

**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.

PRESENTS

# The Cricket on the Hearth

a tale for the home

by Charles Dickens

Adapted and Directed by  
Jeff Christian

Music & Sound Design: George Zahora

22<sup>nd</sup> Season

December 16-17, 2016

Niles Public Library  
The Newberry Library



\* 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)

P.O. Box 25126

Chicago, Illinois 60625

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# Artist Biographies



**Brittany Burch** (Bertha) is very excited to be working with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago for the first time. She is an ensemble member with The Gift Theatre where she has most recently been seen in *Richard III*, *Good For Otto*, *The Royal Society of Antarctica*, *Othello*, and *Thinner Than Water*. Here in Chicago Brittany has also worked with Steppenwolf, Wildclaw, Redtwist, the Goodman, and Lakeside Shakespeare. Other regional credits include Perseverance Theatre, Artists Repertory Theatre, and Chautauqua Theatre Company.



**Peter Garino** (Tackleton) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He appeared in *Henry V* in the current season. He will direct *King John* in January 2017 for The Project. This past 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). 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 Revenger's Tragedy*, *King Lear*, *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 include 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 to Helene and Glen.



**Michael Grant** (John Peerybingle) is a founding ensemble member of Irish Theatre of Chicago (formerly Seanachai Theatre Company) and served as its Artistic Director from 1995 to 2003 and again from 2009 to the present. As an actor, Michael has appeared in nine of ITC's productions, including *Lay Me Down Softly*, *Our Father*, *War*, *Drink Me* and *The Clearing*, as well as the world premieres of *Marked Tree*, *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* and *The Pagans*. Favorite roles in Chicago include Hugo (*God's Man in Texas* at Northlight Theatre-Jeff Nomination for Actor in a Supporting Role), Sherlock Holmes (*The Sign of the Four* at Apple Tree Theatre), the Invisible Man (*Scientific Romances* at Next Theatre), Leo (*And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* - Seanachai) and Arthur Miller (*Are You Now or Have You Ever Been...* at Next Theatre-Jeff Award for Best Ensemble). Other Chicago credits include work with Fox Theatricals, Interplay, Center Theater, European Repertory and other shows at Next Theatre. Michael is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame.



22<sup>nd</sup> Season

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago  
presents

# The Changeling

By Thomas Middleton and William Rowley

Directed by Steve Scott

February 24-28, 2017

The promotional image features a woman in a white headscarf and a voluminous, light-colored fur coat, looking slightly to the right. The background is dark, making the character stand out.

# THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH

Characters in order of appearance

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John Peerybingle, a mail carrier ..... Michael Grant\*

Mary, his wife (called Dot).....Gail Rastorfer\*

Tilly Slowboy, their help .....Linda Kimbrough\*

A Stranger ..... Shane Kenyon\*

Tackleton, a toy merchant.....Peter Garino\*+

Caleb Plummer, his aging employee ..... John Kishline\*

Bertha, Caleb's blind daughter .....Brittany Burch\*

May Fielding, Dot's friend,  
engaged to Tackleton..... Danni Smith\*

### The Scenes:

Chirp the First – The home of the Peerybingles

Chirp the Second – The home of Caleb Plummer

Chirp the Third – The home of the Peerybingles

Running Time: Approximately 75 minutes, no intermission

\* Members of Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

22<sup>nd</sup> Season

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago  
presents

Kayla Carter, Deborah Clifton, Tony Dobrowolski,  
Diane Dorsey, Matthew Fahey, Zachary Fewkes,  
Gary Houston, Ron Keaton, John Kishline,  
Bill McGough, Michael Joseph Mitchell,  
Matt Penn, Christopher Prentice, Michelle Shupe,  
and Robert Tobin

# King John

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Garino

January 13-17, 2017



## ATTENTION NEWBERRY LIBRARY PATRONS

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our performance of “King John” on Saturday, January 14, 2017, 10:00am, will be held at Buchanan Chapel, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL.



**Shane Kenyon** (The Stranger) is a local Chicago actor. Some of his Chicago theatre credits include: *If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet* (Jeff Award Winner – Best Supporting Actor, Steep Theatre); *Buzzer* (Goodman Theatre); *Where We're Born, Hushabye, Betrayal, Sex With Strangers* (u/s), *Dublin Carol* (u/s) (Steppenwolf Theatre); *The Who and The What* (Victory Gardens); *Shining City, The Seafarer* (Jeff Award Winner – Best Ensemble), *Shadow of a Gunman* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight* (Windy City Playhouse); *Season on the Line* (The House Theatre of Chicago); *Trainspotting USA* (Book & Lyrics); *Big Love* (Strawdog Theatre); *Mary's Wedding* (Rivendell Theatre). Regional theatre credits include: *Hamlet, Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth, Midsummer Nights Dream* (Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre). Most recently he appeared at the renowned Studio Theatre of Washington, DC in their production of *Hedda Gabler*. Shane's film and TV credits include: *Chicago Justice, Chicago PD, Empire, Mind Games, Chicago Code*, along with multiple SAG independent films and commercials. He is a proud ensemble member of the Irish Theatre of Chicago. He also received his BFA in Theatre Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.



**Linda Kimbrough** (Tilly Slowboy) is happy to return to The Shakespeare Project where she has previously appeared in *Richard III, Mary Stuart, The Winter's Tale* and *The Cricket on the Hearth*. She has been seen at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include: *The Moliere Comedies, King John, Julius Caesar, The Wizard of Oz, All's Well That Ends Well, Macbeth, Pericles, King John, Much Ado About Nothing, Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* and *Cymbeline*. Other Chicago credits include: *The Commons of Pensacola* (Northlight Theatre); *Other Desert Cities, The Play About the Baby* (Goodman Theatre); *The Uneasy Chair* and *Savannah Disputation* (Writers Theatre). Regional credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Center Stage); *GNIT* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *The Pitmen Painters, The History Boys, Pride and Prejudice* (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre); *The Gospel According to James* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); and *Noises Off* (Cleveland Play House). Internationally, Ms. Kimbrough has performed at the Galway Arts Festival in Ireland with Northlight Theatre's production of *Better Late*, and at the Barbican Theatre in London with Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Film credits include: *The Phil Spector Story* (HBO), *Spartan, Homicide* and *Red Belt*, all directed by David Mamet.



**John Kishline** (Caleb Plummer) has been an actor, director, playwright and designer in professional theatre for 44 years. He has done work in 200 professional productions performed in 28 of the United States and also in Holland, England, Wales, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, India and Japan. He has written 11 produced plays and helped create at least 50 more from scratch. He was a founding member of Milwaukee's Theatre X and has performed often with The Shakespeare Project and also with the Irish Theatre of Chicago and Northlight Theatre. He toured his play, *Success*, to six cities in India under the auspices of the U.S. State Dept. in 2011. He got his knuckles broken and a .45 shoved his mouth on *Chicago PD*, and was also drilled at point blank range as the first fatality in the film *Public Enemies* – playing in each case, yet another, bad old guy.



**Gail Rastorfer** (Mary Peerybingle) has been working with The Shakespeare Project for over 14 years. She has performed in over seventeen different productions with The Project, has been performing *50-Minute Hamlet* for the last nine years and is happy to be reprising the role of Dot in *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Gail has made Chicago her artistic home for over 20 years working at area theaters such as Northlight, First Folio, Chicago Dramatists, The Chicago Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and The Goodman. Regional theaters include Indiana Rep, Madison Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Clarence Brown Theatre and Asolo Rep. She most recently was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Solo Performance for *The Unfortunates* with SoloChicago. Gail has also done a wide range of on camera work including national commercials (selling everything from cars to paper towels) and TV (including *Chicago Fire*, *Boss* and *Crisis*). Gail is the owner of Artistic Strategies which provides business consulting and coaching to performing artists. She is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and serves on the Chicago board of SAG-AFTRA. [www.gailonline.net](http://www.gailonline.net)



**Danni Smith** (Bertha) is thrilled to join The Shakespeare Project of Chicago again after working on the reading of *Cymbeline* earlier this year. Danni primarily works in musical theatre across Chicagoland including Paramount Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Theater at the Center, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Bailiwick Chicago, BoHo Theatre, and Chicago Children's Theatre. She's also had the pleasure of diving into the Bard's works with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and Lakeside Shakespeare. Film credit: *The Gateway* available on Amazon. Danni has been honored with four Jeff Awards and is the co-Artistic Director of new women-focused

musical theatre company Firebrand Theatre. [www.firebrandtheatre.org](http://www.firebrandtheatre.org). Thanks to Jeff, Peter, and the cast!

**Jeff Christian** (Adaptor/Director) led the company for eight seasons, and adapted and directed *Cymbeline*, *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*, *The Rivals*, *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 Journeyman); 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, Irish Theatre of Chicago, 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 is currently acting in Irish Theatre of Chicago's production of *The Weir*, and thanks you for your continued support of The Project.

**George Zahora** (Sound and Music Design) has done sound design, in various professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's delighted to be starting his six season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer. You may have heard his work in *Henry V*, *Cardenio*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Cymbeline*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, or *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, among others. He sincerely appreciates your ongoing support of The Project and the excellent Chicago artists it employs, and hopes that his work on *The Cricket on the Hearth* will add context and depth to your experience today.

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**Charles Dickens** (Author) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime, and by the twentieth century critics and scholars had recognized him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories enjoy lasting popularity. Born in Portsmouth, Dickens left school to work in a factory when his father was incarcerated in a debtors' prison. Despite his lack of formal education, he edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote 15 novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles, lectured and performed extensively, was an indefatigable letter writer, and campaigned vigorously for children's rights, education, and other social reforms. Dickens's literary success began with the 1836 serial publication of *The Pickwick Papers*. Within a few years he had become an international literary celebrity, famous for his humour, satire, and keen observation of character and society. His novels, most published in monthly or weekly instalments, pioneered the serial publication of narrative fiction, which became the dominant Victorian mode for novel publication. The installment format allowed Dickens to evaluate his audience's reaction, and he often modified his plot and character development based on such feedback. For example, when his wife's chiropodist expressed distress at the way Miss Mowcher in *David Copperfield* seemed to reflect her disabilities, Dickens improved the character with positive features. His plots were carefully constructed, and he often wove elements from topical events into his narratives. Masses of the illiterate poor chipped in ha'pennies to have each new monthly episode read to them, opening up and inspiring a new class of readers. Dickens was regarded as the literary colossus of his age. His 1843 novella, *A Christmas Carol*, remains popular and continues to inspire adaptations in every artistic genre. *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations* are also frequently adapted, and, like many of his novels, evoke images of early Victorian London. His 1859 novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, set in London and Paris, is his best-known work of historical fiction. Dickens's creative genius has been praised by fellow writers—from Leo Tolstoy to George Orwell and G. K. Chesterton—for its realism, comedy, prose style, unique characterizations, and social criticism. On the other hand, Oscar Wilde, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf complained of a lack of psychological depth, loose writing, and a vein of saccharine sentimentalism. The term Dickensian is used to describe something that is reminiscent of Dickens and his writings, such as poor social conditions or comically repulsive characters.