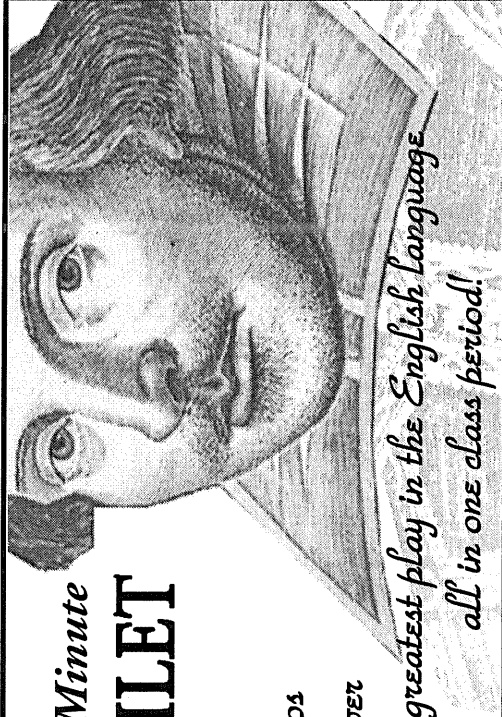


50 Minute HAMLET

*the poetry
the pathos
the power*

*the greatest play in the English language
all in one class period!*



This year we've added two new plays to our list of school offerings.

50 MINUTE MACBETH and

My Name Is Will

(a musical celebration of William Shakespeare's sonnets and songs)

To book a performance, contact:

Laura St. John,
Director of Education
773/334-TSPI

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

The Constant Wife

February 17 & 18, 2007

The Newberry Library
The Wilmette Public Library
The Highland Park Public Library

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words
presents

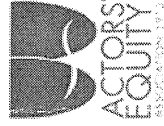
a theatrical reading of

W. Somerset Maugham's

The Constant Wife

Directed by
Jeff Christian

Stage Manager
Kelly McDowell



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

Thank You to our Benefactors!

Artistic Director

Jeff Christian

Founder,

Executive Director

Mara Polster

Education Director

Laura St. John

Board of Directors

David Skidmore - President

Allen Arnett - Vice President

Mara Polster

Mary Ringstad

Ronald A. Weiner

Queen Elizabeth I

(\$2,500 and above)

Carolyn LaMacchia,

In Loving Memory of

Samuel E. LaMacchia

The Chuck Lippitz

Memorial Fund

The Lord Chamberlain

(\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Friends of the Wilmette Library

Friends/ Highland Park Library

Knights & Ladies of the Realm

(\$250 - \$999)

Sarah & Allen Arnett

Sunder & Carolyn Bajaj

Illinois Arts Council

Janet Schirm

Kori & David Skidmore

Ronald A. Weiner

Masters of the Revels

(\$100 - \$249)

Janet and Jack Christian

Edward R. Cox

Four Corners Tavern Group

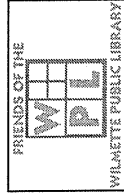
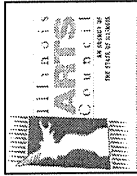
Peter, Helene & Glenn T. Garino,

In Loving Memory of

Margaret D. Garino

Rhita Lippitz

The Shakespeare Project is partially supported by the following:



Beloved Groundlings (cont'd)

Jean A. Clough

Elizabeth & Leober Cohen

Lawrence & Kimberly Cozzi

Phyllis Feusterstein

Ronni & James Graff

Annette B. Jacobson

Jannie Jefferson

Richard F. Johnson

Steven A. Kailes

Mary Kaye

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Klawans

Marcia Levy

Marlene Arbetter Mitchell

Annie Moldafsky

Rose A. Nikodem

Dawn & John Palmer

Joan and Charles Plock

Elanor J. Reiter

Charlotte E. Sere

Richard Shavzin

Melissa F. Sherman

Mary L. Smith

D.C. & M. Stenson

Marjorie Stevenson

Carol Westmorland

Diane Willet

Yemen of the Guard

(In Kind Contributions)

The Brownstone Tavern

Jeff Christian

Peter Garino

Ketel One

The Newberry Library

Connie McGrail

Ned Mochel

Swedish Covenant Hospital

Laura St. John

Marlon St. John

David Skidmore

Kori Skidmore

Stephen Spencer

Fredric Stone

Joseph Patrick Sweeney

Christopher Walz

Christopher Wilson

James P. Wilson

Michael Aaron Wilson

Nita Lee Wilson

This Month's Artists

Jeff Christian (Director, Artistic Director) leads the company into his fifth season, having adapted and directed *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* and *Love's Labours Lost* for the company. Other directing credits include *A Whistle in the Dark* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lakeside Shakespeare), the national touring production of the interactive comedy *Sister Bernie's Bingo Bash*, 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 touring one-man show, *According to Mark* (which helped raised over \$16,000 for Habitat for Humanity) -- and will direct S.N. Behrman's *Biography* for The Artistic Home (on whose Advisory Board he serves) in the fall. Acting credits with TSP include Brutus, Buckingham, Proteus, Mercutio, Bassanio, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. He writes and directs live action and animated sequences for the Emmy Award winning *Digital Kitchen*, appeared in Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins* and recently completed work on the thriller, *Witches' Night*. He earned a BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin.

Mara Polster (Founder and Executive Director) started The Shakespeare Project of Chicago in May, 1995 and during her tenure as Artistic Director, guided The Project through the entirety of William Shakespeare's canon within the first four years, and over 50 productions. For TSP she has directed numerous plays, favorites including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and has played some of the great Shakespearean women, like Emilia, Tamora, Margaret, Paulina, Isabella, Katherina and Lady Macbeth. Mara has acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country and is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis. Mara is married to Founding Member, Chris Wilson, and has two inspiringly brilliant and beautiful sons, Michael, 7, and Nathan, 21 months. This year, Mara's adaptation entitled *50 Minute Macbeth*, has its premiere as one of The Shakespeare Project's Educational Programs and will be presented as part of the 2007-08 Season. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson. The Project's evolution was galvanized by Board Member, Chuck Lippitz, whose memory spurs us forward to this day.

A discussion of the play will follow this Performance!

*You are all welcome.
Please stay, meet the cast,
and share your ideas and questions.*

This Month's Artists

Absolute Theatre Company and regionally with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Additionally for TSP, Peter has directed readings of *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his adaptation of *The Rape of Lucrece*. A native of Wayne, New Jersey, Peter holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts Performance from Hofstra University, New York and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from Illinois State University.

Corliss Preston (Martha Culver) returns to TSP, having played Chorus in *Henry V* earlier this season. NY Credits: *A Piece of My Heart* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Cherry Orchard* (York Theatre Company) *Erotica Project* (Public Theatre), and *The Hired Man* (47th Street Theatre). Regional credits include: The Alley (Houston), Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Denver Center, Yale Repertory, ATC, Missouri Repertory, Baltimore Center Stage, Studio Arena, Cincinnati Playhouse, and the Utah, Alabama, Sante Fe and Oregon Shakespeare festivals. Corliss also does commercial voice-overs. She trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England and Indiana University. She has recently moved to Chicago with her husband Raymond L Chapman and is looking forward to participating in this vital Theatre Community.

Mark Ulrich (John Middleton) is pleased to be back with The Shakespeare Project where he has happily been involved in more readings over the last dozen years than he can remember. He's fairly sure there was a King Lear in there somewhere. And a Merchant Of Venice perhaps. Mark's stage credits include appearances at Northlight, The Goodman, Rivendell, Drury Lane, and Noble Fool, among others. He is also proud to be an associate artist with Chicago Dramatists.

Barbara Zahora (Constance Middleton) is thrilled to read this wonderful play with The Shakespeare Project, having previously performed in their readings of *Henry V*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Faust*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, and *A Woman of No Importance*. Other Chicago area credits include *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Northlight Theatre); *The Moliere Comedies*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, *The School for Scandal*, and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *A Christmas Carol*, *Wit* (Goodman Theatre); *Misalliance* (Writers' Theatre), and *Hard Times* (Lookingglass Theatre). Regional credits include *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Barbara has also performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, where she was chosen to be part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. In addition to her work on stage and in film, Barbara's voice can be heard on some video games such as *Desperados 2: Cooper's Revenge*. She holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Roosevelt University.

Kelly McDowell (Stage Manager) Kelly is pleased to be rejoining The Shakespeare Project, where she has worked on *Henry V*, *Faust* and *Love's Labours Lost*. Prior Stage Management experience includes Seanachai Theatre Company's *A Whistle in the Dark*, Theater Wit's past three productions of *The Santaland Diaries*, and *W! The Musical*. She was the Production Stage Manager for *Bark! the Musical* at CCPA. She worked at Writers' Theatre as the Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Management Sub for *The Subject Was Roses* and *Benefactors*, and the House Manager for *The Chosen*. Prior to that, Kelly was a stage management intern for *The Zoo Story* and *The Death of Bessie Smith* at the Goodman Theatre. She spent time working backstage at the Apollo Theatre Chicago and The Lakeshore Theatre. She has also enjoyed several summers at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine. Kelly is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in Theatre.

About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago was founded in May of 1995 to address the lack of opportunities for students, seniors and the less affluent to experience -- and the local theater community to perform -- the timeless works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists. We resolved to develop a theatrical reading format that would challenge classically-trained actors to emphasize textual work, and that could eventually be utilized as a way to successfully reach the people of the Chicago area -- regardless of income, waning eyesight, or other factors that had precluded one from benefiting from these works. Today, our mission strives to attain three goals: (1) To provide to our community, free or easily affordable professional performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists; (2) To create the opportunity for professional actors to explore this great literature; and (3) To provide exceptional theatre experiences for audiences and artists by maintaining an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and skill of the actors, all of whom are members of Actors' Equity Association.

We made our public debut with *Macbeth* in 1995, and within four years produced the entirety of Shakespeare's canon. Our 1997 Season (The History of the English Kings) traversed the breadth of the great Elizabethan history plays in chronological order: *King John*, *Edward II* (by Christopher Marlowe), *Edward III* (an apocryphal play), *Richard II*, both parts of *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, all three parts of *Henry VI*, and ending with *Richard III*. To date we have performed nearly 70 plays by Shakespeare, Goethe, Marlowe, Moliere, Ibsen, Wilde and Dickens.

In 1999, we presented our first fully-realized production, *Hamlet*, and our first original adaptation, *My Name Is Will* (a musical celebration of William Shakespeare's sonnets and songs by Peter Garino, with music by Christopher Walz - both Founding Members). Garino's adaptation of Shakespeare's dark narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece*, was performed in 2001 and *50 Minute Hamlet* (adapted and directed by Jeff Christian, who was appointed Artistic Director in August of 2002) debuted in spring of 2002. Christian has since adapted and directed *The Cricket on the Hearth* (Dickens), *Ghosts* (Ibsen), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*) and *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe). *50 Minute Hamlet*, which became a fully-realized production in 2003, tours Chicago area schools and is available for booking during the 2006-07 school year. This year we add *My Name Is Will*, and our newest adaptation, *50 Minute Macbeth* to our list of school offerings.

Thank you for joining us as we continue our 12th season of free theatrical readings. We launched the season with *50 Minute Hamlet*, followed it up with *Henry V* in October, and will present *Much Ado About Nothing* in April. We are thrilled to have you here and to continue our fantastic partnerships with The Newberry Library, The Wilmette Public Library and The Highland Park Public Library.

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is funded in part by the revenue from our school programs; by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council; by the generous support of Friends of the Wilmette Public Library and Friends of The Highland Park Public Library; and by the voluntary contributions of our audiences. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization and, as such, all donations are tax-deductible. Please visit our website at www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org for further information.

This Month's Artists



Lesley Bevan
Marie-Louise Durham



Deborah Clifton
Mrs. Culver



Tim Decker
Bernard Kersal



Tami Evans Foster
Barbara Fawcett



Peter Garino^f
Mortimer Durham



Corliss Preston
Martha Culver



Mark Ulrich
John Middleton



Barbara Zahora
Constance Middleton

The Players

in order of appearance

Mrs. Culver _____ Deborah Clifton
 Martha Culver _____ Corliss Preston
 Barbara Fawcett _____ Tami Evans Foster
 Constance Middleton _____ Barbara Zahora
 Marie-Louise Durham _____ Lesley Bevan
 John Middleton _____ Mark Ulrich
 Bernard Kersal _____ Tim Decker
 Mortimer Durham _____ Peter Garino^f

The action of the play takes place in the London home of John and Constance Middleton.

Act One: One Afternoon, 1927
 Act Two: Two weeks later.
 Act Three: One year later.

There will be an intermission between Acts Two and Three.

^fDenotes Founding Members of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

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

This Month's Artists

Lesley Bevan (Marie-Louise Durham) is happy to make her first appearance with the Shakespeare Project. Favorite Chicago credits include the world premieres of *Winesburg, Ohio* and *Pulp* (both with About Face Theatre), *The Berlin Circle* (Steppenwolf), *Red Herring* (Northlight), *The American Plan* (Roadworks), and *Pentecost* (Plan B). Regional credits include *Winesburg, Ohio* (Arden Theatre, Philadelphia), *Pride and Prejudice* (Indiana Rep), and seasons with both the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival and Wayside Theatre, Virginia. Abroad, Lesley spent two years with *Boom Chicago*, Amsterdam's foremost improvisational comedy theatre. She is a founding member of Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre which brings the bard to Michigan each summer. Lesley appears this spring in the re-mount of About Face Theatre's hit comedy *Pulp*.

Deborah Clifton (Mrs. Culver) Made her TSP debut as Nicole in *The Parvenu* and last appeared in *A Woman of No Importance*. She was a Theatre X company member for years and years, acting, writing and directing plays and won an OBIE somewhere back there. She's performed at various theatres in Milwaukee and Madison and in Chicago at the Goodman (understudy for *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*) and The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*King John*) and with Aspect Theater (*Medea*). She spends her summers in Wisconsin, cooking and serving lunches at her restaurant, The Monches Mill House Tea Room.

Tim Decker (Bernard Kersal) is glad to be participating in this year's production of *The Constant Wife* for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and having the opportunity to work with such stellar local talent. Recently Tim has worked in ATC's well received production of *Dark At the Top of The Stairs* and the upcoming feature film *Fred Clause* starring Vince Vaughn and Rachel Weiss. Tim has also won a Jeff Award for work at ATC and Jeff Citations for work at Shattered Globe and Wildlife Theatre respectively

Tami Evans Foster (Barbara Fawcett) Just moved to Chicago from New York City. MFA from the Hilberry Repertory Company, Wayne State University. Original member of Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre Company. New York Off-Broadway credits include leads in: *Brilliant Traces* with *All My Children's* Thorsten Kaye at Irish Arts, *Magda's Story* at the Kaufman, *Only Me and You* at Alice's Fourth Floor, *Scenes from a Wake* at the Vital, and *Kindling Effect* at the Instant Theatre, *Thanksgiving* at The Producer's Club. Regional: "Taylor" *Only Me & You*, "Ensemble" *Life, Liberty & Lust* - Purple Rose; "Catherine" *The Foreigner* - Cherry County Playhouse; "Catherine" *The Foreigner*, "Barbara" *Black Coffee*, "Belle" *Christmas Carol* - Meadowbrook Theatre; "Deirdre" *I Hate Hamlet*, "Kim" *Losing Father's Body* - Boarshead Theatre; "Doris" *Same Time Next Year* - Lake Geneva Playhouse; "Kitty" *Wing Walkers* - Chicago Dramatist; "Maggie" *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, "Roxane" *Cyrano de Bergerac*, "Viola" *Twelfth Night*, "Merteuille" *Le Liaisons Dangereuses* - Hilberry Theatre. Voice Over: People Magazine, New York Times, Givenchy Fragrance, Ad Council, US Department of Health, Suze Ormond Financial Workshops, many more. Film & TV: Next door neighbor in *Stepmom*; Various New Yorkers for Woody Allen's *Sweet & Lowdown* & *Celebrity*, *Recurring Sex and the City* and *One Life to Live*.

Peter Garino^f (Mortimer) is a founding member of TSP and has contributed to over 40 TSP theatrical readings as an actor and director. In September, he appeared in *Henry V*. Last season, he directed his adaptation of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Songs, *My Name Is Will* in addition to appearing as Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Other recent roles for TSP include the title role in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust*, Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. Peter has worked locally in Chicago with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Organic Theatre Company, Body Politic Ensemble, Pegasus Players,