

Artist Biographies



Judy Blue a devoted member of The Shakespeare 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* (Collaboraction); 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.



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.



Christopher Prentice 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 christopherprentice.com, @PrenticeActor and on Facebook.



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.

Peter Garino (Adaptor/Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. Most recently, Peter appeared in *Henry V* to open The Project's 2016-2017 season. Last 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). In January 2017, he will direct *King John*. 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: *King Lear*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *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.

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 <i>the world in words</i> 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 |

2016-2017 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

Tuesdays at 7:15PM – Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 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

My Name Is Will

A Dramatic Adaptation of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Songs

Adapted and Directed by
Peter Garino

Original Music by Chris Walz

22nd Season
November 20, 2016

Morton Grove 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

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

“Like” us on Facebook
facebook.com/shakespeareprojectchicago