

Chris Walz (Composer, Musician) is an accomplished vocalist, guitar player and actor. He holds a degree in theatre from Syracuse University and has lived in Chicago since 1988 and worked both as a musician and an actor. He played the lead role in Woody Guthrie in the national tour of *Woody Guthrie's American Song* and is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Chris has taught in the US and Europe, including at the Sorrento Guitar Camp in Canada. He toured the world with the bluegrass band Special Consensus as a lead singer and guitarist, contributing three original songs to the repertoire. Since returning home, Chris has continued to work as a musician, teacher, composer and lyricist. He has taught at the Old Town School of Music since 1996.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO		the world in words		22 nd Season	
HENRY V	By William Shakespeare Directed by J.R. Sullivan			10.14 → 10.18.2016	
KING JOHN	By William Shakespeare Directed by Peter Garino			01.13 → 01.17.2017	
THE CHANGELING	By Thomas Middleton & William Rowley Directed by Steve Scott			02.24 → 02.28.2017	
LOVE'S LABOURS LOST	By William Shakespeare Directed by Barbara Zahora			05.05 → 05.09.2017	

7:00PM Performances on Friday evenings at Niles Public Library.
Pre-registration is required.

Thanks to the Friends of the Niles Public Library.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

My Name Is Will

A Dramatic Adaptation of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Songs

Adapted and Directed by
Peter Garino

Original Music by Chris Walz

21st Season
April 29, 2016

Niles Public Library



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

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Artist Biographies



Jeff Christian 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 *Cymbeline*, *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 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 Project.



Gail Rastorfer 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*. She continues to work in The Project's educational outreach show *50-Minute Hamlet*. 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 Asolo Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Indiana Rep, Clarence Brown Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and Hope Summer Rep. Last spring she had the pleasure to work with American Blues Theatre in *Side Man* and this coming June will perform in the one woman show *The Unfortunates* with SoloChicago. You may have seen her selling cars or insurance on TV. When she's not acting, Gail shares a healthy appreciation for Star Trek and Andy Griffith with her husband Dan Rodden.



Mary Ringstad most recently appeared as Doris in The Project's presentation of *Cardenio*. Previous appearances with The Project include *Antony & Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Edward II*, *Ghosts*, *1-Henry VI*, *2-Henry IV*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *My Name is Will*, *Othello*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Selections from The Hollow Crown*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *A Woman of No Importance*. She has directed *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *Love's Labor's Lost* and assistant directed *King Lear* for The Project. Mary, who has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University, is an adjunct faculty member at Oakton Community College. Mary also serves on the Board of Directors for The Project.



Dan Rodden is happy to again be working with The Project after doing numerous performances since 2003. Recently, Chicago audiences have seen him as Prof. Sloane in David Bell's production of *The Explorers Club* at Windy City Playhouse. He spent last summer performing at Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre (MO) in Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*, and Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Elsewhere on the road, he played Charles Condomine in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* at PICT Classic Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA; as well as the iconic role of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Cardinal Stage Company in Bloomington, Indiana. Chicago: Dr. Adams in *Marrying Terry* (Nightingale Group); Felix in *The Odd Couple* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); Antipholus of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); Apple Tree Theatre; Drury Lane E.P.; The Aardvark; Pegasus Players; IO Chicago, and New American Theater, Rockford, IL. Regionally: AEA guest artist – Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN; Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, and *Making God Laugh* at Nebraska Rep.; Texas Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Cidermill Playhouse, and Beechwood Theatre Company. Dan makes his home in Chicago with his wife, Gail Rastorfer.

Peter Garino (Adaptor/Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. This season, he directed *Cardenio*, and played The Bard in *Cymbeline*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale* and the title role in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. He also directed the Chicago premier of Tom Stoppard's *Darkside* (Incorporating The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd). Next season, he will direct *King John*. Last season, he directed *King Lear* and *The Revenger's Tragedy*. He recently directed Robert Bray's *Lincoln in Limbo* which was presented at the Newberry Library and Illinois Wesleyan University. Recent appearances for The Project include Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. Other directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *The Fair Maid of the West*, *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 Friar Laurence/Lord Capulet in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*, 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 Festival 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. Peter serves as co-chair for the English Speaking Union's Shakespeare Committee in Chicago. Thanks and love to Helene and Glen.