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### THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

*the world in words*

*Still to come during our 15<sup>th</sup> Season:*

**THE RIVALS** BY RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN February 27-28, 2010

**ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA** April 24\*-25, 2010

#### *Performances:*

*Saturdays at 10:00AM at The Newberry Library, Chicago*  
*Saturdays at 2:00PM at St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilmette*  
*Sundays at 2:00PM at The Highland Park Public Library*

*\* April 24 performance at Wilmette Public Library*

## **SHAKESPEARE PROJECT NEWS**

### **The Shakespeare Project and Snow City Arts**

Partnering with Snow City Arts ([www.snowcityarts.org](http://www.snowcityarts.org)), The Shakespeare Project brought to life hospitalized children's "erasure poetry". After a performance of The Project's "50 Minute Hamlet" students at Children's Memorial and Stroger Hospitals worked with Snow City Arts' resident poet Eric Elshtain to tell their own stories by choosing select words from Hamlet's famous "to be or not to be" speech, and erasing the rest. The result is some very moving, personal poetry from some very courageous young people. Visit our website at the link below to experience this moving presentation.

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

### **Coming in February...**

## **THE RIVALS**

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Directed by Jeff Christian

With Mrs. Malaprop, restoration playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan coined a new phrase and created one of the most enduring comic figures in English drama. Enjoy all the dexterous word play and plot twists in this comedy of manners as The Shakespeare Project of Chicago takes on *The Rivals*.

February 27, 2010  
The Newberry Library, 10:00AM  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilmette, 2:00PM

February 28, 2010  
Highland Park Public Library, 2:00PM

PRESENTS

# **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

*by William Shakespeare*

Adapted and Directed by  
Jeff Christian

January 23-24, 2010  
The Newberry Library  
St. John's Church (sponsored by  
The Wilmette Public Library )  
The Highland Park Public Library



All actors with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

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

# Artist Biographies



**Leslev Bevan** (Helena, Snout, Cobweb) is happy to return to The Shakespeare Project where she last appeared in *In Medea Res*, *Pericles* and *The Constant Wife*. Favorite Chicago credits include *Othello* (Chicago Shakespeare, Jeff nomination, Best Supporting Actress), the world premieres of *Winesburg, Ohio* and *Pulp* (both with About Face Theatre), *The Berlin Circle* (Steppenwolf), *Red Herring* (Northlight), *The American Plan* (Roadworks), and *Pentecost* (Plan B). Regional credits include *Winesburg, Ohio* (Arden Theatre, Philadelphia and Kansas City Rep), *Pride and Prejudice* (Indiana Rep), and seasons with both the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival and Wayside Theatre, Virginia. Abroad, Leslev

spent two years with Boom Chicago, Amsterdam's foremost improvisational comedy theatre. She is a founding member of Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre which brings the bard to Michigan each summer.



**Melissa Carlson** (Hippolyta, Titania, Quince) In addition to being The Shakespeare Project's Director of Education, Melissa gladly rejoins TSP as an actor where she has also played Marina in *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, Cecily Cardew in the *Importance of Being Earnest*, Joan of Arc and Lady Grey in *Henry VI*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Katharine in *Love's Labours Lost* and Helen of Troy and Covetousness in *Faust*. Other credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Short Shakespeare!* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Antigone* (First Folio), *Berlin '45*, *Pyretown*, *The Action Against Sol Schumann* (Victory Gardens), *How I Learned to Drive*, *All My Sons* (Illinois Theatre Center), *Dylan* (Seanachai Theatre), *Edward II* (Red Hen), *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare on

the Green), *Titus Andronicus*, (Shakespeare's Motley Crew), *Six Degrees of Separation* (Raven Theater), *Tattoo* (Trap Door Theater) and *A Yard of Sun* (Famous Door Theater). She has also worked with Court Theatre, The Lyric Opera, and CollaborAction among others. Television credits include numerous commercials and the CBS series *Early Edition*.



**Jeff Christian** (Director, Oberon/Bottom/Theseus, Artistic Director) leads the company into his eighth season, having adapted and directed *Henry VIII*, the gender-swapped *The Comedy of Errors*, *In Medea Res* (from Euripides' *Medea*), *Henry VI* (from Shakespeare's trilogy), *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*, *As You Like It* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife*. Other directing credits include *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New

American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), the short film *Still Live*, 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 one-man show *According to Mark*. Acting credits with The Project include Richard III, Brutus, Proteus, Mercutio, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver, Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Aegaeus (*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. Other acting credits include work with Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, Madison

Rep, The Women's Project of New York, Chicago Dramatists, Lakeside Shakespeare, New American Theater, Artists' Ensemble Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Bernie Sahlins' production of *Murder in the Cathedral* and Tennessee Williams' recently discovered *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Seanachai ensemble, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, is a creative consultant for Tessera Publishing, and writes and directs live action and animated sequences for the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen. Film work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Express*, *The Poker House*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*. He is currently directing *The Skin of Our Teeth* for The Artistic Home, which opens in February, and will direct The Project's upcoming production of *The Rivals*.



**Sean Cooper** (Demetrius, Starveling, Mustardseed) has been acting in Chicago for over fifteen years. Theatre credits include *The Crowd You're in With* (Goodman Theatre), *These Shining Lives* (Rivendell Theatre) The *Final Toast* (International Mystery Writers Festival), *Wedding Play* (About Face Theatre), *Honus and Me*, *Dandelion Wine* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *Cradle of Man* (Victory Gardens), *Red Herring* (Northlight Theatre), *Mojo* (Mary-Arrchie) *Eurydice*, *Melancholy Play*, *Mad Forest*, *Book of Days* (Piven Theatre), *Merchant of Venice* (Strawdog Theatre), *A Lesson Before Dying* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Lysistrata* (Running With Scissors), *H2O*, and *K*. (The Neo-Futurists), and a slew of shows with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. His film and television work includes *Whirlybird*, *A Pirate's Life*, *The Malcontents*, and a guest starring role on *The Beast*.



**Gerson Dacanav** (Puck, Philostrate, Egeus) Chicago area credits include: Steppenwolf Theater Company (Oshima in *Kafka on the Shore*), Chicago Shakespeare Theater (*The Taming of the Shrew*), First Folio Shakespeare Festival (Ariel in *The Tempest*), New American Theater (Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), SummerNITE, and National Pastime Theater. Other regional credits include four seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as work with Indiana Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, American Players Theatre in Wisconsin, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival, the Phoenix Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre in Massachusetts, Actors' Company of Pennsylvania, the Group Theatre in Seattle, and Seattle Children's Theatre. Gerson holds an MFA in acting from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware.



**Dan Waller** (Lysander, Flute, Peaseblossom) last appeared with the Shakespeare Project in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *As You Like It*. Chicago theatrical credits include: *Ghostwritten* and *Talking Pictures* (Goodman Theatre), *The Coast of Chicago* (Walkabout/Lookingglass), *To the Green Fields Beyond* and *Our Town* (Writers' Theatre), *MOJO* (Mary-Arrchie), *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* directed by Jeff Christian, (Lakeside Shakespeare), *The Killer Angels* (Lifeline Theatre), *The Cider House Rules: Parts I & II* (Famous Door Theatre), *Short Eyes* and *Streamers* (Blindfaith). He is a member of Seanachai Theatre Company where he has appeared onstage with Jeff Christian in *Journey's End* and under Mr. Christian's direction in *A Whistle in the Dark*, *Our Father* and most recently *Mojo Mickybo*. Film credits include: *Barefoot to Jerusalem*, *Repetition*, *Of Boys and Men*, and *Witless Protection*. Television credits include: *Our Little Science Story* for the Starz network, TNT's *Leverage* and A&E's *The Beast*.





**Kara Zediker (Hermia, Snug, Moth)** Kara Zediker's Chicago Theater credits include *Oleanna* at The Ivanhoe, *First is Supper* and *The Golem* at The National Jewish Theater, *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial* at Remains Theater, *A Summer Remembered* and *A Slip of the Tongue* at Steppenwolf, *Never The Sinner* at Victory Gardens, and *The Family Continues* at Bailiwick. London: *A Slip of the Tongue* at The Shaftesbury Theatre of Comedy, Amy March in BBC Radio's broadcast of *Little Women* and *Good Wives*. Seattle: *Quills* at ACT. Selected Film and Television: *The Untouchables*, *Angel Street*, *The Pretender*, *Becker*, *King of Queens*, *CSI*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *Charmed*. Recurring roles: T'Pol on UPN's *Star Trek Enterprise* and Elizabeth Nash on the Fox series "24." Kara

would like to thank Jeff Christian for including her in this wonderful, fun cast!



**Peter Garino** (Associate Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has contributed to over 40 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. This season, he appeared as Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII* and will direct *Antony and Cleopatra* in April. On behalf of The Shakespeare Project, he has recently facilitated his *Sonnet Workshop* and *Page to the Stage Macbeth* for local public and private schools and colleges. Last season, he appeared as Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res* and he directed *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*. Previously, he directed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and appeared as Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mortimer in *The Constant Wife*, Rev. Manders in *Ghosts*, multiple roles in *Henry V*, Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*, the title role in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust*, Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* and Duncan in *Macbeth*. Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, he has directed readings of *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his own adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. He 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. Peter is a member of Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.

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*Running Time: Approximately 2 hours including intermission*

*A discussion of the play will follow this performance.*

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



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

THESEUS, DUKE OF ATHENS .....	Jeff Christian
HIPPOLYTA, QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS .....	Melissa Carlson
PHILOSTRATE, MASTER OF REVELS TO THESEUS.....	Gerson Dacanay
LYSANDER .....	Dan Waller
DEMETRIUS.....	Sean Cooper
HERMIA.....	Kara Zediker
EGEUS, FATHER TO HERMIA .....	Gerson Dacanay
HELENA .....	Lesley Bevan
QUINCE .....	Melissa Carlson
SNUG .....	Kara Zediker
BOTTOM .....	Jeff Christian
FLUTE.....	Dan Waller
SNOUT.....	Lesley Bevan
STARVELING .....	Sean Cooper
OBERON.....	Jeff Christian
TITANIA .....	Melissa Carlson
PUCK.....	Gerson Dacanay
PEASEBLOSSOM .....	Dan Waller
COBWEB .....	Lesley Bevan
MOTH.....	Kara Zediker
MUSTARDSEED .....	Sean Cooper

