lodovico) is honored to be joining The Shakespeare Project for the first time. Rod returns to Chicago after making his Broadway debut in *The Lion King* as the Standby for Scar and Pumbaa, a role he also filled in the National Tour and the original Las Vegas Company. Chicago credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The People vs. Friar Laurence* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *Little Shop of Horrors* at Theater at the Center, *She Loves Me* at Writer's Theater, *Man of La Mancha* (Jeff Award – Ensemble) at Court Theater, *Carnival* at Light Opera Works, *White Christmas*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Beauty and the Beast* at Marriott's Lincolnshire Theater, and *Hairspray*, *Sugar*, *The Boys from*

Syracuse, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Anything Goes*, and *Big – The Musical* (Jeff Award – Principal) at Drury Lane Oakbrook Theater.



Tony Dobrowolski* (Duke of Venice/Clown) is delighted to be working with the Shakespeare Project, again, having appeared in *Troilus and Cressida*, *Richard II*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Tempest* last season. Last summer Tony was seen as Lord Stanley in *RICHARD III* with Oak Park Festival Theatre. Tony is the Dramaturge and Literary Manager for Inconceivable Theatre. Chicago acting credits include productions with Chicago Shakespeare, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center,

Marriot Lincolnshire, Northlight, National Jewish Theatre and more than thirty productions with ShawChicago. Regional credits include Madison Rep, Boars Head Theatre, Jewish Ensemble Theatre and Meadow Brook Theatre. Tony has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1989. An independent researcher, Tony is currently searching for a publisher for his critical edition of three Victorian farces satirizing the Aesthetic Movement's most visible proponents: Oscar Wilde and James McNeill Whistler. This performance is dedicated to RFV who makes it all possible.



Matthew Fahey* (Cassio) takes great joy from his work with the Shakespeare Project. He is currently appearing as Romeo in The Project's education outreach production of *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. He has also been involved in the Project's productions of *The Tempest*, *Richard II*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *50-Minute Hamlet*. Matthew has worked with such theatres as the Court Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare on the Green, The Second City Training Center, Free Associates, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Theatre Banshee,

Chicago Theatre Works, Steppenwolf for Young Adults, Victory Gardens, ImprovOlympic and Organic Theatre Greenhouse among others. This fall, he is an understudy in the Lookingglass Theatre production of *Metamorphoses*. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.



Donte Fitzgerald* (Othello) Donte happily makes his debut performance with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Chicago credits: *The Blue House* (Adventure Stage) Regional credits: *Pericles*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Misalliance* (The Theater at Monmouth) *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (The Great River Shakespeare Festival) *The Nerd*, *King Lear*, *A Christmas Carol* (Milwaukee Rep) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Little Foxes*, *O Beautiful*, *Our Country's Good*, *All the King's Men*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Our Town* (Delaware Rep), *Lombardi*

(Peninsula Players/ The Mosaic Theater). TV: *Boss* (Starz). Donte received his MFA from the prestigious P.T.T.P. (professional theater training program) at The University of Delaware. Many thanks to all involved in making this wonderful production of *Othello* happen.



Hannah Gomez (Bianca) is honored to make her Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut. She was last seen at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble as Maribel in *Crooked* for which she obtained a 2012 Equity Jeff Nomination for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Prior to that she performed with American Theater Co. as Cha-Cha in *The Original Grease* (Equity Jeff Award for Outstanding Musical) where she also participated in *The Big Shoulders Festival*, *The Silver Project*, and understudied *Distracted*. Some other credits include The Glass Onion's *The Magic Ofrenda*, Teatro Luna's *Sexoh*, and About Face Youth Theatre's *Fast Forward*. She is also very adept as an audition and workshop reader. She is an alumnus of

Illinois State University and a native Texan. visit hannahgomez.com. She would like to thank the phenomenal production team and her loving family and friends for the support and opportunity.



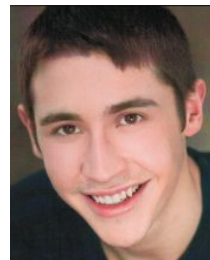
Royen Kent (First Officer, Third Gentleman, Herald) is making his Shakespeare Project debut! He is a California native who recently played Henrik in *A Little Night Music* with Writers' Theatre. Other regional credits include *King Lear* (Shakespeare By The Sea) and *Enchanted April* (Legacy Productions). His academic performances with Vanguard University of Southern California, his alma mater, include *Alice*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Souvenir*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* (Kennedy Center College Theatre Festival nominations). His improvisational work includes a Western U.S. tour with California group *Delivery Boys* and training with The Second City. His next project is *Six Degrees of Separation* with Eclectic Theatre

Company. This performance is dedicated to his friend and mentor Peter Weisenburger. Please enjoy the show.

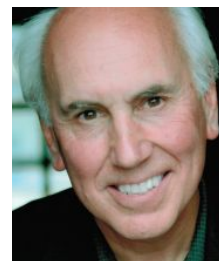


James Krag* (Roderigo) appeared last season as Achilles in *Troilus and Cressida*, Ferdinand in *The Duchess of Malfi* and the Earl of Northumberland in *Richard II*. Previously, he appeared as Alonso in The Project's reading of *The Tempest* and Count D'Aubespine in *Mary Stuart*. Other appearances with The Project include Beelzebub in *Paradise Lost*, Scarus in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Buckingham in *Richard III* and Adriano in the gender-switched *Comedy of Errors*. Other notable Project appearances include Jaques in *As You Like It* and the title role in *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. At Victory Gardens, he originated the role of 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.



Jeff Kurvysz (Sailor, First Gentleman) This is Jeff's first time working with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and he couldn't be more excited! He has just finished working on a production of *Cymbeline* (The Riff Collective) as well as understudying the role of Sharpe in *Equivocation* (Victory Gardens Theatre). Over the summer and after graduating Illinois State University in May, he performed as Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Richmond in *Richard III*, and Antonio in *The Tempest* at the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre. ISU Credits: *Passion Play*; *Dracula*; *Miss Julie*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *This Is How It Goes*; *Rhinoceros*; *The Women of Lockerbie*; *Twelfth Night*; *The Rover*.



Jack McLaughlin-Gray* (Montano) came to the Midwest from coastal Maine to attend the professional training program at the University of Michigan where, as a fellowship student, he appeared with Ellis Rabb's legendary A.P.A.-Phoenix Repertory Co. and was a part of an acting ensemble that included such notable artists as Rosemary Harris, Will Geer, Helen Hayes and Brian Bedford. Jack got his Equity card as a member of the acting company at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. His initial two seasons included a host of celebrated directors and actors, including: Michael Langham, Alvin Epstein, Michael Blakemore and Emily Mann. His Chicago debut as The Historical Event in Amlin Gray's *How I Got*

That Story at Northlight; which he had originated the year before at Milwaukee Repertory and in which he played 21 different roles; Asian and American, including three women, won the 1981 Jeff Award for best actor in a leading role. Jack would be nominated an additional three times and share the award for best ensemble in the 1992 production of *Stand-Up Tragedy* at Appletree. Other memorable performances include Chebutykin in the original Steppenwolf ensemble's production of *Three Sisters*, George in Northlight's *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* (his second nomination for best actor in a leading role) and Mr. Jagers in the Guthrie Theater's national tour of *Great Expectations*. Once based in Chicago, Jack has appeared in feature films, (*The Negotiator*, *Opportunity Knocks*, *Major League*, *Jimmy Reardon*), television films, (*Johnny Ryan*, *Howard Beach*, *Father Clements Story*, *Kathryn Beck*), episodics, (*Early Edition*, *The Untouchables*, *Father Dowling*), commercials and voice overs. Jack is also the founder and former artistic director of Radio Ensemble Players, a non-profit organization of creative artists formed in association with Chicago's WFMT to produce contemporary radio drama. Jack is currently Professor of Theatre now in his eighteenth year at Illinois State University where he served as Head of Acting until 2005.



Gail Rastorfer* (Emilia) has been involved in over 16 productions with The Project. She was last seen with The Project in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Gail returns to Chicago after a five month stint at Cleveland Playhouse acting in *Ten Chimneys* and *In The Next Room: Or The Vibrator Play*. Gail has worked at many Chicago theatres including the Goodman, Northlight, The Chicago Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Chicago Dramatists and has performed regionally with Indiana Rep, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and Hope Summer Rep. You may have seen her selling cars or steam cleaners on TV. When she's not acting, Gail shares a healthy

appreciation for Star Trek and Andy Griffith with her husband Dan Rodden. She is a proud member or Actors Equity Assn. and SAG-AFTRA. www.gailonline.net.