



2015-2016 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

**Mondays at 6:30PM** – Vernon Area Public Library, 300 Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, IL (Pre-registration required)

**Tuesdays at 7:15PM** – Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL (Pre-registration required)

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

from

*The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*

*By William Shakespeare*

Adapted and Directed by  
Jeff Christian

**21<sup>st</sup> Season**

February 2016



Actors 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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**Christopher Prentice** (Guy) was seen mostly recently with The Project in *The Winter's Tale* (Leontes), *Julius Caesar* (Mark Antony) and *The Revenger's Tragedy* (Vindici, the revenger), and stage-managing *Darkside*. Recent credits include a season at Illinois Shakespeare Festival (Beatrice in *Much Ado...*, *Elizabeth Rex*, *Antony and Cleopatra*) after five years as a company member with Canada's Stratford Festival (Claudio in *Measure for Measure*, *Mary Stuart*, Nim in *Henry V*, Slender in *Merry*

*Wives...*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Misanthrope*, *Bartholomew Fair*, among others). Chicago credits include *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio, Chicago Shakespeare), *Robin Hood* (title role, Oak Park Festival), and work with First Folio, Northlight, Next, Chicago Dramatists, Irish Rep of Chicago, Stage Left, Sansculottes, Boxer Rebellion, and New Leaf. A co-founder of Signal Ensemble Theatre, he appeared in *Hamlet* (title role), *The Zoo Story* (Jerry), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Marlow), and *Waiting for Godot* (Gogo), among others, and directed *Old Wicked Songs* (two Jeff noms) and *The Weir* (three Jeff noms). Other regional acting credits include Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (title role in *Macbeth*), American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, and Dallas Theater Center. He trained at the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre (at Stratford Festival) and, a native Texan, is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Get social with him online at christopher-prentice.com, @PrenticeActor and on Facebook.



**Gail Rastorfer** (Gal) has been involved in over 17 productions with The Shakespeare Project. She was last seen with The Project as Lady Macbeth in *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, and previously as Emilia in *Othello* and Mistress Ford 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).

**Jeff Christian** (Adapter/Director) 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), *Romeo & Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), *The Plough and the Stars* (Roosevelt University), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *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 Sahllins' 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 Project.