

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

HENRY VI

from all three parts of *Henry VI* by William Shakespeare

adapted and directed by
Jeff Christian

HENRY VI

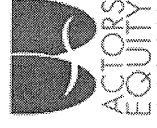
October 27-28, 2007

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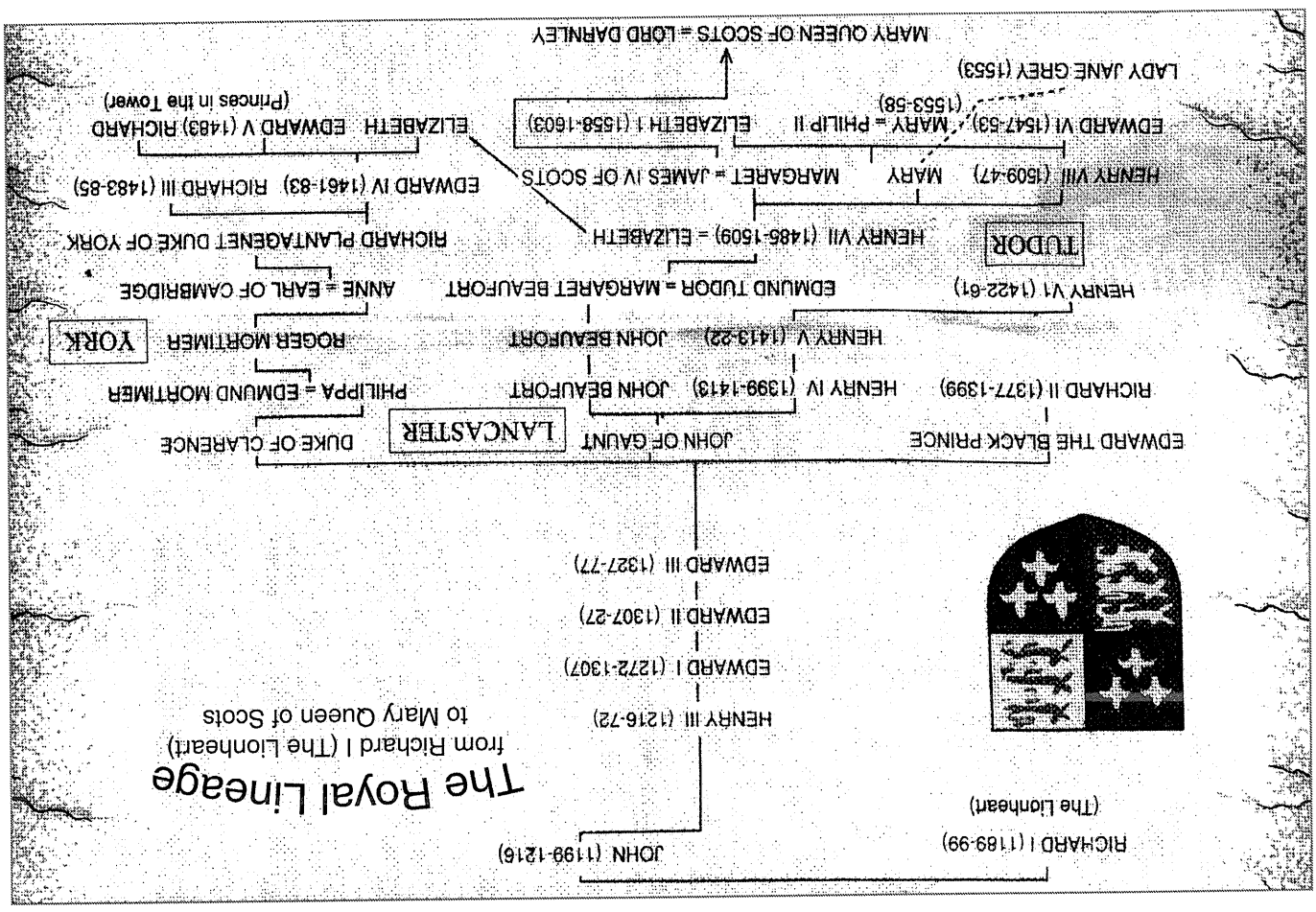
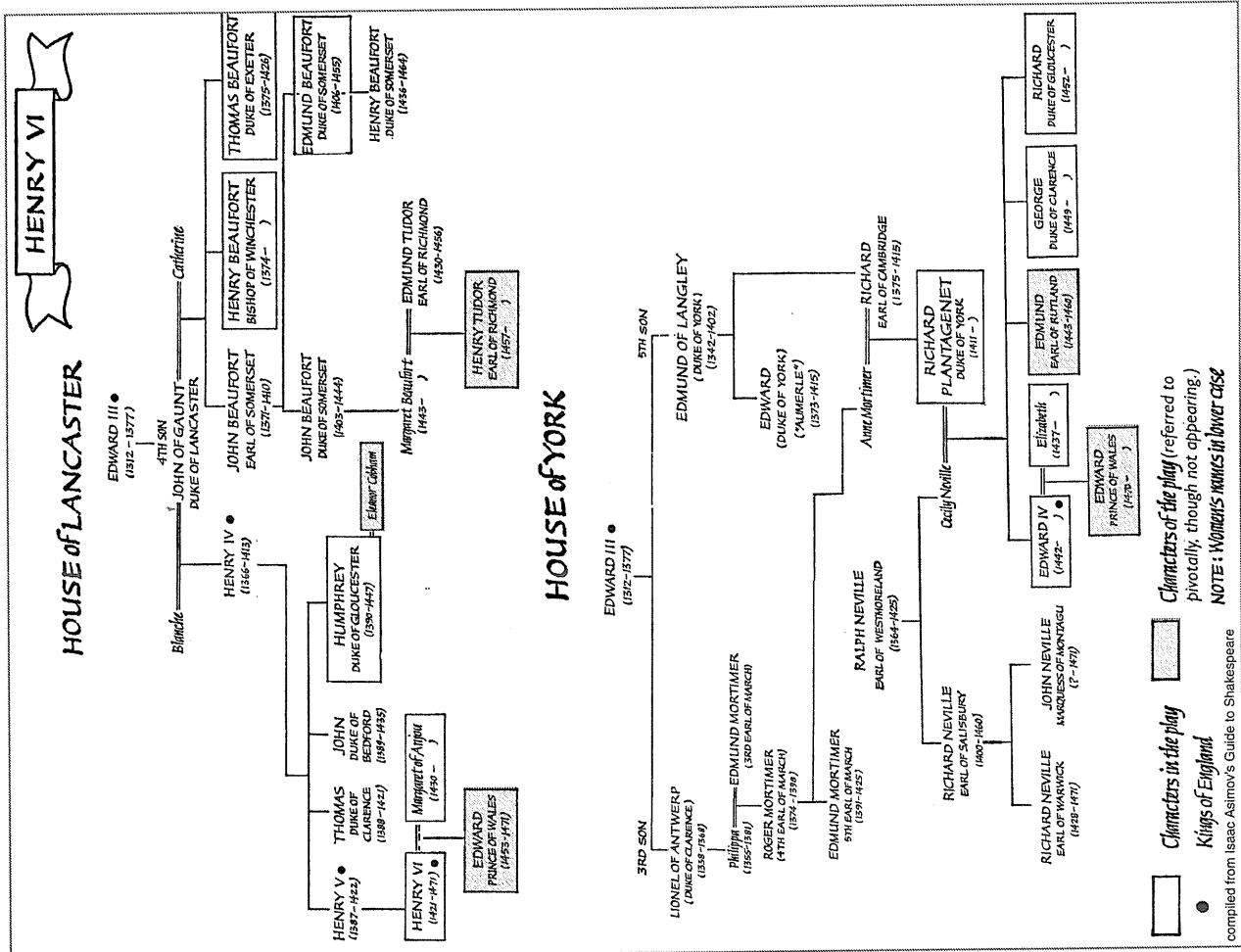
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The Shakespeare Project of Chicago 2529 W. Carmen Ave. Chicago IL 60625 773.334.8771



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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Henry VI

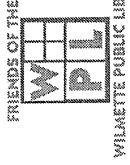
[Dramatis Personae

in order as they appear herein

EARL OF WARWICK -----Malcolm Rothman
 HUMPHREY, Duke of Gloucester, uncle to the King, and Protector -----David Skidmore
 BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, great-uncle to the King -----Russ Bruzek
 JOAN PUCELLE, commonly called JOAN OF ARC -----Melissa Carlson
 CHARLES, Dauphin, and afterwards King of France -----Gary Brichetto
 RICHARD PLANTAGENET, afterwards DUKE OF YORK -----Matt Daniels
 EARL OF SUFFOLK -----Jed Alexander
 DUKE OF SOMERSET -----Dan Rodden
 VERNON, of the White-Rose or York faction -----Jeff Christian
 KING HENRY THE SIXTH -----Mark Ulrich
 DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM -----Gary Brichetto
 MARGARET, daughter to the King of Naples, afterward married to King Henry -- Barbara Zahora
 JACK CADE, a rebel -----Jeff Christian
 DICK the butcher -----Jed Alexander
 EDWARD, Son of York, afterwards KING EDWARD IV -----David Skidmore
 GEORGE, Son of York, afterwards DUKE OF CLARENCE -----Jed Alexander
 RICHARD, Son of York, afterwards DUKE OF GLOUCESTER -----Jeff Christian
 LORD CLIFFORD -----Dan Rodden
 LADY GREY, afterwards Queen to Edward IV -----Melissa Carlson
 MESSENGERS/SOLDIERS ---Jeff Christian, Barbara Zahora, Russ Bruzek, Melissa Carlson

Scene: Various locations in both England and France,
 over the course of 50 years.]

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

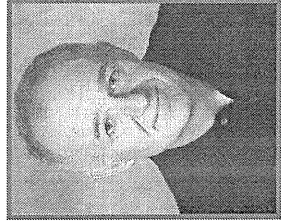


This Month's Artists

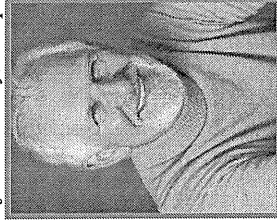


Jed Alexander (Suffolk/Dick/Clarence) Jed, a Connecticut native, has been an admitted Cubs/Bears fan for the past three years. A proud member of SAG/AFTRA/EQUITY, he is currently involved in an ongoing television project, National Spokesman (fictional V.P. of Marketing 'Ron Stablehorn') for Rolling Rock Beer, under Anheuser Busch. He just completed voice work for Marvel Comics, to be released by EA Studios, March 2008. National Tours: Rooster in *Annie* (Dir. Martin Charnin), Theaterworks USA, Chamber Theatre Prod.; Disney Cruise Line: Hades in *Hercules The Musical*, Host of *Mouseketeer*; Regional: TEXAS Outdoor Musical, Mac-Haydn, New London Barn, Chicago Dramatists, TBC Stages Festival/Monday Series; Co-Founder/Former A.D. for *Red Tape Theatre Co.* in Chicago; Production internships with CBS's *Dave's World*, WB, Lisa Mionie, Johnson-Liff; MFA Roosevelt Univ., BFA Emerson College, Actor Combatant (SAFD), Second City Training Center.

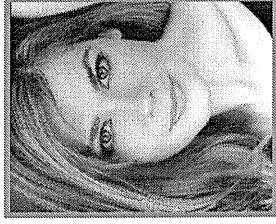

Gary Brichetto (Dauphin, Buckingham) is happy to be working once again with The Shakespeare Project, having last played Antonio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He has appeared in several Chicago theatre productions including *Glengarry Glen Ross* at Steppenwolf Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet* at Goodman, *The Price and A View from the Bridge* at Illinois Theatre Center, *Triple Exposure* at Wisdom Bridge, and *Merrily We Roll Along* at Apple Tree. Other appearances have included roles at Pegasus, Stormfield, Commons, Aardvark, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Chicago Dramatists, Body Politic, Raven, and National Jewish Theatres. Film and television roles include *The Untouchables*, *The Godfather of Green Bay*, *Desperation Boulevard*, *Early Edition*, and *Prison Break*.



Russ Bruzek (Winchester/Messengers) Russ makes his first appearance with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Previous Shakespeare credits include Julius Caesar; Master Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, plus several productions of *Othello* and Court Theatre's famous outing of *King Lear*. On film there are reruns of "Unsolved Mysteries" that can be seen on the Lifetime Channel. Russ will be appearing at the Chicago Cultural Center on November 28 in the Aftra SAG Radio Players production of "Poltergeist."



Melissa Carlson (Joan Pucelle, Lady Grey) gladly rejoins The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where she has also been seen playing Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Katharine in Love's Labours Lost and Helen of Troy and Covetousness in Jeff Christian's adaptation of Faust. 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*.

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

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About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

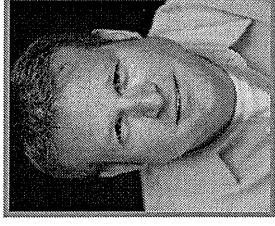
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago was founded by actress and director, Mara Polster, in May of 1995 to address the lack of opportunities for students, seniors and the less affluent to experience -- and the local theater community to perform -- the timeless works of William Shakespeare and other great 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* (authorship uncertain), *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, Dickens and Maugham.

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 the cornerstone of our educational outreach program. This year we add *My Name Is Will*, and our newest adaptation, *50 Minute Macbeth* to our list of school offerings.

We are thrilled to continue our fantastic partnerships with The Newberry Library, The Wilmette Public Library and The Highland Park Public Library -- and have forged long-term relationships with them all. Please visit our website at www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org for further information.

This Month's Artists

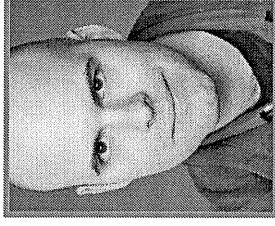


Jeff Christian (Artistic Director, Cade, Vernon, Richard) leads the company into his sixth season, having adapted and directed *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*), Ibsen's *Ghosts*, Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, as well as having staged *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* 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 Journeymen; 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). Acting credits with The Shakespeare Project 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, serves as a creative consultant to Tessera Publishing and teaches at The Artistic Home (on whose Advisory Board he serves). Recent film work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Poker House*, *The Express* and *Pickman's Muse*. He just closed the Seanachai Theatre Company's downtown production of Roddy Doyle's *War*.

Matt Daniels (York) makes his Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut with *Henry VI*. Regional: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Henry V* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, *1 Henry IV*, (Milwaukee Shakespeare); *March Tale*, *Mexican Standoff...* (Seven Angels). New York: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *2 Henry IV*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Faust*, *Alice* (Gorilla Rep.); *The Dumbwaiter*, *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Memory of Two Mondays* (Food for Thought); *American Revolution*, *Want's Unwilt Work*, *Death of Griffin Hunter*, *Midnight Brainwash Revival* (Inverse Theater);

Bacchus, *Oedipus Rex*, *Fashion* (Metropolitan Playhouse). Film: *She Never Screams*, *Macbeth - The Comedy*, *Child's Play 3*. TV: *Guiding Light*, *As the World Turns*. Artistic Director: *Tyrannosaurus rep.*, *Cues & All Verse Resource*. Faculty: Act One Studios, Chicago; The Actor's Institute, NY. Training: Juilliard. Proud member of AEA.

Dan Rodden (Somerset, Young Clifford) This play marks Dan's eleventh production with TSP and, yet, he comes back for more. Other TSP credits: *Henry V*, *My Name is Will*, *Love's Labors Lost*, *Henry IV*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Parvenu*, *Macbeth*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. He recently completed a run as Felix in *The Odd Couple* at Drury Lane Oakbrook. Other credits include: Oak Park Festival Theatre, New American Theater, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Aardvark Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the ImprovOlympic. Regionally: Texas Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Cidermill Playhouse, and Beechwood Theatre Company. Dan lives in Chicago with his lovely wife, actress Gail Rastorfer.



This Month's Artists

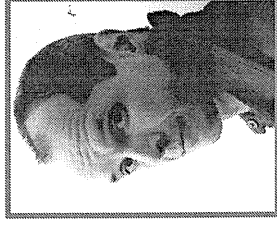
Malcolm Rothman (Warwick) Chicago theatergoers will remember Malcolm Rothman from his latest portrayals of Grampa Irving Lipshitz and Rabbi Shlomo in "Jewtopia". He has been a fixture on the Chicago stage since 1978. He is perhaps best known for his portrayal of Mr. Mushnik in Chicago's first production of "Little Shop of Horrors" which opened the Royal George Theater in 1986. Most recently, Malcolm has appeared at Marriott's Lincolnshire Theater as Old Man Hasler in "The Pajama Game" and as Louis B. Mayer in "Campaign of the Century" at the Chicago Humanities Festival. Other stage credits include performances with the Guthrie Theater, National Jewish Theater, Candlelight/Forum Theaters, New American Theater, Court Theater, Steppenwolf Theater Co. and many others throughout the Midwest and nationally. Malcolm has been seen on TV and Film ("EZ Streets", "Early Edition", "The Untouchables"); and in numerous commercials. He was the late Harry Caray's dance double in the "Cub Man, Bud Fan" spots. Malcolm is a Vietnam veteran who served with the Navy Hospital Corps in that country. He is married to former actress and agent Amy Sunshine.



David Skidmore (Humphrey, Edward IV) was last seen with TSP in *Love's Labours Lost* and can be seen regularly as Hamlet in Chicago area schools. David has appeared in such diverse roles as 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, Petruchio, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo and Hamlet in TSP's premier production in 1999; and directing *Richard III* and *Macbeth*. David received his BA from Brandeis University and MFA in Acting from Temple University, and studied acting and improvisation at the Piven Theatre Workshop. David is a senior consultant for Interbrand Wood Healthcare, a branding consultancy for the healthcare industry.



Mark Ulrich (King Henry VI) 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.



This Month's Artists

Barbara Zahora (Margaret) is delighted to be working with The Shakespeare Project on this ambitious adaptation. She has previously performed in their readings of *The Constant Wife*, *Henry V*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Faust*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, and *A Woman of No Importance*. New York credits include *Marionette Macbeth* (New Victory Theater), a co-production between Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Colla e Figli Company of Italy. Chicago credits include *Joe! The Musical* (Equity Library Theatre); *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 Theater); *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.



Mara Polster (Founding Director) was very proud to have adapted and directed last month's production of *50 Minute Macbeth* and she thanks Jeff Christian and the incredibly talented group of artists who contributed their talents to its developmental arm *50 Minute Shakespeare* -- of which *50 Minute Hamlet* and *50 Minute Macbeth* are a part -- is now scheduling performances in its fifth school year headed by Laura St. John. Mara started The Shakespeare Project of Chicago in May of 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. She has directed numerous plays for the project. Favorites include *King Lear*; *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* and of course, *Macbeth* -- four and a half times before this one. She has played some of the great Shakespearean women, like Emilia, Tamora, Margaret, Paulina, Isabella, Katherina and Lady Macbeth for the project and has acted on many of the other stages here in Chicago and across the country. She is a graduate of The Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Dance in St. Louis, Missouri. Mara thanks her husband, founding member Chris Wilson, for continuing to support this madness, and her two brilliant and beautiful men-children Michael and Nathan for teaching her about love and the meaning of life. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of Samuel E. LaMacchia and continues in memory of Michael Alan Wilson and Board Member, Chuck Lippitz.



A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

You are all welcome.

Please stay, meet the cast, and share your ideas and questions.