

Our 2010-2011 Season continues...

Mary Stuart by Friedrich Schiller

Directed by Jeff Christian

"Truly I never hated her -- but force of circumstance made her my enemy..."

Culminating their six-season exploration of the history plays, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago brings to life Friedrich Schiller's *Mary Stuart*. On the heels of last season's adaptation of *King Henry VIII*, the incendiary historical drama examines the relationship between Henry's daughter, Elizabeth I and her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots.

Saturday, January 15, 2011, 10:00AM, The Newberry Library, Chicago

Saturday, January 15, 2011, 2:00PM, The Wilmette Public Library

Sunday, January 16, 2011, 2:00PM, The Highland Park Public Library

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare

Directed by Barbara Zahora

"What tempest, I trow, threw this whale, with so many tuns of oil in his belly, ashore at Windsor? How shall I be revenged on him?"

In Shakespeare's middle-class comedy set in suburban Windsor, two respectable married women are propositioned simultaneously by the penniless and unscrupulous Sir John Falstaff. Will he succeed in using the women for his financial gain, or will the wives and the community - teach him a lesson he won't soon forget?

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 10:00AM, The Newberry Library, Chicago

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 2:00PM, The Wilmette Public Library

Sunday, February 27, 2011, 2:00PM, The Highland Park Public Library

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Garino

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, rounded with a little sleep."

The crowning jewel in the group of romances composed at the twilight of Shakespeare's career, *The Tempest* presents some of his most personal reflections on the cycle of life. A banished Duke and his daughter have been exiled to a remote, mysterious island. Over the course of twelve years, the Duke develops magical powers to lead his enemies to the island. The confrontation that ensues meditates on themes of vengeance and forgiveness, death and resurrection. Shakespeare project veteran Fredric Stone is slated to portray Prospero, the banished Duke with magical powers.

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 10:00AM, The Newberry Library, Chicago

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 2:00PM, The Wilmette Public Library

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 2:00PM, The Highland Park Public Library

**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

Assistant Director, Gail Rastorfer

16th Season

December 5, 2010

Miller Studio

The Theatre Conservatory

Chicago College of Performing Arts

Roosevelt University



All actors with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

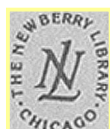
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P.O. Box 25126, Chicago, Illinois 60625

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 15 years. With sincere thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2010-2011 season:

Ann Albert, Anonymous, Sunder & Carolyn Bajaj, Lynn & Aaron Broadus, Jack & Janet Christian, Deborah Clifton, Brooks Davis, James & Martha Fritts, *In Memory of Margaret D. Garino*, C.J. Herhold, Nancy Herzog, Leigh K. Johnson, Arthur Kowitt, Carol E. Lewis, Rhita Lippitz, Kevin & Laura McVey, George & Gerry Messenger, Alice Mills, Marlene Mitchel, Sydelle F. Nelson, Catherine Regaldo, Elanor & Harvard Reiter, Leonard & Elizabeth Ringstad, Mary Ann San Martin, Alfred Saucedo, Chrisopher & Hisae Shea, M.F. Sherman, Thomas & Felicity Skidmore, Melanie Spitz, Myrna Sylvester, Dick & Mary Woods

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Peter Garino	Artistic Director
Barbara Zahora	Associate Artistic Director
Melissa Carlson	Director of Education

PERFORMANCE HISTORY: The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Play (Shakespeare)	Last Production	Previous Production(s)
Hamlet (50 Minute)	2010	2006, 2008, 2002
My Name is Will	2010	2006, 1999
Measure For Measure	2010	1996
Antony & Cleopatra	2010	1998
A Midsummer Night's Dream	2010	1996
Henry VIII	2009	1999
Richard III	2009	1998, 1997
The Comedy of Errors	2009	1999, 1996
As You Like It	2009	1998
Pericles	2008	1996
Henry VI	2007	1997
Macbeth (50 Minute)	2007	
Much Ado About Nothing	2007	1996
Henry V	2006	1997
Love's Labour's Lost	2006	1998
Henry IV	2005	1997
The Winter's Tale	2005	1996
Macbeth	2004	1996
The Two Gentlemen of Verona	2004	1998
All's Well That Ends Well	2003	1998
King Lear	2003	1998
The Merchant of Venice	2003	1995
Romeo and Juliet	2002	1996
Othello	2001	1998
The Taming of the Shrew	2001	1996
The Rape of Lucrece	2001	
Julius Caesar	2001	1996
Twelfth Night	2001	1997
Timon of Athens	2000	
Hamlet	1998	
Hamlet (full production)	1999	
The Two Noble Kinsmen	1999	
Cymbeline	1998	
Troilus & Cressida	1998	
Titus Andronicus	1998	
The Tempest	1998	
The Merry Wives of Windsor	1998	
King John	1997	
Richard II	1997	
Coriolanus	1996	
Non-Shakespeare		
Paradise Lost (Milton)	2010	Adapted by Regina M. Schwartz
The Nivals (Sheridan)	2010	
In Medea Res (Euripides)	2008	Adapted by Jeff Christian
The Importance of Being Earnest (Wilde)	2008	
The Constant Wife (Maugham)	2007	
Faust	2005	Adapted by Jeff Christian
A Woman of No Importance (Wilde)	2005	
The Parvenu (Moliere)	2005	Adapted by Jeff Christian
Ghosts (Ibsen)	2005	
The Cricket on the Hearth (Dickens)	2008	Adapted by Jeff Christian
Edward II (Marlowe)	1997	
Edward III (Apocryphal)	1997	

Artist Biographies



David Skidmore (Guy/Hamlet) appeared most recently as Lucio in The Shakespeare Project's *Measure for Measure* and Faulkland in *The Rivals*. In addition to his work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, David has acted professionally in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Milwaukee in a variety of contemporary and classical roles. David is currently Board President and is a Founding Member of The Shakespeare Project, and has been involved in many Project productions over the years, performing such roles as Lear's Fool, Puck, Iago, Cassio, Petruchio, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry

VI, Romeo and Hamlet (in the Project's full theatrical production in 1999), and directing *Richard III* and *Macbeth*. David can also be seen regularly as Hamlet in the Project's *50 Minute Hamlet* in Chicago area schools. David received his BA from Brandeis University and MFA in Acting from Temple University, and studied acting and improvisation at the Piven Theatre Workshop.



Barbara Zahora (Gal, Associate Artistic Director) recently joined the staff of the Shakespeare Project as Associate Artistic Director, after having performed with them since 2005. Favorite roles for the Project include Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Henry VI Parts I, 2, and 3* and Constance Middleton in *The Constant Wife*. Barbara played the title character in *Candida* at ShawChicago this fall, and other Chicago credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater, First Folio Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak

Park Festival Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Writers' Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, and many others. She has also performed at Shakespeare's Globe in London as part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. Barbara is proud to be an adjunct faculty member in Roosevelt University's Chicago College of the Performing Arts, as well as a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Jeff Christian (Adaptor/Director) served as Artistic Director for eight seasons, adapting and directing *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*, the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, as well as having staged *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *As You Like It*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife*. Other directing credits include *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), 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 Richard III, Brutus, Proteus, Mercutio, Enobarbus, Oberson/Bottom/Theseus, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver,

Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Aegeus (*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. Other acting credits include work with Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, The Women's Project of New York, Chicago Dramatists, Lakeside Shakespeare, NewAmerican Theater, Artists' Ensemble Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Bernie Sahlins' production of *Murder in the Cathedral* and Tennessee Williams' recently discovered *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Seanachai ensemble, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, is a creative consultant for Tessera Publishing, and writes and directs live action and animated sequences for the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen. Film work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Express*, *The Poker House*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*.

Gail Rastorfer (Assistant Director) It's hard to believe Gail's journey with The Shakespeare Project began in 2001 with *Twelfth Night* where she got to be 'one of the guys' with Steve Spencer, David Skidmore and Jeff Christian. She recently completed her 15th production with The Project playing Isabella in this season's opener, *Measure For Measure*. She also appeared this season in *My Name Is Will*. Gail also performs in The Project's outreach in *50 Minute Hamlet*. Gail has worked for the Goodman Theatre, Northlight, The Chicago Theatre and First Folio Theatre amongst others and has performed regionally with Indiana Rep, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and Hope Summer Rep. You may have seen her on TV selling a steam cleaner or paper towels. When she's not acting, Gail shares a healthy appreciation for *Star Trek* and Andy Griffith with her husband Dan Rodden. She would like to thank Jeff Christian & Peter Garino for their love of theatre and letting her share it with you.

Peter Garino (Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has contributed to over 50 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. He directed this season's opening play *Measure For Measure* and will appear in The Project's upcoming readings of *Mary Stuart* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Next April, Peter will direct *The Tempest*. This past season, he appeared in *Paradise Lost*, directed *Antony & Cleopatra*, played Thomas and David in *The Rivals* and Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*. On behalf of The Shakespeare Project, he has facilitated his *Sonnet Workshop* and *Page to the Stage Macbeth* for local public and private schools and colleges. Previous roles include Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mortimer in *The Constant Wife*, Rev. Manders in *Ghosts*, multiple roles in *Henry V*, Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*, the title role in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust*, Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. 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). His directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include *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*. 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 member of Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.

Welcome Roosevelt students!

We are delighted to present to you today our performance of “50 Minute Hamlet” as we initiate our internship program with The Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt.

Since 1995, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago has dedicated itself to presenting free theatrical readings of William Shakespeare and other classic dramatists to Chicago area audiences. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago also offers education outreach programs (such as 50 Minute Hamlet) to local schools.

In our theatrical reading series, our artistic focus is rooted in illuminating the timeless truths found in the words of these great plays. Our audience members value the emphasis we place on the text, opening up a unique experience for them unencumbered by scenery, props, costumes and imposed conceptual conceits.

The company draws its talent from the extraordinary pool of local professional actors, all members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors. The actors receive a stipend for their work which is well below their regular union pay scale. The Shakespeare Project actors lend their talents to The Shakespeare Project because they share the Project's mission of making the Shakespeare experience accessible to all, regardless of proximity or economic means.

Our mission is to bring “the world in words” to audiences that might otherwise not be able to experience the genius of the greatest dramatist in the English language. Senior citizens and young people are our primary audiences. We pride ourselves in our ability to offer high quality, free performances to a demographic that is not able to afford local Shakespeare offerings. Our education outreach programs provide abridged performances of Shakespeare's plays and in-class workshops to augment middle-school and high school teachers' studies of Shakespeare and includes 50-Minute Hamlet (which you are seeing today) and workshops around Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and The Sonnets. For our young learner audiences, our approach to the work is driven by a simple goal: to make the student's first experience with Shakespeare a positive one.

Thanks for coming today. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with Roosevelt University.

Peter Garino
Artistic Director
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

50 Minute Hamlet

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

Claudius, *King of Denmark*

Hamlet, *son to the late King Hamlet, and nephew to the present King*

Horatio, *friend to Hamlet*

Polonius, *Lord Chamberlain*

Laertes, *son to Polonius*

Ghost of *Hamlet's Father*

Gertrude, *Queen of Denmark, and mother to Hamlet*

Ophelia, *Daughter to Polonius*

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, *Courtiers*

A Clown, *gravedigger*

Scene: Denmark

A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association.

