

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the lineup for our **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**. "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, directed by J.R. Sullivan (Oct. 11-17, 2019); "Richard III" by William Shakespeare, directed by Peter Garino (Jan. 10-17, 2020); "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare, directed by Michelle Shupe (Feb. 21-27, 2020); "Measure for Measure" by William Shakespeare, directed by Erin Sloan (May 15-21, 2020). For venues and show times, visit: [www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)

THE  
**SHAKESPEARE**  
PROJECT OF CHICAGO

*the world in words*

PRESENTS

**CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR**

by

George Zahora

Directed by

Peter Garino

Assistant Director: Brynne Barnard

Sound Design & Original Music: George Zahora

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**A PROGRAM OF HOLIDAY MUSIC**

Featuring Hannah Mary Simpson and Camille Cote

**25th Anniversary Season**

December 10, 13, 14, 2019

Elmhurst Public Library  
Niles-Maine District Library  
Newberry Library



\* Actors appearing in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

[www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org](http://www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org)

P.O. Box 25126

Chicago, Illinois 60625

773-710-2718

The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges all of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 24 years.

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2019-2020 season: Ameer Ali, Catherine Alterio, Anonymous, Charles Berglund, Henry Bernstein, Bindy Bitterman, Albertine N. Burget, Alice D. Blount, Lilian F. Braden, Joan Bransfield, An Shih Cheng, Ronald & Gail Denham, Linda Dienberg, A. Carla Drije, Joyce Dugan, Janet M. Erickson, Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Holly & Brian Forgue, James & Martha Fritts, Gerald Ginsburg, Charlotte Glashagel, Scott Gordon & Amy Cuthbert, Barbara Hayler, Ora M. Jones, Susan Spaford Lane, Carol Lewis, David R. Matteson, Cecile Margulies, Martin & Donna Okun, Elizabeth Pollace, Barbara Provus, Georgette Rohde, Wilmer M. Rutt, Jay & Lou Ann Schachner, Sandra S. Simonson, Felicity Skidmore, Taylor Family, Robert J. Tonos, Charlotte Ziporyn, Karen Zych.

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Michelle Shupe

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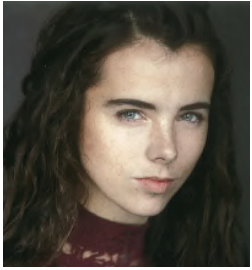
Earlier this season...



**"Hamlet, Prince of Denmark"** by William Shakespeare. Left to right: Josh Carpenter as Hamlet, Adrienne Cury as Gertrude. October 19, 2019 in Wilmette, Illinois.



## Artist Biographies



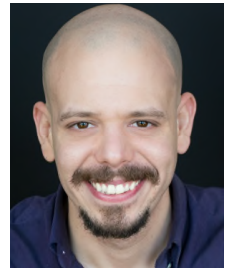
**Chloe Baldwin** (Thomas Dekker) returns to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago after playing Fortinbras & Player King in *Hamlet* earlier this fall. Previous credits include *The Winter's Tale* (Goodman Theatre); *The Woman In Black* (First U.S. National Tour); *Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Othello* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival, LA); *Titus Andronicus*, *Macbeth*, *Henry IV Part 1* (Backroom Shakespeare Project). Other credits include the film "Widows" and the upcoming Amazon series "Utopia". Chloe is a professional fight choreographer and will appear with castmate Savanna Rae in the upcoming webseries "Like What You Like" available for free on YouTube very soon!

[tinyurl.com/LikeWebSeries](https://tinyurl.com/LikeWebSeries) More at [ChloeBaldwin.net](http://ChloeBaldwin.net) & IG:

@chloeglowyflowy



**Camille Cote** is very excited to be making her Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut and to help spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear. She is a recent graduate of the Musical Theatre program at American University. She is excited to continue being a part of the Chicago Theatre Community and will next be performing in *Nine at BrightSide Theatre*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support!



**Joe Bianco** (John Webster) is one of Chicago's premier voiceover talents and an Equity actor. He has recently performed with Drury Lane, The House, Chicago Shakespeare, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare & Shakespeare Project Chicago. Some recent voiceover clients include McDonalds, Bungie Studios, West Suburban Bank, YMCA, Mercedes, The Onion, Lurie Children's Hospital, and the video game "Those Who Remain" available on all platforms. On camera credits include The Chi, Chicago Fire and work with Clickhole & The Onion Labs.



**Christopher Prentice** (Thomas Heywood) is joyful to return to The Project for a second holiday special, after appearing last year as Sherlock Holmes in *A Baker Street Christmas Caper*. He made his acting debut, as a child, playing the title role in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. (Actually, he played the nose—under the table flipping the switch to turn the nose on.) Later he played one of the three wise men. During college he played Uncle Billy in *It's a Wonderful Life* and Mr. Brainard (Mr. Macy, but they couldn't get the rights to the name) in *Miracle on 34th Street* for the Richardson Children's Theatre. For the Project, he was seen this year in *The Californian Incident*, *My Name Is Will*, and *Moby Dick—Rehearsed* (as the Serious Actor/Starbuck), as

well as giving the intro to *Midsummer...*, for which he served as dramaturg and text coach. Other roles with the company include Edmund Campion (alias "Hastings," *Shakeshafte*), Touchstone, Berowne, Alsemero (*The Changeling*), Philip the Bastard, Leontes, Mark Antony (*JC*), Vindici (the

25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO  
presents  
Chloe Baldwin, Sean Cooper, Zachary Fewkes,  
Matt Gall, Jack Hickey, Razz Jenkins, James Konicek,  
Daniel Millhouse, Mary Michell, Brennan Monaghan,  
Christopher Prentice, Michelle Shupe,  
David Skidmore, Daniel Sullivan, J.R. Sullivan,  
Bryan Wakefield, Barbara Zahora  
in  
**Richard III** !!!  
By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Peter Garino  
January 10-17, 2020

25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO  
presents  
**Romeo and Juliet**  
By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Michelle Shupe  
February 21-27, 2020

# A PROGRAM OF HOLIDAY MUSIC

Featuring Hannah Mary Simpson and Camille Cote

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## *Intermission*

### CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

Dramatis Personae

#### The Present:

Dr. Harriet Jacques— Regius Professor of Shakespearean History and Literature.....Barbara Zahora\*

Janet Sims – Associate Professor of “Everyone Who Isn’t Shakespeare” .....Michelle Shupe\*

Ms. Bridget Windsor – PhD Candidate (philosophy), temporary office assistant in Literature department.....Savanna Rae

#### The Past:

Thomas Heywood, a playwright.....Christopher Prentice\*

Henry Chettle, a playwright.....David Skidmore\*+

Thomas Dekker, a playwright.....Chloe Baldwin\*

John Webster, a playwright.....Joe Bianco\*

#### The Setting(s):

Present: A departmental office in an obscure, midsized British university.

Past: A cellar space used as a workroom/hideout by the playwrights.

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**Thomas Heywood** (early 1570s – 16 August 1641) was an English playwright, actor, and author. His main contributions were to late Elizabethan and early Jacobean theatre. He is best known for his masterpiece *A Woman Killed with Kindness*, a domestic tragedy, which was first performed in 1603 at the Rose Theatre by the Worcester's Men company.<sup>[1]</sup> He was a prolific writer, claiming to have had "an entire hand or at least a maine finger in two hundred and twenty plays", although only a fraction of his work has survived. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago produced Heywood's *A Woman Killed With Kindness* in 2013.

**John Webster** (c. 1580 – c. 1634) was an English Jacobean dramatist best known for his tragedies *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi*, which are often regarded as masterpieces of the early 17th-century English stage.<sup>[1]</sup> His life and career overlapped William Shakespeare's. Despite his ability to write comedy, Webster is best known for his two brooding English tragedies based on Italian sources. *The White Devil*, a retelling of the intrigues involving Vittoria Accoramboni, an Italian woman assassinated at the age of 28, was a failure when staged at the Red Bull Theatre in 1612 (published the same year) being too unusual and intellectual for its audience. *The Duchess of Malfi*, first performed by the King's Men about 1614 and published nine years later, was more successful. He also wrote a play called *Guise*, based on French history, of which little else is known as no text has survived. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago produced Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* in 2012.

**Henry Chettle** (c. 1564 – c. 1606) was an English dramatist and miscellaneous writer of the Elizabethan era, best known for his pamphleteering. The son of Robert Chettle, a London dyer, he was apprenticed in 1577 and became a member of the Stationer's Company in 1584, traveling to Cambridge on their behalf in 1588. His career as a printer and author is shadowy. He may have set up some of the tracts printed in response to Martin Marprelate. In 1591, he entered into partnership with William Hoskins and John Danter, two stationers. They published a good many ballads, and some plays, including a surreptitious and botched first quarto of *Romeo and Juliet*, to which it is suggested Chettle added lines and stage directions.

**Thomas Dekker** (c. 1572 – 25 August 1632) was an English Elizabethan dramatist and pamphleteer, a versatile and prolific writer, whose career spanned several decades and brought him into contact with many of the period's most famous dramatists. Most of Dekker's work is lost. His apparently disordered life, and his lack of a firm connection (such as Shakespeare or Fletcher had) with a single company, may have militated against the preservation or publication of manuscripts. Close to twenty of his plays were published during his lifetime; of these, more than half are comedies, with three significant tragedies: *Lust's Dominion* (presumably identical to *The Spanish Moor's Tragedy*, written with Day, Marston, and William Haughton, 1600), *The Witch of Edmonton* (with Ford and Rowley, 1621), and *The Virgin Martyr* (with Massinger, 1620). The Shakespeare Project of Chicago produced Dekker's collaboration with Thomas Middleton *The Roaring Girl* earlier this year.

revenger in *The Revenger's Tragedy*), and Guy (who plays Hamlet in *50-Minute Hamlet*). Other theater includes work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival (including Beatrice in *Much Ado...*), First Folio, Oak Park Festival, and Signal Ensemble Theatre (co-founder), where he played, among others, the title role in *The Dumb Waiter* in similar fashion to his Rudolph. He also spent five seasons at Canada's Stratford Festival. Education: Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre, Stratford Festival; BFA, Southern Methodist University. christopher-prentice.com, @XprPrentice. Please feel free to ask him about his favorite Christmas double feature. christopher-prentice.com, @XprPrentice (Twitter, IG). Merry Christmas and happy holidays!



Talent.

**Savanna Rae** (Bridget Windsor) is thrilled and honored to be returning to the Shakespeare Project of Chicago where she previously appeared in *Titus Andronicus*. Previous 2019 credits include *Short Shakes! Macbeth* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *columbinus* (Random Acts), *Julius Caesar* (Back Room Shakespeare Project), and *Chicago Fire*. Her solo show about the women of the Ulster Cycle, *Daughters of Ire*, was nominated Best New Work of 2015 (Broadway World Chicago) and continues to tour. Savanna is an Artistic Associate with Oak Park Festival Theatre (credits include Maggie in *Lovers*, *Macbeth*, *Russian Transport*, and *Daughters of Ire*) and is represented by Shirley Hamilton



*Romeo and Juliet*. Happy Holidays to all!

**Michelle Shupe** (Janet Sims) is delighted to be making merry in George Zahora's "Christmas Comes But Once A Year." She has been active with The Project for many years: acting, directing, assistant directing and serving as dramaturge. As an actor, she has appeared in these favorite readings: *King John*, *Pericles*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *King Lear* and Miguel 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. She is looking forward playing Elizabeth in *Richard III* and directing



and she is represented by Lily's Talent. Many thanks to this wonderful team of wonderful people. Happy Holidays! [hannahmarysimpson.com](http://hannahmarysimpson.com)

**Hannah Mary Simpson** is delighted to work with The Shakespeare Project again after understudying Moll Cutpurse in *The Roaring Girl* this spring and singing in For The Love of Shakespeare, The Project's 25th Anniversary Gala, this summer. Hannah holds degrees in Theatre and English Literature from Ohio Wesleyan University, and she has called Chicago her home for three years. Some other favorite Chicago credits include *The Bridges of Madison County* (Marge u/s, Theo Ubique, Jeff Award for Best Musical), *The Great Big Invisible Invisible* (Loopy, Trap Door Theatre), and *Moby Dick! The Musical* (Pip/Mapple, Cuckoo's Theater). Hannah is a (very!) recent graduate of the Music Improv Program at The Second City,





**David Skidmore** (Henry Chettle) is currently Board President and is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project. Last season he appeared in *The Roaring Girl* for The Project. He recently directed Orson Welles' *Moby Dick Rehearsed* for The Project. Miguel de Cervantes' *Three Interludes* for The Project and previously directed *Macbeth* twice as well as *Richard III*. He most recently acted with The Project in the recent Christmas show *A Baker Street Christmas Caper* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He played the Banker in *Darkside* by Tom Stoppard (incorporating *The Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd), The Project's 2015 fall fundraising production, and appeared in *A Woman Killed with Kindness* as Shafton and Sandy. He played the title role in *Richard II* and previously appeared as Doctor Caius and Bardolph in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Lucio in *Measure for Measure* and Faulkland in *The Rivals*. David has been involved in many Project productions over the years, performing such roles as Lear's Fool, Puck, Iago, Cassio, Petruchio, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo and Hamlet (in The Project's full theatrical production in 1999). In addition, David originated the role of Hamlet in The Project's *50-Minute Hamlet*, frequently performed in Chicago and area schools. David received his BA from Brandeis University and MFA in Acting from Temple University, and studied acting and improvisation at the Piven Theatre Workshop. He is Director of Brand Development at Movéo, a healthcare and B2B marketing and advertising agency.



**Barbara Zahora** (Hillary Jacques) served as associate artistic director of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago from 2010-2018. Today, Barbara is artistic director of the Oak Park Festival Theatre. At OPFT she directed 2017's acclaimed *Macbeth*, and as an actor she's appeared on our stages as Penny in *You Can't Take It With You*, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and several benefit performances of Belinda Bremner's *Mrs. Coney* and *Midwinter's Tales*. Additional acting credits include *All My Sons* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (American Players Theatre); *Hamlet*, *Heartbreak House*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Misalliance* (Writers' Theatre); *The Country Girl* (Illinois Theatre Center); *Marionette Macbeth*, *The Moliere Comedies*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like*

*It*, *Richard II*, *The School for Scandal*, and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Northlight Theatre); *A Christmas Carol*, *Wit* (Goodman Theatre); *Hard Times* (Lookingglass Theatre); *Arms and the Man*, *The Devil's Disciple*, *Heartbreak House*, *Major Barbara*, *Coward in Two Keys*, and *What Every Woman Knows* (ShawChicago); and many appearances with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago, where she served as associate artistic director for eight years. Her other directing credits include *Shrewish* (Artemisia Theatre); *Candida*, *Hay Fever*, *Misalliance*, and *Private Lives* (ShawChicago); and *Ovidian Myths*, *Something Shaw*, and *Spoon River: Coming Home* for the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. TV and film credits include *Chicago Fire* and *Operator*. Barbara is a visiting assistant professor at Roosevelt University's Chicago College for the Performing Arts, and she previously taught at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music and North Central College. She is represented by Paonessa Talent and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Love to George, always.

**Peter Garino** (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He most recently appeared as Polonius in The Project's theatrical reading of *Hamlet*, *Prince of Denmark*. He will direct *Richard III* in The Project's 2019-2020 season. This past season, he appeared as Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus* and as Helicanus in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. He also directed *The Roaring Girl* in May 2019. He adapted and directed The Project's holiday show this past season, *A Selection of English Christmas Carols/A Baker Street Christmas Caper*. Last season, he directed *Much Ado About Nothing* and played the Duke of Florence in *Women Beware Women* and Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like*

*It*. He also directed John Kishline's *Dream Upon Avon* and Rowan Williams' *Shakeshafte* for The Shakespeare Project. Previous appearances with The Project include Boyet/Anthony Dull in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Sir Thomas Erpingham and the Duke of Burgundy in *Henry V* and 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). Other 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 II* 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.

**Brynne Barnard** (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be working with the incredible artists of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago once again. She has worked for the last 8 years as an actress, assistant director, event coordinator, and text coach with The Project, and also has an artistic home with Interrobang Theatre Project. She send so many thanks to Peter and the rest of the crew for this opportunity. Merry Christmas!

**George Zahora** (Playwright, Sound & Music Design) has been The Project's resident composer and sound designer for almost ten years, but he's also a writer. His meta-farce "Sex in the Title" has enjoyed several successful productions over the last 25 years, most recently at Wheaton Drama in 2018, and as a music journalist in the '90s and '00s he penned several million words' worth of reviews, interviews and features for numerous print and online magazines. He was thrilled to stretch his writing muscles again to create "Christmas Comes But Once a Year," and to watch it come to life with such an outstanding cast and creative team. Whichever seasonal holiday you celebrate, he wishes you a safe and happy one!