

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO <i>the world in words</i>		24 th Season
PERICLES	By William Shakespeare Directed by J.R. Sullivan	10.19 → 10.25.2018
TITUS ANDRONICUS	By William Shakespeare Directed by Michelle Shupe	01.11 → 01.17.2019
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	By William Shakespeare Directed by Melanie Keller	02.15 → 02.21.2019
THE ROARING GIRL	By Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker Directed by Peter Garino	05.10 → 05.16.2019

2018-2019 Performance Schedule:

Fridays at 7:00PM - The Niles-Maine District 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

Wednesdays at 7:15PM – Plymouth Place Senior Living, 315 N. LaGrange Road, LaGrange Park, IL

Thursdays at 6:30PM - Elmhurst Public Library, 125 S. Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, 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

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

presents

Gary Houston

Michael Joseph Mitchell

Erin Sloan

in

JEFFERSON & ADAMS

(Act 2)

by

Howard Ginsberg

Directed by

Peter Garino

A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

June 9, 2018

Kenilworth, Illinois



www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

P.O. Box 25126

Chicago, Illinois 60625

773-710-2718

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The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
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Donations can also be made online via PayPal. Visit:

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Jefferson & Adams

A moving and powerful dramatization of the remarkable friendship between two presidents of the United States, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams—with the forthright Abigail Adams always playing a major role.

Jefferson & Adams tells the story of the turbulent 52-year friendship of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Adams' wife, Abigail. Based on the collection of letters between these prolific Founding Fathers—and one equally astute woman—the play fuses compelling political thoughts with passionate personal beliefs. By focusing on the unique relationship between the characters and the spirit of the time, the play reveals each of the three as thoughtful, persevering, dedicated, innovative, relevant—and human.

The personal letters reveal the intense relationship between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, as their friendship ignites, flourishes, decays, and resolves itself. The ever-perceptive Abigail Adams acts as a catalyst and motivator while steadfastly maintaining her own beliefs.

Jefferson & Adams traces the period from the inception of the Revolution through the politics of two presidents to the wisdom of men who have lived long lives. It is both poignant and fitting that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died in their respective homes on July 4, 1826—the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Cast: Gary Houston as John Adams, Michael Joseph Mitchell as Thomas Jefferson, and Erin Sloan as Abigail Adams. Directed by Peter Garino.

Artist Biographies



Gary Houston (John Adams) appeared for The Shakespeare Project in John Kishline's *Dream Upon Avon*, preceded last year by The Project's premier of *Shakeshafte* and *King John*. His past Shakespeare Project appearances include the full production of *Hamlet* as Claudius and readings of *Titus Andronicus*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *King Lear*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Cymbeline*, *Richard II*, *Henry VI*, *Edward III* and an earlier *King John*. Elsewhere he was Captain Falcon in *Rutherford's Travels* (Pegasus), Gulliver in *Gulliver's Last Travels Organic*, Buckingham in *Richard III* (Oak Park Festival), Prospero in *The Tempest* (European Repertory), Serebryakov in *Uncle Vanya* (TUTA), William Blake in *Blake: Innocence and Experience* (Writers' Theatre), Crofts in *Mrs. Warren's*

Profession (BoarsHead), Nelson Algren in *Nelson & Simone* (Live Bait) and Saul Alinsky in *The Love Song of Saul Alinsky* (Terrapin). On film he appears in *Fargo*, *Hoffa*, *Proof*, *Watchmen*, *The Blues Brothers*, *Major League*, *Uncle John*, *Princess Cyd* and many others. In print he is managing editor of *Chicago Quarterly Review*.



Michael Joseph Mitchell (Thomas Jefferson) appeared last season with The Shakespeare Project in *Seabury vs. Hamilton*. He played the title role in *King John* for The Project in 2017 where his previous appearances include *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Edward III* and *A Woman Killed With Kindness*. Most recently he was at Indiana Repertory in *Finding Home*. Other credits include Oberon/Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Antigonus in *The Winter's Tale* and Antonio in *The Merchant Of Venice* (First Folio Theatre); Mashkan in *Old Wicked Songs* (Provision Theater); Polonius in *Hamlet* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Signs Of Life* (Snap-Two Prods. & Victory Gardens); *Making God Laugh* (Fox Valley Rep);

Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); Freud (and standby for both Freud & Lewis) in *Freud's Last Session* (Mercury Theater); *The Goat Or, Who Is Sylvia?* (Remy Bumppo); *The Invasion Of Skokie* and *Voyeurs De Venus* (Chicago Dramatists); *Underneath The Lintel* (City Lit Theatre). He is a proud member of the Actors Equity Association.



Erin Sloan (Abigail Adams) made her debut with The Shakespeare Project this season in *Women Beware Women*. Erin is a member of Actor's Equity and was an Affiliated Teaching Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. She holds an MFA in Classical Acting from The Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. She has several east coast theatrical credits including Ford's Theatre and Taffety Punk Theatre Company in Washington D.C. Erin is originally from Oklahoma and was a company member with Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park for 10 years. She helped to co-found OSP's Young Company and taught

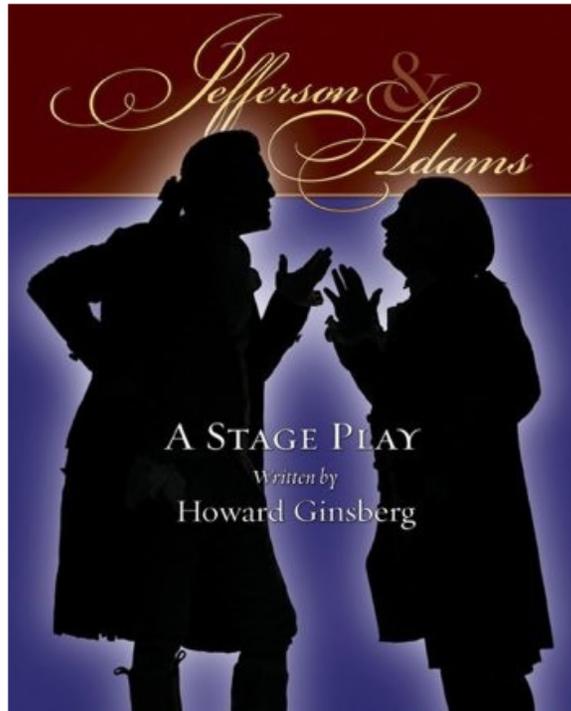
master acting classes to students from around the state of Oklahoma. Erin recently co-founded The Enlightenment Theatre Project with her colleague Dan Crane and the company produced staged readings of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* and *The Tempest*. The company also staged a full production of *Twelfth Night* in historic Colonial Williamsburg. Erin has also appeared in the Emmy Award-winning *Electronic Field Trips* produced by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. In the just-completed season, he directed *Much Ado About Nothing*, played the Duke of Florence in *Women Beware Women* and Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*. He recently directed John Kishline's *Dream Upon Avon* and Rowan Williams' *Shakeshafte* for The Shakespeare Project. Last season, he appeared as Boyet/Anthony

Dull in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Sir Thomas Erpingham and the Duke of Burgundy in *Henry V* and as Tackleton in Charles Dickens' *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Peter 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 the Bard in *Cymbeline*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale*, the title role in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. 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 John*, *Cardenio*, *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*. Other 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* 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 chair for the English Speaking Union's Shakespeare Committee in Chicago.

Howard Ginsberg (Playwright) has been writing much of his life, primarily stage plays but also radio and screenplays. He draws upon his extensive experience as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist to explore and illuminate the complexity of his characters. He is a graduate of City College of New York (psychology major) and completed graduate studies (psychiatric casework) at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to *Jefferson & Adams*, Mr. Ginsberg's plays include *Murder in Paris*, *Matisse's Women*, *What's a Girl To Do?*, *Yes, Doctor!* and *Young Messiah*. He has been a member of the Dramatists Guild for over 25 years. He is represented internationally by The Sharland Organisation: tso@btconnect.com

Michelle Shupe (Associate Artistic Director) most recently co-directed Thomas Middleton's *Women Beware Women* for The Project. She has been active with The Project for many years: acting, directing, assistant directing and serving as dramaturge. Directing credits include: The Shakespeare Project 2015 summer benefit *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, *The Merchant of Venice*, the 2013 summer benefit *Reflections from a Shakespeare Garden* (director and co-adapter). As an adapter, she also assisted with the adaptation of *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. Outside The Project, Shupe has directed at Taffety Punk, and Roosevelt University and assistant directed at Venus Theater and the Washington International School. As an actor, she has appeared in these favorite Shakespeare Project readings: *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *King Lear* and Cervantes' *Three Interludes*. She has appeared at various theaters throughout the country, including: Theatre Squared, Shaw Chicago, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and many others.



Jefferson & Adams
2018 Performance Schedule

- Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:30PM – Highland Park Public Library
- Friday, Sept. 14, 7:00PM – Nilis-Maine District Library
- Saturday, Sept. 15, 10:00AM – Newberry Library, Chicago
- Monday, Sept. 17, 6:30PM – Vernon Area Library, Lincolnshire
- Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:15PM – Plymouth Place Senior Living, La Grange Park, IL

Note: additional performance dates are available for booking. Email outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org for pricing and availability.



JEFFERSON & ADAMS
Act 2

THOMAS JEFFERSON.....Michael Joseph Mitchell*
 JOHN ADAMS.....Gary Houston*+
 ABIGAIL ADAMS Erin Sloan*

Act 2:
 Time: The 25 years from 1801 to 1826
 Place: Washington, Quincy, Monticello

* Members of Actors' Equity Association
 + Founding member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago