

Attention educators with an interest in Shakespeare!  
Now booking in-school performances of The Shakespeare Project  
of Chicago's Education Outreach Productions "50-Minute  
Hamlet" and "50-Minute Romeo and Juliet" through May 2015.

email: [outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org](mailto:outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org)



The graphic displays the 20th Anniversary Season performance schedule for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. It features four rows of information, each with a play title, author, director, and dates. The background is a textured, light brown color.

Play Title	Author	Director	Dates
KING LEAR	By William Shakespeare	Directed by Peter Garino	10.24 → 10.26.2014
50-MINUTE HAMLET & 50-MINUTE ROMEO AND JULIET	By William Shakespeare	Directed by Barbara Zahora	01.16 → 01.18.2015
MACBETH	By William Shakespeare	Directed by David Skidmore	02.27 → 03.01.2015
THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY	By Thomas Middleton	Directed by Peter Garino	04.24 → 04.26.2015

2014-2015 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

## 50-Minute Hamlet

Adapted and Directed by Jeff Christian

and

## 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

Adapted by Barbara Zahora, Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino

Directed by Barbara Zahora

Assistant Director: Gary Alexander

Original Music & Sound Design for 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet  
by George Zahora

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

January 16-18, 2015  
Niles Public Library  
The Newberry Library  
Wilmette Public Library  
Highland Park Public Library



All actors appearing in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

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

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The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 19 years. With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2014-2015 season:

Judith Alexander, Anonymous, AJ Arendt, Allen & Sarah Arnett, Rachel Bohlmann, Lynn Broaddus, Lilijana Brkic-Tasic, Regina Buccola, Karin Catania, Carol Colby, Ronald & Gail Denham, Anne Eagleton, John & Sally Elson, Brenda Fournier, James & Martha Frits, *In Loving Memory of Margaret D. Garino*, Virginia Gibbons, Scott Glander, Scott Gordon & Amy Cuthbert, Christopher & Suzanne Henn, David & Ellen Fluetsch Herman, James & Mona Hennon, Marcia Kazurinsky, James P. & Paula Kiefer, Kathy Klawans, John & Regina Kulczycki, Laurie L. Lathrum, Carol Lewis, Marcie Levy, Rhita Lippitz, Dianne & Philip Luhmann, Sheila Macmanus, David & Christine Mahvi, George & Geraldine Messenger, Margaret L. Moses, Edward W. Muir, Jr., Scott Oliver & Christine Heckel-Oliver, Dawn & John Palmer, Daniel Pinkert & Freddi Greenberg, Corliss Preston, Cynthia and John Rademacher, Marilyn Richman, Elizabeth Ringstad, *Brian and Melissa Sherman in Memory of John Field Sherman*, Thomas & Felicity Skidmore, Fredric Stone, John & Jacqueline Thompson, Bronna Wasserman, Richard and Mary Woods. The Kraft Foundation, The Illinois Arts Council, Season of Change Foundation, Walter Payton College Preparatory High School.



#### **Board of Directors**

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#### **Staff**

Peter Garino	Artistic Director
Barbara Zahora	Associate Artistic Director

**Michelle Shupe** (Co-Adaptor, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*) most recently appeared as Goneril in The Project's *King Lear*. She has appeared at various theaters throughout the country, including: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman, Washington Shakespeare Company, Studio Theater, Theater J and many others. She has also has dramaturged a number of The Project's readings including: *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Mary Stuart*, *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Taming of the Shrew* to name a few. She has acted with The Project in various projects, including: *50-Minute Hamlet*, The Project's *Page to Stage Macbeth* and the theatrical readings of *Measure for Measure*, *Antony & Cleopatra* and *The Duchess of Malfi*. She also directed The Project's *Merchant of Venice*.

**Gary Alexander** (Assistant Director, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*) is very pleased to be working with The Shakespeare Project again, this time on the production side. He has appeared as an actor with The Project in *King Lear*, Heywood's *Fair Maid of the West*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. A regular with ShawChicago, he has appeared in ten productions with that company including, most recently: *Man and Superman*, *Saint Joan*, *James Barrie's Quartets*, *Widowers' Houses*, and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. He will play Algernon in ShawChicago's upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (February 2015). Other credits include Drury Lane's *A Christmas Carol*; the Goodman Theatre's *Binky Rudich*; the Ravinia Festival's staged productions of *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *A Little Night Music*, and the revue, *The Music of Rodgers and Hart*. He has appeared in leading roles with Light Opera Works (*Carnival*, *Candide*, and *Student Prince*); and in *Lion in Winter* for Rising Moon; *Vikings: A Musical in Two Act* and *Mirandolina* at Stage Left. Gary is also a certified yoga instructor.

**George Zahora** (Sound Design and Original Music, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*) has done sound design, in various professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's currently enjoying his fourth season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his sound effects and original music in *King Lear*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Fair Maid of the West*, *Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness* and *Othello*, among others. He sincerely appreciates your support of The Project and the excellent Chicago artists it employs, and hopes that his work on *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet* will add context and depth to your experience today.

*Sound effects used in this production may include materials created by users of Freesound.org, which are used under a Creative Commons license. Due to printing deadlines, we cannot credit individual users here. Please see our sound designer for an up-to-date list of contributors and effects.*

# Artist Biographies

## 50-Minute Hamlet



**James Krag** (Guy) Jim most recently served as Assistant Director on this season's *King Lear*. He was also Assistant Director for last season's *All's Well That Ends Well* and appeared as Count Orsino in *Twelfth Night*. Previous appearances include Roderigo in *Othello*, Achilles in *Troilus and Cressida*, Ferdinand in *The Duchess of Malfi* and the Earl of Northumberland in *Richard II*. He can also be seen in the Project's Educational Outreach production of *50-Minute Hamlet*. Other recent Chicago appearances include Carson in *Night and Day* at Remy Bumpo and understudying and appearing as Elyot in *Private Lives* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. For Victory Gardens Theater, Jim originated the role of EKO in the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. 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.



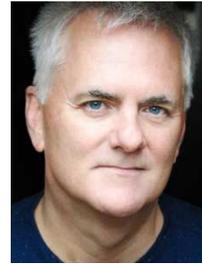
**Gail Rastorfer** (Gal) has been involved in over 16 productions with The Shakespeare Project. She was last seen with The Project as Emilia in *Othello* and previously in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Gail returns to Chicago after a summer in Knoxville playing Dotty Otley in *Noises Off* at the Clarence Brown Theatre. Last winter she was in sunny Sarasota at the Asolo Repertory Theatre doing three plays in rotating rep. 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 Cleveland Play House, 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 of Actors Equity Assn. and SAG-AFTRA. [www.gailonline.net](http://www.gailonline.net).

## 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet



**Judy Blue** (Woman) a devoted member of The Project, recently appeared in *The Way West* at Steppenwolf and *I Am Going To Change The World* at Chicago Dramatists where she is an Associate Artist. She also appeared with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in *Romeo & Juliet* (as Lady Capulet), and in *Richard III* and *The Winter's Tale*. Other Chicago credits include: *Talking Pictures*, *Blind Date*, *House and Garden*, *A Little Night Music*, *Frank's Home* (Goodman); *Gary* (Steppenwolf); *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Collaboration); Elizabeth Berg's *The Pull of the Moon* (16th Street Theater); *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *An American Daughter* (Organic/

Touchstone); and Chicago Symphony Orchestra's *Welcome Yule!* Regional credits include: *Fool for Love* (B Street, Sacramento); *As You Like It* (Dallas Theater Center); *Merchant of Venice*, *Piaf* (StageWest); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare Dallas); *Tender* (Syzygy Theatre Group, L.A.); and *Evita* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Other credits include productions with New York's Henry St. Theatre, Apple Tree, Theatre Three, Movement Theatre International and Writers' Theatre. Along with TV, film and commercial work, Ms. Blue is a company member of Syzygy Theatre Group in L.A.



**Peter Garino** (Man, Co-Adaptor, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He recently directed *King Lear* to open The Project's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. In March, he will appear in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet* at Hofstra University's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakespeare Festival in Hempstead, NY. In April, he will direct Thomas Middleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy* for The Project. Last season he directed Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* and appeared as Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and as Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. Directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *The Reign of King Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Richard II*, *Measure For Measure*, *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*. On-stage appearances with The Project include Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*, Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, and many others. Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players and with the Oak Park Shakespeare Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). 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 proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and SAG-AFTRA.



**Christian Gray** (Boy) happily returns to The Project, where he played Paris in *Troilus and Cressida*. He recently played Don Juan in *Don Juan in Hell* (ShawChicago, ensemble member) and Vincent Hail in the TV pilot *The Blackwood Prophecies* (J & R Productions, Two 9 Productions). He is also an Artistic Associate of First Folio Theatre, and has performed with over 20 Chicago area theatres, including Court Theatre, Remy Bumpo, and Writers' Theatre. Regional credits include Fort Worth Shakespeare (TX), Kentucky Repertory, and Pennsylvania Stage Company. Film/internet/commercial credits include: *Plastic* (FPPI Films: Best Supporting Actor – Indie Horror Film Festival Award, Chicago Horror Film Festival Nomination), *Reclamation* (NTG Productions), *Normal* (Rule 42 Productions); a webisode series *Classholes* (Red City Productions); Horseshoe Casino, Stein Garden and Gifts, Sprint/Nextel (spec). He will next play Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (ShawChicago), and will appear in the upcoming films *Day 1* (Skibo Films) and *Drifted* (Boomstick Films). Love to his wife, Lydia Berger Gray!



**Erin Neal** (Girl) is delighted to return The Project where she has performed Cordelia in *King Lear* and Helena in *All's Well that Ends Well*. Her Chicago credits include work with Rivendell, Chicago Dramatists, Remy Bumpo, About Face, The House, Griffin Theatre and Victory Gardens among others. Regionally she has performed with Milwaukee Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, Fusion Theatre and Kitchen Dog Theatre. She also spent several seasons performing with the Stratford Festival. Erin works as a teaching artist sharing the transformative power of the theatre with young students. She would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of her friend, Lynn Mathis, who played several inspiring roles in this production throughout his career.

**Jeff Christian** (Adapter/Director, *50-Minute Hamlet*) 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* and the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, as well as having staged *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *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 *Shining City*, *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Irish Theatre of Chicago, formerly Seanachai Theatre Company), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *Romeo & Juliet*, *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 Iago, Richard III, Brutus, Proteus, Mercutio, Caliban, Oberson/Bottom/Theseus, Ajax, Feste, 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*), Roughman (*Fair Maid of the West*) 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, Seanachai, 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*, three seasons of JR Sullivan's *Hometown Holiday* (as a writer and actor) and Tennessee Williams' *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Irish Theatre of Chicago and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, is a creative consultant for Tessera Publishing, writes and directs live action and animated sequences for production houses including the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen and teaches directing in Columbia College's Department of Cinema Art + Science, where he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award. Film and television work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Express*, *The Poker House*, *Happy Hour*, *The Last Rider*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus*, *Good People* and Showtime's *Shameless*. Jeff thanks you for your continued support of The Shakespeare Project.

**Barbara Zahora** (Director, Co-Adaptor, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*) has been The Project's Associate Artistic Director since 2010. Last season she adapted and directed *All's Well That Ends Well* for their staged reading season, and past directing credits include *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Favorite roles with the Project have included Queen Elizabeth in *Mary Stuart*, Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Henry VI Parts I, 2, and 3* and Constance Middleton in *The Constant Wife*. As an actor, Barbara's Chicago credits include ShawChicago, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Goodman Theatre, Northlight, Lookingglass, First Folio Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and Artemisia Theatre, among others. She has also performed at a variety of places regionally and internationally, such as American Players Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Barbara teaches at Northwestern's Bienen School of Music and the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She's represented by Paonessa Talent and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

## 50-Minute Hamlet

Guy..... James Krag\*

Gal..... Gail Rastorfer\*

## 50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

Girl (Juliet)..... Erin Neal\*

Boy (Romeo)..... Christian Gray\*

Man ..... Peter Garino\*+

Woman ..... Judy Blue\*+

A discussion with the actors and creative staff will follow this performance

\* Members of Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

