

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words
presents

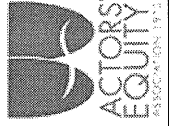
a theatrical reading of

Love's Labours Lost

By William SHAKESPEARE

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

receive email reminders of upcoming shows
learn about our educational programs
see a list of our artists
www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
learn more about our history
read biographies of staff and board
contact our staff with feedback or suggestions
watch video clips
get directions to venues
see lists of donors
donate to The Project

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

LOVE'S LABOURS LOST

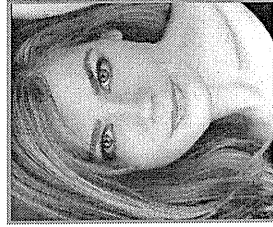
February 11 & 12, 2006

The Newberry Library

The Wilmette Public Library

The Highland Park Public Library

This Month's Artists



Melissa Carlson
Katherine



Sean Cooper
Dumain



Mitchell J. Fain
Moth



Peter Garino
Boyet



Nathan M. Hosner
Berowne



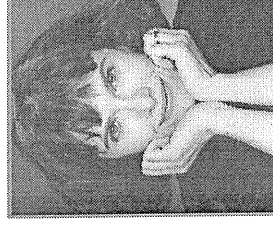
Brandy McClendon
Maria



Gail Rastorfer
Rosaline



Dan Rodden
Costard



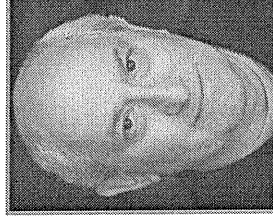
Laura St. John
Jacquenetta



David Skidmore
Longaville



Stephen Spencer
*Ferdinand,
King of Navarre*



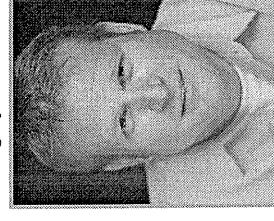
Fredric Stone
Don Armado



Barbara Zahora
Princess



Dorian Hadley
Prologue Presentation



Jeff Christian
Artistic Director



Mara Polster
Founding Director

Join us in April for

My Name Is Will

an adaptation of Shakespeare's
Sonnets and Songs

by Peter Garino, with music by Chris Walz

**Directed by
Peter Garino**

Thursday, April 20, 2006

7 pm at The Highland Park Public Library
(6:45 Prologue presentation by Dr. Peter Christensen)

and

Saturday, April 22, 2006

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

and again at

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

Admission is FREE with no reservations required.
A discussion of the play will follow the play.

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* debuted 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 *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 fall with Charley Sherman and Peter Christensen's original adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. In April we will bring you the remounting of *My Name Is Will*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Sonnets and Songs*. 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 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

in order of appearance

FERDINAND, KING OF NAVARRE _____ STEPHEN SPENCER^f

LONGAVILLE, A LORD ATTENDING ON THE KING _____ DAVID SKIDMORE^f

DUMAIN, A LORD ATTENDING ON THE KING _____ SEAN COOPER

BEROWNE, A LORD ATTENDING ON THE KING _____ NATHAN M. HOSNER

COSTARD, A CLOWN _____ DAN RODDEN

DON ADRIANO DE ARMADO, A FANTASTICAL SPANIARD _____ FREDRIC STONE^f

MOTH, A PAGE TO ARMADO _____ MITCHELL J. FAIN

BOYET, A LORD ATTENDING ON THE PRINCESS OF FRANCE _____ PETER GARINO^f

THE PRINCESS OF FRANCE _____ BARBARA ZAHORA

MARIA, A LADY ATTENDING ON THE PRINCESS _____ BRANDY MCCLENDON

KATHARINE, A LADY ATTENDING ON THE PRINCESS _____ MELISSA CARLSON

ROSALINE, A LADY ATTENDING ON THE PRINCESS _____ GAIL RASTORFER

JAQUENETTA, A COUNTRY WENCH _____ LAURA ST. JOHN

SCENE: IN AND AROUND NAVARRE (NEAR THE PYRENEES
AT THE MODERN FRANCE-SPAIN BORDER)

There will be one 10 minute intermission.

^fDenotes Founding Members of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

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

Profiles

Melissa Carlson (Katherine) Melissa gladly rejoins The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, last seen as 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*.

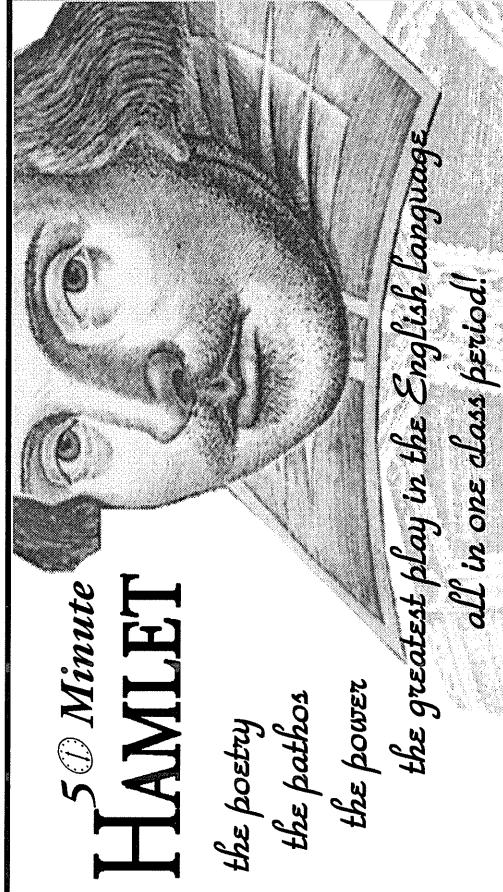
Sean Cooper (Dumain) is making his 2nd appearance with the Shakespeare Project. This spring he will appear in *Cradle of Man* at Victory Gardens. Other recent acting credits include *Red Herring* at Northlight, *Mojo* at Mary-Arrchie, *Eurydice* with Piven, *Merchant of Venice* with Strawdog, and a *A Lesson Before Dying* at Steppenwolf. He has also worked with the Neo-Futurists, Running With Scissors, Terrapin Theatre, Raven Theatre, and Pegasus Players among others. Sean also writes and adapts plays.

Mitchell J. Fain (Moth) was born in Rhode Island but moved to Chicago in 1992 to grow up. Since then, he has worked at many Chicago theatres. Favorite roles include Henry VI, Stephen Dedalus, Horatio, Allen Ginsberg, and a killer cheerleader named Pepper. As a member of The Midnight Circus he won an After Dark Award for his performance in *All the World's a Stage*. He is very pleased to be playing with the smart kids at The Shakespeare Project.

Peter Garino (Boyet) Peter is a Founding Member of TSP. This season, he played the title role in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust* and as the Earl of Westmoreland Justice Shallow in Peter Christensen's adaptation of *Henry IV*. Last year, he directed *A Woman of No Importance* and appeared as Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. He has worked 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 readings and has directed *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. In April, his adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name is Will* (with music by Chris Walz) will be revived by TSP (previously produced in 1997 and 2000). 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.

Nathan M. Hosner (Berowne) is very pleased to be returning to The Shakespeare Project, where he has also been seen in *Henry IV*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Parvenue*, *Macbeth*, *Ghosts*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. Recent credits include Edmund in *King Lear* and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Antipholus of Ephesus in *Comedy of Errors* and Jason Posner in *Wit* at The BoarsHead Theatre, and a role on *As The World Turns*. Nathan is also one half of the alt-country/old-time duo Back Off The Hammer. Check them out at a bar near you...

Brandy McClendon (Maria) Brandy is happy to be working with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and Jeff Christian once again. Favorite Chicago credits include Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice* (Northlight), Lu in *Self Defense* (Rivendell Theatre, After Dark Award for Outstanding Ensemble), and Jill etc in *Jewtopia* (Mercury Theatre). Regionally she has performed with Indiana Repertory, Madison Repertory, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cleveland Play House, Dallas Shakespeare Festival, Kitchen Dog Theatre and Hope Summer Repertory among others. Brandy attended SMU in Dallas, Texas and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.



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
 773/334-TSPI

INTERESTED IN OTHER GREAT PLAYWRIGHTS? HOW ABOUT BERTOLT BRECHT?

Happy End, a melodrama with songs

March 10--19, 2006

Oakton Community College

Visit oakton.edu for more information

Both productions directed by TSP Founding Member Mary Ringstad

Thank You to our Benefactors!

Artistic Director

Jeff Christian

Founding Director

Mara Polster

Education Director

Laura St. John

Board of Directors

David Skidmore - President

Alan Arnett

Mara Polster

Mary Ringstad

Ronald A. Weiner

Queen Elizabeth I

(\$2,500 and above)

Carolyn LaMacchia,
In Loving Memory of
Sam LaMacchia

The Chuck Lippitz

Memorial Fund

The Lord Chamberlain

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

Friends of the Wilmette Library

Knights & Ladies of the Realm

(\$250 - \$999)

Sarah & Alan Arnett

Sunder & Carolyn Bajaj

William Farina &

Marion Buckley

Illinois Arts Council

Janet Schirm

Masters of the Revels

(\$100 - \$249)

Janet and Jack Christian

Edward Cox

Jane & Jerome Field,

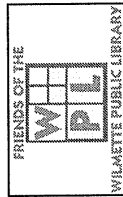
In Loving Memory of

Beverly Fields

Four Corners Tavern Group

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Klawans

The Shakespeare Project is partially supported by the following:



Masters of the Revels (cont'd)

Peter, Helene & Glenn T. Garino,

In Loving Memory of

Margaret D. Garino

Rhita Lippitz

Michael and Susan W. Lippitz

Patricia McGrail

George & Gerry Messenger

Arlene Polster & Ralph Moore

Marc Aaron Polster

Leonard & Elizabeth Ringstad

Mary Ringstad

Herbert Siegel

David and Kori Skidmore

Thomas and Felicity Skidmore

Ronald A. Weiner

Richard & Mary Woods

Pipers & Players

(\$50 - \$99)

Dr. Murray Berkowitz

Joseph A. Gagliano

Jean A. Haley

Dr. & Mrs. Hanlon

Jeanne Hawry

Patricia McGrail

Julian & Lou Ann Schachner

Mette & David Shayne

Dr. & Mrs. Harry L. Sheehy

Joan C. Spatafora

Robert G. Stiff

The Christopher Wilson Family

Beloved Groundlings

(\$10 - \$49)

Ellen J. Bennett

Judy Blue

Paul R. Burkhardt

Alicia Burns

Royal Buscombe

Richard F. Johnson

Steven A. Kalles

Mary Kaye

Beloved Groundlings (cont'd)

Joan and Charles Plock

Elanor J. Reiter Christine Ramos

Melissa F. Sherman

Mary L. Smith

Stephen Spencer

D.C. & M. Stenerson

Marjorie Stevenson

Carol Westmorland

Yeomen of the Guard

(In Kind Contributions)

The Artistic Home

Alex Brown

Ryan Brown

Spencer Brown

The Brownstone Tavern

Rich Bynum

Jeff Christian

Peter Garino

Hawkeye Scenic Studios

Ketel One

The Newberry Library

Connie McGrail

Ned Mochel

Arlene Polster-Moore

Mara Polster-Wilson

Mary Ringstad

Swedish Covenant Hospital

Abigail Rose St. John

Laura St. John

Marlon St. John

Janet Schirm

David Skidmore

Stephen Spencer

Fredric Stone

Joseph Patrick Sweeney

David Turrentine

Christopher Walz

Christopher Wilson

James P. Wilson

Michael Aaron Wilson

Nathan Gabriel Wilson

Nita Lee Wilson

Profiles

Stephen Spencer^r (King) was in *Faust* and last season's *The Winter's Tale* (Autolyus) and *Macbeth* (Macbeth). Last summer he was in Oak Park Festival Theatre's *Comedy of Errors* and recently created the role of Austin in Congo Square Theatre's *The House That Jack Built*. As a Founding Member of TSP, he's been in over 24 plays including *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*; and he originated 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 Fancypull 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.

Fredric Stone^r (Don Armado) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project (of which he is a Founding Member), having last been seen in various roles in *Faust*, *Ghosts*, and *The Cricket on the Hearth*. He recently finished doing *Measure for Measure* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and *Jewtopia* at the Mercury Theatre and prior to that *The Chosen* at Steppenwolf. He has 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 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 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 (Princess) is very happy to be working with The Shakespeare Project folks again, having previously performed in their readings of *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. She holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Roosevelt University.

Profiles

Kelly McDowell (Stage Manager) Kelly is pleased to be rejoining The Shakespeare Project, where she first worked on *Faust*. Previously she stage managed Theater Wit's past two productions of *The Santaland Diaries*, as well as *W! The Musical*. She was the Production Stage Manager for *Bark! the Musical* at CCPA. 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. Kelly is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in Theatre and will stage manage Seanachai Theatre's *A Whistle in the Dark* opening at Victory Gardens in March.

Dorian Hadley (Dramaturg) Dorian is pleased to present the Prologue to *Love's Labours Lost*, as she did earlier in the season for *Faust*. She is the dramaturg and literary manager at Organic Theater Company and recent productions she has dramaturged 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 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

Jeff Christian (Director, Artistic Director) leads the company into his fourth 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* for the company. He is directing *A Whistle in the Dark* for Seanachai Theatre Company – opening in March at Victory Gardens – and directed James Krag's touring one-man show, *According to Mark*. 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 earned a BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin.

Mara Polster^r (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.