

## Artist Biographies



**Matthew Fahey** (Guy) is glad that such things as The Shakespeare Project of Chicago exist and appeared this season as Ferdinand in *The Tempest*. Matthew has worked with such theatres as the Court Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare on the Green, The Second City, Free Associates, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Theatre Banshee, Chicago Theatre Works, Steppenwolf for Young Adults, Victory Gardens, ImprovOlympic and Organic Theatre Greenhouse among others. In 2005 he had a featured role in the award winning short film *The Call of Cthulhu*. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.



**Michelle Shupe** (Gal) is the Dramaturg for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and most recently dramaturged The Project's readings of *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Mary Stuart*. She has acted with The Project in *Measure for Measure* (which she also dramaturged). Michelle made her acting debut with The Project in last season's *Antony & Cleopatra*. She previously appeared as Lady Macbeth in The Project's Page to Stage education outreach program. Michelle has been seen on stage at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, where she appeared as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Elizabeth in *Richard III* and Nerine in *Scapin*. Favorite roles include Dionysa in Mary Zimmerman's *Pericles* at the Shakespeare Theatre/ Goodman, Lady Chatterley in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, for which she was nominated for a Helen Hayes award, and Imogen in *Cymbeline*, for which she was also nominated for a Helen Hayes Award. She has performed in New York at Axis Theater, and in Washington, DC at The Shakespeare Theater, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theater J, The Washington Shakespeare Company (former ensemble member) and many others.

**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 Caliban (*The Tempest*), 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*.

**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. This past season, he directed *The Tempest*, *Measure For Measure* and appeared as Sir Amias Paulet in *Mary Stuart* and George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He will direct *Richard II* in October 2011 to open The Shakespeare Project's 17th season. Previously for The Project, he appeared in *Paradise Lost*, *The Rivals* and played 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. Other roles includes 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 *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*. 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. Special thanks to Helene and Glen Thomas.

## Welcome!

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. Our three local venues for our theatrical reading series are The Newberry Library, Chicago, The Wilmette Public Library and The Highland Park Public Library.

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 to be driven by a simple goal: to make the student's first experience with Shakespeare a positive one.

Thanks for coming. And special thanks to Laura Scott and The Park Ridge Public Library for sponsoring our performance here today.



Peter Garino  
Artistic Director  
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago  
[www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)

# 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.*

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



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 16 years. With sincere thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2010-2011 season:

Ann Albert, Anonymous, Sunder & Carolyn Bajaj, Lynn & Aaron Broaddus, Jack & Janet Christian, Deborah Clifton, Brooks Davis, J. Friedman, James & Martha Fritts, Joseph A. Gagliano, *In Memory of Margaret D. Garino*, Joan J. Golder, C.J. Herhold, Nancy Herzog, Leigh K. Johnson, Art & Kathy Klawans, Arthur Kowit, John & Regina Kulczycki, Carol E. Lewis, Rhita Lippitz, Kevin & Laura McVey, George & Gerry Messenger, Alice Mills, Marlene Mitchel, Annie Moldafsky, Sydelle F. Nelson, Dawn & John Palmer, Catherine Regaldo, Elanor & Harvard Reiter, Leonard & Elizabeth Ringstad, Mary Ann San Martin, Alfred Saucedo, Jay & Lou Ann Schachner, Patricia M. Shanahan, Christopher & Hisae Shea, M.F. Sherman, Thomas & Felicity Skidmore, Melanie Spitz, Myrna Sylvester, Dick & Mary Woods.

The Illinois Arts Council  
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Peter Garino	Artistic Director
Barbara Zahora	Associate Artistic Director
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\*Board member-elect

## Hamlet in 50 minutes? How do you do that?

*Notes from the adapter and director, Jeff Christian*

Not only is that a question I hear a lot these days, but it was one I continually asked myself when I agreed to take on this project. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago decided that it was incumbent upon us to offer an outreach program that could give students a quick and exciting introduction to the power of Shakespeare. We bandied about many ideas before settling on a condensed version of what many consider to be the greatest drama in English literature.

Budgets being what they are, I decided that we should pare the cast down along with the story, and arrived at this two-actor format. Having given myself some seemingly unworkable constraints, I set to work on the adaptation. I soon realized that it is both the story and the exquisite use of language that make the play so engrossing, so I knew that I could sacrifice neither in this 50 minute version. I plotted out the story line to its essence and began cutting. It became readily apparent that we would need some kind of narration to guide us through the story, and that it could be utilized without compromising the poetry or any of the most famous lines.

I also acknowledged that we needed a way into the story. Like many students, I was intimidated by Shakespeare and didn't think that it had anything to offer a modern young man like myself. By giving each actor a unique point of view on how the telling of the story should be approached, we created even more dramatic conflict while allowing humor to put the audience at ease. By requiring one actress to play all the roles in the play, save the titular one, we also gave the audience a better opportunity to connect with that actress as a person and to marvel at her theatrical flexibility. Furthermore, this had the effect of solidifying Hamlet's relationship to the audience and further elucidated his internal conflicts for them.

This production has played well to very young students, as well as to veteran play-goers (in fact, my parents used a viewing of the show as a refresher course before endeavoring to attend a full production). We hope that you enjoy the show.

## Announcing the 2011-2012 Theatrical Reading Season

We are proud and very excited to announce our lineup for our 17<sup>th</sup> season of free theatrical readings at our three venues: the Newberry Library, Chicago; the Wilmette Public Library and the Highland Park Public Library.

The season will open the weekend of October 22-23, 2011 with Shakespeare's history play *Richard II*. Last produced by The Shakespeare Project in 1997, the reading will be directed by Artistic Director Peter Garino. John Webster's dark revenge tragedy, *The Duchess of Malfi*, will initiate a multi-year exploration of Shakespeare's contemporaries and will play the weekend of January 21-22, 2012. Stephen Spencer will direct. Shakespeare's beloved battle of the sexes, *The Taming of the Shrew*, will be offered the weekend of February 25-26, 2012 with Jeff Christian directing. The season concludes April 21-22, 2012 when Shakespeare's tragic love story *Troilus and Cressida* will be presented, directed by Associate Artistic Director Barbara Zahora.

Saturday performances will be given at 10:00AM at the Newberry Library and 2:00PM at the Wilmette Public Library. The Sunday performance at the Highland Park Public Library is at 2:00PM. An introduction to each play will commence 15 minutes prior to each performance. Each performance is followed by a discussion with the cast and creative team.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago has been providing free performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists to Chicago area audiences since 1995. The Project's presentations place an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and leverage the talents of professional actors, members of Actors' Equity Association. The company's educational programs bring The World in Words to high schools and universities through abbreviated adaptations of Shakespeare's plays and interactive actor-led workshops. Location maps and further information are available at [www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)



Announcing our 17<sup>th</sup> Season

**Richard II**  
October 22-23, 2011  
Directed by Peter Garino

**The Duchess of Malfi** (John Webster)  
January 21-22, 2012  
Directed by Stephen Spencer

**The Taming of the Shrew**  
February 25-26, 2012  
Directed by Jeff Christian

**Troilus and Cressida**  
April 21-22, 2012  
Directed by Barbara Zahora

Performances:  
Saturdays at 10:00am – The Newberry Library, Chicago  
Saturdays at 2:00pm – The Wilmette Public Library  
Sundays at 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

July 21, 2011

Park Ridge 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](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)

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