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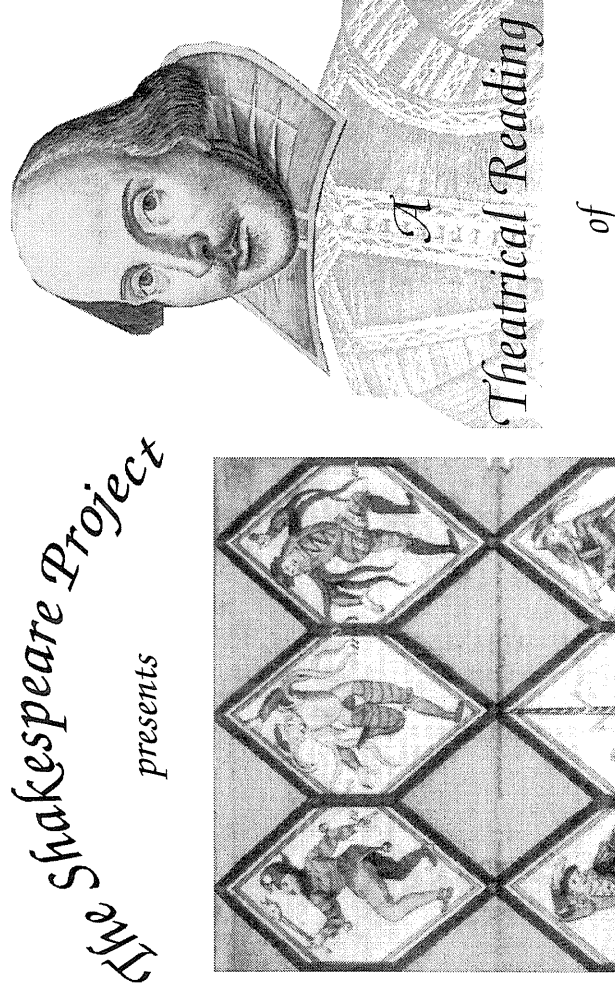
Bess Winakor

## Regarding "The Shakespeare Project of Chicago"

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is an Acting Ensemble made up entirely of members of Actors' Equity Association and dedicated to the exploration of the complete works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists. TSP Chicago currently presents monthly "Theatrical Readings" of the complete works of Shakespeare that achieve a clarity usually only accomplished by fully producing the plays. Established as a vehicle to enable Chicago's professional actors to explore great literature while working in the company of others with like experience and interest levels, these exceptionally skilled performers have previously been seen on the stages of The Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf, Shakespeare Repertory, Northlight Theatre, The Court Theatre, and many other great stages in the Chicago area and around the country.

Our 1997 Theatrical Reading Series "A History of the English Kings..." has been a source of great pride and excitement for audiences and actors alike. Next month, we conclude "The War of the Roses cycle" with *Richard III*, performing at The Berger Park Cultural Center and the Chicago Public Library/The Harold Washington Library Center. Together with our beloved audiences, *The Shakespeare Project* is exploring these fantastic plays while piecing together the puzzle of the European history they represent. All readings are free to the public.

TSP Chicago is a nonprofit organization and may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you wish, you may send contributions to *The Shakespeare Project*, 2706 North Albany Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. To receive information on performance dates and locations as we push toward the completion of the entire canon -with *Hamlet* in December of 1998- fill out a card as you enter or leave the performance and you will be put on our mailing list. For further information or to book a reading, contact TSP Chicago at 773/252-5433. (Phone and Fax). Email address TSPchicago@aol.com. Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.



The
War of the Roses
Cycle
CONTINUES WITH

Part Three of
King Henry VI
Directed by Jason Eric Hays

Assistant Director: Michele Hays

All actors with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of professional Actors and Stage Managers

This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Chicago Public Library

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the War of the Roses cycle, Henry VI, Part 3 offers an unusual insight into the Elizabethan view of war. Unlike many of Shakespeare's history plays, no sweeping, majestic battles or epic bouts of single combat are shown--instead, we are offered brutal political assassinations and atrocious child-slayings. Sons kill their fathers and fathers their sons--not for god and king, but merely as conscript soldiers fighting for the spoils of war. The War of the Roses has degenerated from a political battle to depose a weak king to a genocidal clan war.

While Warwick's cry, "For Yorke in justice put's his Armour on," may imply a conflict based on glory and divine right, the War of the Roses is, in actuality, one of politicians and lawyers. Shakespeare recognizes that the tragedy of this sad chapter in England's history lies not in the political machinations of the vying factions, but in the mindless horror of civil war.

England, however, requires a king; and the loss that each individual must face to achieve that end is shown to be bloody, terrible, and personal.

-JASON ERIC HAYS

**Special Thanks:** Illinois Arts Council, Chicago Park District, Mario Alanso, Steven Young and Single Note Industries, Chris Wilson, Nancy Nickel, Michele Hays, Phil Martini, Terry Hamilton, Michael O'Conner, Philip Turner, Gary Houston, Scott Olson, Craig Bryant, Michelle Sterling, Peter Garino, Andy Powdermaker and Actors' Equity Association.

## A History of the English Kings

(as represented by Elizabethan dramatists)

This is the tenth play of eleven in this unprecedented readings series. We began with Shakespeare's *King John*, which told us of the son of Henry II and brother of King Richard I (Coeur-de-lion) and his struggles for power with France and within his own family. We saw John succeed at the end of the play by his son, Henry III, who reigns for 57 years, followed by his son, King Edward I.

### *King John*

We then picked up the story with Christopher Marlowe's characterization of *Edward II*'s stormy reign, which concluded with a promising young prince ascending the throne--King Edward the Third.

### *Edward II*

*The Reign of King Edward the Third*, an Apocryphal play, told the story of this King's manhood in battle, to achieve his mother Isabella's seat in France, and with his own honor. *Edward III* ended with the king's infamous young son, Edward the Black Prince, having proved himself a warrior and the perfect heir apparent to the English Throne.

### *Edward III*

However, as we learn in Shakespeare's *Richard II*, because the Black Prince's fatal illness, this never came to pass. Instead we heard the story of one king's painful journey to self awareness as we revisited themes of political manipulation, intrigue, familial struggle and true leadership abilities. We witnessed the death of King Richard following his "voluntary" abdication of the throne to his cousin Henry Bullingbrook.

### *Richard II*

*Henry the Fourth, parts 1 & 2* acquainted us with the political disquiet that haunted Henry IV's reign. With the line of legitimacy interrupted, he introduced us to many new questions in our search for the perfect king.

### *Henry IV* *parts 1 & 2*

We frolicked with the young Prince Hal and Sir John Falstaff, Mistress Quickly, Bardolph, and Poins at the Boar's Head Tavern. In part two we followed the English to war again, and with them weeded through the mire of rumor and truth. Upon the death of Henry IV, we saw Henry the Fifth's ascension to the throne and his rejection of his alternative father-figure, Falstaff.

### *Henry V*

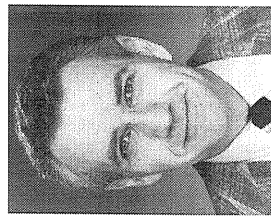
*The Life of Henry the Fifth* showed us the triumphant reign of our long awaited perfect king, accented with victories in France and Henry's betrothal to Katherine, the French king's daughter. The play ends with the acquiescent marriage of the two kingdoms.

### *Henry VI* *parts 1, 2 & 3*

The War of the Roses cycle opens with the funeral of *Henry V*, two years after the closing events of that play. Crowned King of England and France at the age of nine months, Henry VI's reign was wracked with Civil War and ill-advised misrule. With the line of legitimacy interrupted by the events portrayed in *Richard II*, the various descendants of "the seven sons of Edward III" are left questioning each other's claims to the throne. Following the death of Henry V, political in-fighting ensued over who would rule the realm in the name of the infant King Henry VI. The result is the chasm between the houses of Lancaster and York. The Lancastrians, bearing the Red Rose, support the legitimacy of King Henry; descended from the fourth son of Edward III, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The Yorkists, bearing the White Rose, support the royal claim of Richard Plantagenet. This Duke of York was descended paternally from the fifth son of Edward III, Edmund Langley, Duke of York and maternally from Edward's third son, Lionel, Duke of Clarence. *Henry VI, part 3* begins soon after the conflict between the two houses has escalated to armed rebellion.



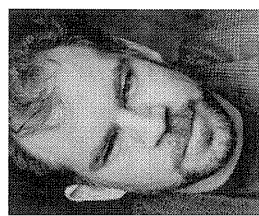
**Stephen Spencer** (Richard, Duke of Gloucester) most recently played Buckingham in *Henry VI, part 2* and prior to that Fluellen in *Henry V*. He appeared in *Season's Greetings* at the Forum Theatre. In Chicago, he originated the title role in *Shakespeare's Robin Hood* at Chicago Dramatists Workshop where he's performed in *Judevine*, *Marisol* and *Wingwalkers*. Other Chicago credits include *The Sea* with The Cypress Group and *Limbo Tales* at Cafe Voltaire. Regional theaters include Florida's Asolo State Theatre and The Ruth Foreman Theatre; the Utah Shakespearean Festival; Wisconsin's Evergreen Theatre and New Jersey's Cape May Playhouse. He toured throughout Russia, starting with Moscow's Leninsky Komsomol Theatre, and performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.



**Dennis Sook** (Lewis XI, Father, *et al*) has appeared in many of **TSP's** reading and recently appeared as a poker player in *The Odd Couple* at Candlelight's Forum Theatre. He's glad to be back in Chicago after working in New York for several years, where he appeared in commercials, on the soaps, and Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing* and the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond*. Dennis was also in the Actors' Studio production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. His career began touring with the National Shakespeare Company for two seasons. Dennis earned his Master of Arts degree from the City College of New York.



**Kameron Steele** (George, Duke of Clarence) was last seen in Chicago as Bishop in Thirteenth Tribe's production of *The Balcony* directed by Joanna Settle. Off and Off-Off Broadway credits include Ben in *The Dumb Waiter* (Classic Stage Company), Cassio in *Othello* (Horace Mann Theatre), Odysseus in *Penthesilea* (Juliard School/The Salon), and Frank in James Joyce's *Eveline* (Trilogy Theatre). Some regional credits include, Calaban in *The Tempest* (StageWest, MA), Simon in *Hay Fever* (Centennial Theatre Festival, CT) and most recently as Gerald in *An Inspector Calls* (Wayside Theatre, VA). Kameron has also appeared in Japan on stage and television with Tadashi Suzuki's SCOT Company as, among other roles, Romeo's Ghost in *Juliet*, which toured to the '93 Saratoga International Theatre Festival.



**Jason Eric Hays** (Director) is pleased to direct his first reading for **The Shakespeare Project**. This past summer, he directed *Some Things Afoot* and *All In The Timing* at the Shawnee Theatre of Greene County. Jason looks forward to serving as Assistant Director for **The Shakespeare Project's** premier production of *The Reign of Edward the Third*, tentatively scheduled for August of 1998. As an actor for **TSP** Jason has played Suffolk and Jack Cade in *Henry VI, part 2*, Henry Bullingbrook in *Richard II*, the title role in *Macbeth*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Antigonus in *The Winter's Tale*, the Bastard in *King John* and Kent in *Edward II*. Prior to becoming a company member of **The Shakespeare Project**, Jason had the pleasure of performing at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, and also with Chicago's Shakespeare Repertory. Jason is pleased to return to civilization after the hell of Summer Stock in the wilds of Indiana. He wishes to thank his lovely new wife for keeping him fed and sane through this project.

**Michele Hays** (Assistant Director) began her association with the theatre at Thomas More College, where she directed the 1989 student production, *A Clearing in the Woods*. She has performed at The Village Puppet Theatre and the Center for Puppetry Arts, and while at the Center, directed *The Con of Versation* - an adult puppet project. Locally, she has created workshops for children for Hystopolis Productions. This past summer, Ms. Hays acted as Business Manager for Shawnee Summer Theatre. She has always been a student of Shakespeare, and is grateful for the opportunity **TSP** offers to explore the works of the Bard.

# The Shakespeare Project Presents 3-HENRY VI

## THE PLAYERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

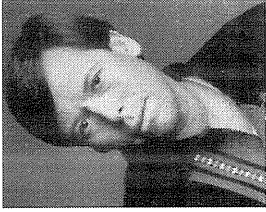
Earl of Warwick.....	GARY HOUSTON
RICHARD PLANTAGENET, <i>Duke of York</i> .....	TERRY HAMILTON
EDWARD, <i>Earl of March, afterwards King Edward IV</i> (son of York)..<	RICK CARTER
GEORGE, <i>afterwards Duke of Clarence</i> (son of York).....	KAMERON STEELE
RICHARD, <i>afterwards Duke of Gloucester</i> (son of York).....	STEPHEN SPENCER
KING HENRY THE SIXTH.....	DAVID SKIDMORE
Earl of Northumberland.....	JONATHAN CANTOR
Lord Clifford.....	ANDREW POWDERMAKER
Duke of Exeter.....	HOLLIS HUSTON
QUEEN MARGARET.....	MARA POLSTER
EDWARD, <i>Prince of Wales, son of Henry &amp; Margaret</i> .....	SCOTT OLSON
EDMUND, <i>Earl of Rutland, youngest son of Duke of York</i> .....	JUDY BLUE
TUTOR, <i>to Rutland</i> .....	DENNIS SOOK
SON <i>that has killed his father</i> .....	JONATHAN CANTOR
FATHER <i>that has killed his son</i> .....	DENNIS SOOK
TWO KEEPERS.....	TERRY HAMILTON
	DENNIS SOOK
LADY GREY, <i>afterwards Queen to Edward IV</i> .....	JUDY BLUE
LEWIS THE ELEVENTH, <i>King of France</i> .....	DENNIS SOOK
BONA, <i>sister to the French Queen</i> .....	JUDY BLUE
Earl of Oxford.....	ANDREW POWDERMAKER
Duke of Somerset.....	HOLLIS HUSTON
LORD RIVERS, <i>Brother to Lady Grey</i> .....	SCOTT OLSON
HUNTSMAN.....	DENNIS SOOK
LORD HASTINGS.....	JONATHAN CANTOR
MAYOR of York.....	DENNIS SOOK
SIR JOHN MONTGOMERY.....	TERRY HAMILTON
MESSENGERS and Posts, Watchmen, and Lieutenants.....	JUDY BLUE
	JONATHAN CANTOR
	TERRY HAMILTON
	HOLLIS HUSTON
	DENNIS SOOK

THE SCENE: ENGLAND AND FRANCE

THERE WILL BE ONE 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION



**Judy Blue** (Rutland, Lady Bona, Lady Grey) for TSP: Hero in *Much Ado*, Elinor in *King John*, Titania in *Midsummer*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*, Portia in *Merchant of Venice* (to name a few). Judy was Viola in Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Twelfth Night*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* at Stage West and Phebe in *As You Like It* at the Dallas Theater Center. In Chicago, roles included Desiree in *A Little Night Music* at The Goodman and Arlene in Apple Tree's *Baby*. She has appeared opposite Timothy Busfield in *Fool For Love* at B Street Theatre in CA and favorite roles include *Evita* and *Piaf* and also Alice and Elizabeth in the world premiers of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*.



**Jonathan Cantor** (Northumberland, Hastings) recently appeared in the title role in *Uncle Vanya* and as Guildenstern in *Hamlet* for Equity Library Theatre Chicago. A native New Yorker, Jon worked Off-Broadway with the Jean Cocteau Repertory. On camera work includes commercials, industrials, soaps, and the TV Movie *Innocent Until Proven Guilty* with Martin Sheen. As a director, Jon will be directing *Love, Sex and the IRS* at Blue Island's Dreamstreet Theatre. He is currently teaching acting at Roosevelt University.



**Rick Carter** (Edward) was Orleanse and Nym in *Henry V* for *The Shakespeare Project*. In addition to his work with TSP he has performed locally for 10 years appearing in Shakespeare Rep's touring *Macbeth* as Macduff, Mr. Darcy in Lifelines original adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, and MacHeath in Bailiwick's *Three Penny Opera*. He also worked with the Commons Theatre where he portrayed Tyler in the original script by M. Nowak and A. Meyer *The Signal Season of Dummy Hoy*, reprising the role off-Broadway at the Hudson Guild Theatre. Rick has also appeared regionally with the Iowa Shakespeare Project as Don Pedro in *Much Ado*, and the title role of *Macbeth*, and with Actor's Repertory as Danny in *Grease*, Young Joe in *Damn Yankees*, and Action in *West Side Story*.



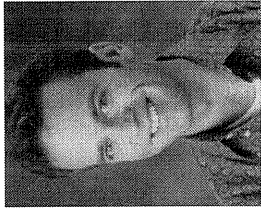
**Terry Hamilton** (Duke of York) last appeared with TSP in *Henry VI, part 2*. He was also seen as Claudius and The Ghost in Powertap Productions and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's Production of *Hamlet*. He has appeared on Broadway, off-off Broadway, and regional, summer stock and Dinner Theaters throughout the country. Mr. Hamilton has studied with Lee Strasberg and Sonia Moore in New York, and Shakespeare with Peter Forster here in Chicago.



**Gary Houston** (Warwick) for TSP directed *Merchant of Venice* and played Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lenox in *Macbeth*, John in *King John*, Lancaster in *Edward II*, Edward in *Edward III*, York in *Richard II* and Winchester in the first two parts of *Henry VI*. At Oak Park Festival he was Buckingham in *Richard III*. Other roles are Len in *Saved* and Rump in *Grease* (Kingston Mines), Klaus in *Campaign* (Organic), George in *Dealing* (Northlight), Roger in *Charisma* (Next), Stuart in *Fashion* (Body Politic), Blake in *Blake* (Writer), Michael in *Fur* (Latino Chicago), Bernie in *Nightside* (Victory Gardens) and Joe in *Separation* (Illinois Theatre Center). At year's end he will be Scrooge in Holiday Productions' *A Christmas Carol*.



**Hollis Huston** (Exeter, Somerset) is a reformed clown and recovering university professor who now makes his living as a performer in Chicago. His theatre credits include work with The Goodman, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Detroit Repertory, New Harmony Theatre, the St. Louis Muny Opera and Starlight Musicals Indianapolis. Some favorite roles include Giovanni in Dario Fo's *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*, Alan in Maltby/Shire's *Baby*, and Uncle Billy in *It's a Wonderful Life*. He played Sgt. O'Hare in the HBO movie *Truman*, Mayor Dent in *The Untouchables*, and the Frankenstein Monster for Bud Lite. In other commercials he plays various truck drivers, construction workers and middle-American dads. Though he has been called a poor man's Nick Nolte, he prefers to think of himself as a Midwestern Zero Mostel.



**Scott Olson** (Edward, Lord Rivers) has appeared with T.S.P. in the title role of *Henry V* as well of *Henry VI, part 2*, *Edward III*, *Richard II* and *Henry IV, I and II*. He appeared for nine months as Tony Whitcomb in *Shear Madness* and as Opie in *As The Beaver at Zebra Crossing*. Past Shakespeare roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Denver Center Theatre Company; Oliver in *As You Like It*, Chiron in *Titus Andronicus*, Elbow in *Measure for Measure* at Idaho Shakespeare Festival; Hortensio in *The Taming of the Shrew* for the Commonweal Theatre Company and touring as Romeo in *R & J*, Cassius in *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet* for Chiespeare Productions. Later this month, Scott will be seen in *The Millionaire* with Shaw Chicago.



**Mara Polster** (Queen Margaret) *The Shakespeare Project* began in May of 1995 as a "fire in the belly" and has grown to an object of much pride and promise with little more than a tireless imagination and a love of the words (plus a brilliant Acting Company). Mara has performed on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. With TSP, she has played Lady Macbeth, Goneril (*King Lear*), Katherine (*Shrew*), Isabella (*Measure for Measure*), Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*) and now Margaret and has directed *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry VIII*, *Comedy of Errors* (twice), *Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Julius Caesar*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Othello*, *Loves Labours Lost*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth* (three times), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Coriolanus*, *Edward II*, *Henry V* and next month *Richard III*. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* exists as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMachia (the sower of the seed) and Michael A. Wilson.



**Andrew Powdermaker** (Lord Clifford, Oxford) is excited to be performing with *The Shakespeare Project* again where he last played Somerset in *Henry VI*. Other TSP roles include: Montjoy in *Henry V*, Justice Shallow in *2-Henry IV*, and Angus and the Porter in *Macbeth*. Andrew recently played Lieutenant Osborne in *Journey's End* for ELT. Favorite roles include; Lysander in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Chestnut Hill Shakespeare in the Park, and Warren in *Moon Over the Brewery* in the Walnut Street Theatre's showcase studio. Andrew recently completed work in the film *Last Call*. Look for it in the Chicago Film Festival next year.



**David Skidmore** (King Henry the Sixth) was seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as *Henry VI* in *part 2* and prior to that as Hotspur in *Henry IV, part 1*. He recently returned from the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, where he appeared in *The Cure at Troy* and in their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Shaw Festival. David has also appeared professionally in such roles at Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys*, Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, and Malcolm in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, as well as Romeo and other roles in *The Shakespeare Project's* ongoing series of staged readings for the Chicago Park District. David grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, received a BA from Brandeis University in Boston and an MFA in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia. He thanks his wife Kori for all her support.