

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

presents

a theatrical reading of
Faust

Based on the works of
Christopher Marlowe
and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

ADAPTED AND 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

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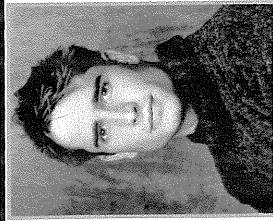
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
Faust *the world in words*

October 29, 2005

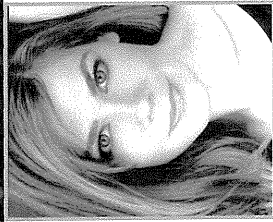
The Newberry Library

The Wilmette Public Library

This Month's Artists



Andrew C. Ahrens
*Wagner, Alexander the Great,
Envy, Guilt*



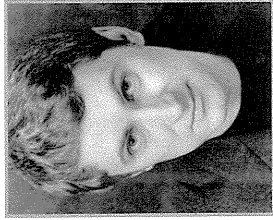
Melissa Carlson
*Helien of Troy,
Covetousness, Want*



James Krag
Mephistopheles



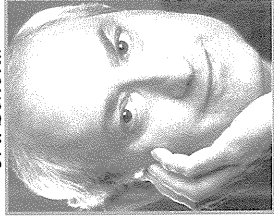
Gail Rastorfer
*Margaret, Lechery,
3rd Scholar*



David Skidmore
*Voice of God,
Wrath, 1st Scholar*



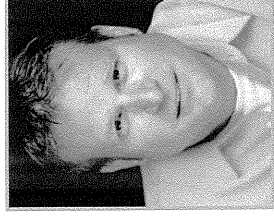
Stephen Spencer
*Archbishop, Gluttony,
2nd Scholar*



Fredric Stone
*The Emperor,
Old Man, Sloth*



Barbara Zahora
Chorus, Pride, Need



Jeff Christian
*Adaptor, Director
Artistic Director*



Dorian Hadley
Dramaturg



Mara Polster
*Founder,
Executive Director*

The Season Continues with

Love's Labours Lost *by William Shakespeare*

Directed by
Jeff Christian

Saturday, February 11, 2006

10 am at The Newberry Library
(9:45 Prologue presentation)

2 pm at The Wilmette Public Library
(1:45 Prologue presentation)

and

Sunday, February 12, 2006

2 pm at The Highland Park Public Library
(1:45 Prologue presentation)

Visit our website for updates:

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

Join our email list

Learn about and book of performance of

50 Minute Hamlet

About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago was founded in May of 1995 by Mara Polster 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 witnessed a dearth of classic works being produced, and those that were being produced, were often expensive affairs that lacked the depth and passion that should have been elicited from the text. 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, 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). *Will* debuting as a reading in 1999 and then as a full production in 2000. 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 now *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 2005-06 school year.

Thank you for joining us as we embark on our 11th Season, which began last month with Charley Sherman and Peter Christensen's original adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. In 2006 we will bring you William Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost* and the remounting of *My Name Is Will*. We are thrilled to continue our relationships with The Wilmette Public Library and The Newberry Library, and to begin a new one with The Highland Park Public Library. We appreciate your continued attendance, enthusiasm and financial support.

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

The Players

PETER GARINO _____ FAUST

JAMES KRAG _____ MEPHISTOPHELES

BARBARA ZAHORA _____ CHORUS
PRIDE
NEED

ANDREW C. AHRENS _____ WAGNER
ALEXANDER THE GREAT
ENVY
GUILT

FREDRIC STONE _____ THE EMPEROR
OLD MAN
SLOTH

GAIL RASTORFER _____ MARGARET
LECHERY
3RD SCHOLAR

STEPHEN SPENCER _____ ARCHBISHOP
GLUTTONY
2ND SCHOLAR

MELISSA CARLSON _____ HELEN OF TROY
COVETOUSNESS
WANT

DAVID SKIDMORE _____ VOICE OF GOD
WRATH
1ST SCHOLAR

DORIAN HADLEY _____ PROLOGUE PRESENTATION

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

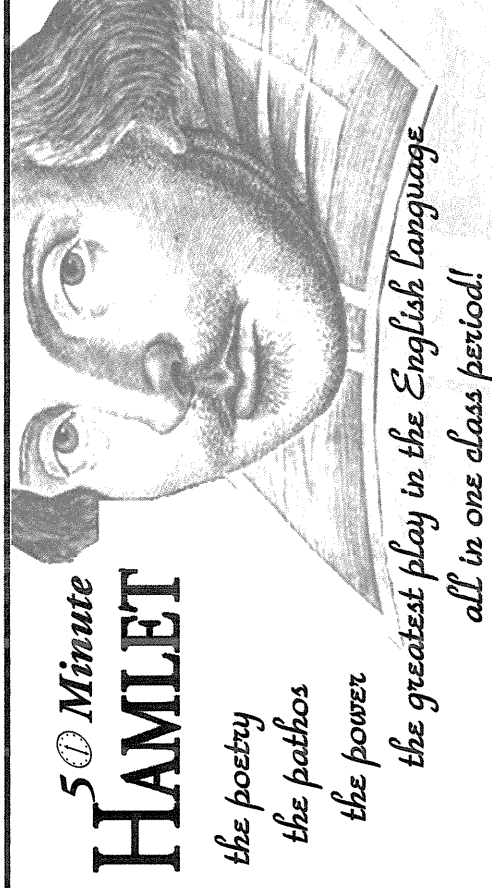
Profiles

Andrew C. Ahrens (Wagner, Alexander the Great, Envy, Guilt) Andy is pleased to be working with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago for the first time. Other Chicago credits include *Comedy of Errors* and the upcoming spring production of *Macbeth* both at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. A graduate of Butler University, Andy has worked with the Indiana Repertory Theatre for most of his professional career.

Melissa Carlson (Helen of Troy, Covetousness, Want) Melissa gladly joins The Shakespeare Project Chicago for the first time. Her credits include: Ursula in *Berlin '45*, Rebecca in *Pyretown*, and Kate in *The Action Against Sol Schumann* (Victory Gardens) the title role in *Antigone* (First Folio), Li'l Bit in *How I Learned to Drive* and *Ann in All My Sons* (Illinois Theatre Center), Meg in *Dylan* (Seanachai Theatre), Isabelle in *Edward II* (Red Hen), and Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, and Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare on the Green). She has also worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's Summer on Stage! and Team Shakespeare series, as well as Court Theatre, The Lyric Opera, Famous Door, Lifeline, Raven Theatre, CollaborAction, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, and Trap Door. Television credits include numerous commercials and the CBS series *Early Edition*.

Peter Garino (Dr. Faust) Peter is a Founding Member of The Shakespeare Project. In September, he portrayed the Earl of Westmoreland and Justice Shallow in *Henry IV*. Last season he directed *A Woman of No Importance* by Oscar Wilde and appeared as Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. He has worked locally in Chicago with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Organic Theatre Company, Body Politic Ensemble, Pegasus Players, Absolute Theatre Company and regionally with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Peter has appeared in over 35 TSP staged readings and he has directed readings of *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. In April 2006, his adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name is Will* (with music by Chris Walz) will be presented by TSP. A native of Wayne, New Jersey, Peter holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts Performance Studies from Hofstra University, New York and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from Illinois State University.

James Krag (Mephistopheles) Jim is pleased to return to TSP, having appeared as Macduff in *Macbeth* and Cornwall in *King Lear*. He recently performed as Orsino in *Twelfth Night* and Casca in *Julius Caesar* with Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre, and in *Pacific* at the Steppenwolf Garage. Jim has appeared in *Love's Labour's Lost*, *King Lear* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Dinner With Friends* and *Millfire* at the Goodman Theatre, *Driving Miss Daisy* at New American Theater, *Phèdre* at the Court Theatre and the world premieres of *Homeland Security*, *Battle of the Bands*, and *Scorched Earth* at the Victory Gardens Theatre. Last year, Jim created the role of Sandy in *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel*, the new play by *Tuesdays With Morrie* author Mitch Albom, at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan. New York credits include performing in the original Broadway production of *Burnt This*, and a remount of *Phèdre* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include *Molly*, *Mercury Rising*, *While You Were Sleeping*, *Crossing The Bridge*, *ER*, *Ellen*, *Early Edition*, *Dharma And Greg* and a recurring role in *Missing Persons*.



50 Minute HAMLET
*the poetry
 the pathos
 the power*
*the greatest play in the English language
 all in one class period!*

To bring 50 Minute Hamlet to your school contact:

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words
 Laura St. John,
 Director of Education
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Both productions directed by TSP Founding Member Mary Ringstad

Thank You to our Benefactors!

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Christopher Wilson

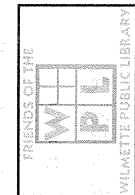
James P. Wilson

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The Shakespeare Project is partially supported by the following



Profiles

Gail Rastorfer (Margaret, Lechery, 3rd Scholar) This marks Gail's seventh production with TSP. Other TSP credits include *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Parvenu*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Twelfth Night*. Other regional and Chicago credits include: *Comedy of Errors* with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Lend Me A Tenor* at Theatre at the Center, *As You Like It* at Indiana Repertory Theatre, *Twelfth Night* at First Folio Shakespeare Festival, *The Rose Tattoo* at Goodman Theatre, *The Gamester* at Northlight Theatre and various productions at Drury Lane Evergreen Park (may it rest in peace). Gail has been living in Chicago for the past 10 years with fellow actor and husband, Dan Rodden.

David Skidmore, (Voice of God, Wrath, 1st Scholar) was last seen with TSP in *Henry IV, A Woman of No Importance*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* and *The Cricket on the Hearth*. David can also be seen regularly as Hamlet in The Shakespeare Project's school production of *50 Minute Hamlet*. David has appeared in such diverse roles as the Hunchback in NOWtheatre's *Signal to Noise*, Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, Jesus in *The Medieval Mystery Cycle*, Philoctetes in Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* and Sidney in *Smash!*; an adaptation of one of G.B. Shaw's novels in Milwaukee Chamber Theater's annual Shaw Festival. In addition to serving as TSP's Board President, David is a Founding Member and has been involved in nearly every production, performing such roles as Lear's Fool, Puck, Iago, Cassio, Petruccio, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo and Hamlet in TSP's premier production in 1999; and directing *Richard III* and *Macbeth*. David grew up in Madison, Wisconsin; received his BA from Brandeis University in Boston and MFA in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, and studied acting and improvisation for five years at the Piven Theatre Workshop. In addition to his professional acting and directing pursuits, David has recorded drama for Wisconsin Public Radio and has been hired to read testimony in federal court trials. David is a senior consultant for Interbrand Wood Healthcare, a branding consultancy for the healthcare industry.

Stephen Spencer (Archbishop, Gluttony, 2nd Scholar) was seen last season in *The Winter's Tale* and in the title role of *Macbeth*. He recently performed in Oak Park Festival Theatre's *Comedy of Errors* and created the role of Austin in Congo Square Theatre's Jeff Recommended world premier play, *The House That Jack Built*, by Javon Johnson. As a Founding Member of TSP, he's been in over 23 plays including *Macbeth*, *Othello* (Iago), *Twelfth Night* (Orsino), *King Lear* (Kent to Ray Wild's Lear), *Timon of Athens* (Timon) and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Thurio). He directed *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Other roles in Chicago include Tom in Arthur Miller's, *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan*, originating the role of Paul in the Jeff Award Winning *The Liquid Moon* at Chicago Dramatists where he's also performed in *Judevine*, *Marisol*, *Wingwalkers*; the title role in *A Fancyfull Historie of Robyn Hood* and many staged readings. Other Chicago Credits include *Season's Greetings* at The Forum, *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.

Profiles

Fredric Stone (The Emperor, Old Man, Sloth) a Founding Member, is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project, after last being seen as Engstrand in *Ghosts* and Caleb Plummer in *Of Cricket on the Hearth*. He just finished doing *Measure for Measure* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and *Jewtopia* at the Mercury Theatre and prior to that *The Chosen* at Steppenwolf. Recently he played the Duke and Antonio in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Shakespeare on the Green in Lake Forest and Agamemnon in Mary Zimmerman's acclaimed production of *Trojan Women* at the Goodman Theatre. He has spent much time at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in productions of *Love's Labor's Lost* (Boyet), *The Tempest* (Alonso), *Richard II* (Northumberland), *Henry IV parts 1 and 2* (Northumberland, Francis, Vernon, and Silence); *Henry V* (multiple roles), *The Winter's Tale* (Camillo), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Gremio). Other Chicago credits include *Fires in the Mirror* (Northlight), *Beau Jest* (Victory Gardens), *Isn't it Romantic* (Ivanhoe), as well as work at the Court Theatre, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, and Illinois Theatre Center. Regional credits at New American Theatre, BoarsHead Theatre, Madison Repertory and First Stage Milwaukee. Broadway and Off B'way credits include *All Over Town* and *Awake and Sing* and tours include *A Funny Thing Happened....Forum* with Zero Mostel. Film and Television credits include *Thief*, *The Untouchables*, *Crime Story*, and *Missing Persons*. Mr. Stone also created and performs a one-person Shakespeare show, *Will and Testament (a life after death comedy)* that he tours. He teaches a "Performing Shakespeare" class at Victory Gardens Theatre.

Barbara Zahora (Chorus, Pride, Need) is so happy to be working with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago again, after having last participated in *Henry IV* 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. She holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Roosevelt University.

Kelly McDowell (Stage Manager) Kelly is excited to be joining The Shakespeare Project. She has just finished stage managing for *Bark the Musical*. Previously she stage managed Theater Wit's production of *The Santaland Diaries*, as well as *W! The Musical*. She has worked at Writers' Theatre as the Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Management Sub for *The Subject Was Roses* and *Benefactors*. Prior to that, Kelly was a stage management intern at the Goodman Theatre, for *The Zoo Story* and *The Death of Bessie Smith*. She has 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, as a Technical Assistant and Stage Carpenter. Kelly is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in Theatre.

Profiles

Dorian Hadley (Dramaturg) It is a pleasure to present the "Prologue" to this adaptation of Goethe and Marlowe's interpretation of the Faust tale. Dorian is the dramaturg and literary manager at Organic Theater Company and recent productions she has worked for them include: *Oedipus Rex*, *Ghosts*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and an adaptation of Mark Twain's *The \$30,000 Bequest*. Additional dramaturgy credits for her include: Sacramento Theater Company's *The Syringa Tree*; and the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' *The Gamester*. She is a Webster University alum and member of LMDA.

Jeff Christian (Director, Adaptor, Artistic Director) leads the company into his fourth season, having adapted and directed the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (presented as *The Parvenu*) Ibsen's *Ghosts* and Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, as well as having staged *King Lear*. Later this season he is slated to direct *Love's Labours Lost*, as well as directing *A Whistle in the Dark* for Seanachai Theatre Company in the spring at Victory Gardens. Other directing credits include *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* and both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeyman; co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award). Acting credits with TSP include Brutus, Buckingham, Proteus, Mercutio, Bassanio, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, and Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*. He directs short films with Mark Bashore and John Mossman and their production company, upright monkey, and appeared in Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*. He recently played Brutus and Malvolio in rotating rep for Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre and Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* for Artists' Ensemble Theater.

Mara Polster (Founder and Executive Director) During her tenure as Artistic Director, Mara guided The Shakespeare Project through over 50 productions and the entirety of William Shakespeare's canon, directing such plays as *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and playing many 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. Mara is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis and her work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson, and now continues commemorating our beloved Chuck Lippitz.

A discussion of the play will
follow this P performance!

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