

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

presents

The **10th Anniversary Season** 2004-05

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Mara Polster
Saturday, October 30, 2004
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm

The Parvenu

Directed by Jeff Christian
Saturday, November 20, 2004
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm

adapted by Jeff Christian from

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme

by Moliere

The Winter's Tale

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Jeff Christian
Saturday, February 12, 2005
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm

Saturday, April 23, 2005 **A Woman of No Importance**
The Newberry Library-10am
The Wilmette Public Library-2pm
by Oscar Wilde

**More locations will be announced. Please join our email list
for updates: www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org*

50 Minute Hamlet, adapted by Jeff Christian from William Shakespeare
August 2004 – June 2005

Various schools throughout the Chicago area

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

presents

HENRIK IBSEN'S

GHOSTS

a theatrical reading

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
JEFF CHRISTIAN*

STAGE MANAGER
SHAWN PACE

May 15, 2004: The Newberry Library & The Wilmette Public Library

All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are
members of Actors' Equity Association the Union of
Professional Actors and Stage Managers.



This Month's Artists



Peter Garino*
Manders



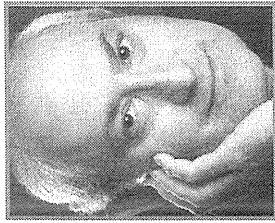
Nathan Hosner
Oswald Alving



Brandy McClendan
Regina



Mary Ringstad*
Mrs. Alving



Fredric Stone*
Engstrand



Jeff Christain*
*Director,
Artistic Director*

A Note from the Artistic Director

Thanks so much for joining us today for our final presentation of the 2003-4 season, Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*. Ibsen is oft considered the father of modern drama, offering us an opportunity to explore the stylistic bridge between Shakespeare and today's playwrights. Whereas Shakespeare's characters always express themselves (and beautifully at that), Ibsen's often reserve their thoughts, making what they don't say as important as what they do.

Serendipitously, May 20th marks the 122-year anniversary of the world premiere of *Ghosts*, performed in Chicago at Aurora Turner Hall (just South of Clark and Belmont). Even as a successful mid-career playwright, Ibsen couldn't get his controversial play produced in Europe – and had to settle for a semi-professional company to premiere his ground-breaking work in The United States. Though the play doesn't strike us as particularly shocking today, its themes remain thought provoking and all too relevant.

We look forward to kicking off our tenth anniversary season next fall with Founding Director Mara Polster's direction of the play that gave The Shakespeare Project of Chicago its life, *Macbeth*. A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our longevity and success over the past nine years!

Jeff

* *Denotes Artistic Associates of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.*

About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began in 1995, providing free public performances of the complete works of William Shakespeare, offering several performances of one play per month at various public venues. From that time, our mission became to meet 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 began with *Macbeth* in October of 1995, and in little over three years, completed William Shakespeare's canon with *Hamlet* in December of 1998. Our 1997 Season: The History of the English Kings, traversed the entirety of the great Elizabethan history plays in chronological order including *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*. (we saved *Henry VIII for 1999*) To date we have performed well over 50 plays and again, William Shakespeare's canon in its entirety.

In 1999, in addition to our five theatrical readings, we presented our first fully realized production, *Hamlet*, opening in March of 1999. We also produced our first original adaptation, of *My Name Is Will* (an exciting dramatic adaptation of William Shakespeare's sonnets and songs by Artistic Associate Peter Garino), debuting as a reading in 1999 and then as a full production in 2000. Our original adaptation (also by Peter Garino) of Shakespeare's dark narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece* was performed in 2001 and we began development of our newest adaptation, *50 Minute Hamlet* in 2002, which we produced for its first fully realized production in 2003. This production of *50 Minute Hamlet*, adapted and directed by Jeff Christain (appointed Artistic Director in August of 2002) is now performing regularly at Chicago area schools and is available for booking for the 2004-05 school year.

Next year we embark on our 10th Anniversary Season and we hope you will join us. We're thrilled to announce that we will be welcomed back to The Wilmette Public Library and The Newberry Library and we hope to add two additional venues to the roster for next year. We continue our mission, providing free performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists to Chicago area audiences. Maintaining an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and skill of the professional actors, all of whom are members of Actors' Equity Association. And our Education Program furthers this mission by bringing age-appropriate Shakespearean productions to the children of Chicago area schools. We sincerely appreciate your continued attendance, enthusiasm and financial support.

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's ninth season was funded in part by the revenue from our school programs; by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, and a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; 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. Visit our website at www.ShakespeareProjectChicago.org.

Thank You to our Benefactors!

Artistic Director
Jeff Christian

Founding Director
Mara Polster

Education Director
Laura St. John

Board of Directors
David Skidmore - President

Chuck Lippitz
Mara Polster
Mary Ringstad
Janet Schirn

Masters of the Revels
(\$100 - \$249)
Edward & Rhonda Cox

Jane & Jerome Field,
In Loving Memory of
Beverly Fields

Peter, Helene & Glenn T. Garino,
In Loving Memory of
Margaret D. Garino

Chuck and Rhita Lippitz
Michael and Susan W. Lippitz
George & Gerry Messenger
Marc Aaron Polster

Mary Ringstad
Julian & Lou Ann Schachner
Thomas and Felicity Skidmore
Ronald A. Weiner

Yeomen of the Guard
(In Kind Contributions)
The Artistic Home

Judy Blue
Alex Brown
Ryan Brown
Spencer Brown
Rich Bynum
Jeff Christian
Lindley Curry Traynor
Robert Eustace

Peter Garino
Hawkeye Scenic Studios
Chuck Lippitz
Connie McGrail
Ned Mochel
Arlene Polster-Moore
Mara Polster-Wilson
Lance Retallick
Mary Ringstad

Swedish Covenant Hospital
Abigail Rose St. John
Laura St. John

Marlon St. John
Janet Schirn
David Skidmore
Dennis Sook
Stephen Spencer
Michelle Sterling
Fredric Stone
Joseph Patrick Sweeney
David Turrentine

Christopher Walz
Christopher Wilson
James P. Wilson
Michael Aaron Wilson
Nita Lee Wilson

Pipers & Players
(\$50 - \$99)

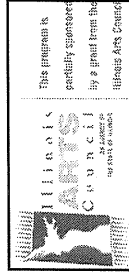
Anonymous
Patricia McGrail
Dr. & Mrs. Harry L. Sheely
Herbert S. Siegel
Mr. and Mrs. David Skidmore
Joan C. Spatafora
Robert G. Stiff
The Christopher Wilson Family

Beloved Groundlings
(\$10 - \$49)

Richard F. Johnson
Mary Kaye
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Klawans
Joan and Charles Plock
Elanor J. Reiter
Christine Ramos
Melissa F. Sherman
Mary L. Smith
Stephen Spencer

The Lord Chamberlain
(\$1,000 - \$2,499)
Chicago Department of
Cultural Affairs
Friends of the Wilmette Library

Knights & Ladies of the Realm
(\$250 - \$999)
William Farina &
Marion Buckley
Janet Schirn



The Players

(In order of appearance)

Regina **Brandy McClendon**
(in Mrs. Alving's service)

Engstrand **Fredric Stone***
(a carpenter)

Manders **Peter Garino***
(the Pastor of the parish)

Mrs. Alving **Mary Ringstad***
(a widow)

Oswald Alving **Nathan M. Hosner**
(her son, an artist)

The action takes place at Mrs Alving's country house in the fjords of Western Norway.

* Denotes Artistic Associates of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

Peter Garino* (Manders) is an Artistic Associate with TSP and has been a company member since 1995. As an actor he has appeared in over 30 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 2000, his adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets, *My Name is Will* received a full production by TSP at Oakton Community College. Most recently for TSP, Peter was seen as Tackleton in Dickens' *A Cricket on the Hearth*. Peter is a partner in LJPJ Productions with Chicago playwright Leigh Johnson. He directed Johnson's Vietnam trilogy, *The Khe Sanh Bagman* at the Center Theatre in 2000. Currently, he is helping prepare Johnson's new play, *Lefties*, for its Chicago premier later this year.

Nathan M. Hosner (Oswald) is very pleased to be returning to The Shakespeare Project, where he was last seen playing Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice*. Recent credits include Edmund in *King Lear* and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Jason Posner in *Wit* at The BoarsHead Theatre, and a role on *As The World Turns*. Nathan was lucky enough to escape the blustery cold of Chicago this winter by playing Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and a variety of Shakespearean roles as a member of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's graduate company on the inaugural voyage of the Cunard ocean liner Queen Mary 2.

Brandy McClendon (Regina) is thankful to be working with TSP for the first time. Originally from Texas, Brandy now makes her home in Chicago where she has been seen with Chicago Dramatists, Aspect Theatre, and Curious Theatre Branch. Regional credits include: Madison Repertory, Utah Shakespearean Festival, The Cleveland Play House, five seasons at Hope Summer Repertory, Dallas Shakespeare Festival, Kitchen Dog Theatre and Player's Theatre in Ireland. Brandy is the recipient of the Dallas Critics' Forum Award for Best Actress and the Leon Rabin Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Play for her portrayal of Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Next up, you can see Brandy as Raina in *Arms and the Man* at Hope Summer Rep in Michigan, and in the fall as Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice* at Indiana Rep.

Mary Ringstad* (Mrs. Alving) Previously for TSP, Mary directed *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Love's Labor's Lost*. She also served as assistant director for *King Lear*. Former TSP roles include Anna in the premiere production of *My Name Is Will*, the title role in *The Rape of Lucrece*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Portia in *Julius Caesar*, Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Rosilind in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *I-Henry VI*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Prince Edward in *Edward II*, Biondello in *Taming of the Shrew*, and Falstaff's Page in *2-Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Mary, who has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University, is an adjunct faculty member at Wright College, Oakton Community College, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. In addition to being a TSP Artistic Associate, Mary also serves on the TSP Board of Directors.

Fredric Stone* (Engstrand) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project after last being seen as Caleb Plummer in last winter's premier adaptation of *Cricket on the Hearth*. He just finished doing *Singin' in the Rain* at Theatre at the Center. 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 last spring. He has spent much time at Chicago Shakespeare Theater 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 Broadway 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.

Shawn Pace (Stage Manager) This is Shawn's sixth show with TSP. He Stage Managed *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings* (directed by Graciela Daniel and written by 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz) and *Wizard of Oz* for Children's Theatre Company's TONY award winning 2002-2003 season. Regionally he has worked for Northern Stage, Rockwell Productions and Arkansas Rep.

Jeff Christian* (Director) completes his second season as Artistic Director of The Shakespeare Project with this, his adaptation of *Ghosts*, having last adapted and directed the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet* and last winter's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, and directing *King Lear* last May. Other directing credits include *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lakeside Shakespeare -- Michigan), *Cruise Control* (Artistic Home; also playwright), *Land of the Free* (Artistic Home; written with Mark Ulrich), *Crane Expectations* (Chicago Dramatists; written with Nathan Carver), *Singer & Saw* (Actors' Gymnasium; written with Nathan Carver), the staged reading of *Medea* (Aspect Theatre; also adaptor), and both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeymen; co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award). Acting credits with TSP include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Buckingham in *Richard III*, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night* and Hortensio in *Taming of the Shrew*. Other area acting credits include work with Writers' Theatre, Shakespeare Rep, Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, New American, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, and Bernie Sahlin's production of *Murder in the Cathedral*. He recently played 12 characters in the critically-acclaimed production of *The Laramie Project* at Madison Repertory Theatre and Lt. Osborne in Seanachai's After Dark-winning and Jeff nominated production of *Journey's End*, and is a member of both the Seanachai and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles.