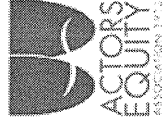


The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words
presents

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

*Directed by
Mary Ringstad*



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

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

Much ADO About Nothing

April 21 & 22, 2007

The Newberry Library

The Wilmette Public Library

The Highland Park Public Library

About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago was founded by 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.

Parents and Educators

introduce your students to the genius of Shakespeare...

all in on class period!

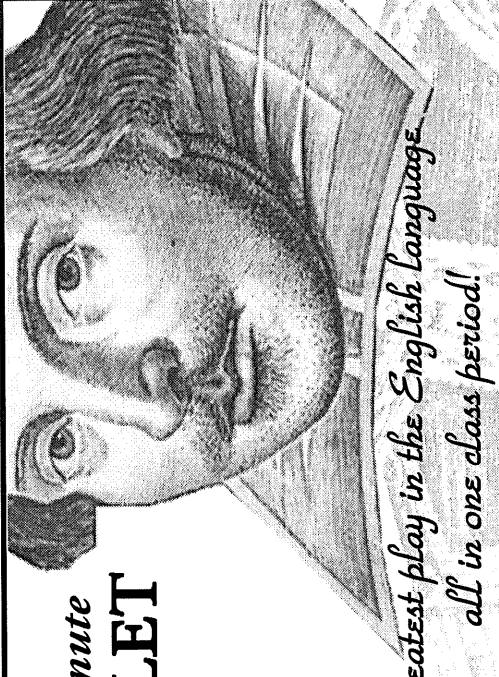
The 50-Minute Project

Engage, enthral and empower students with

50 Minute versions of William Shakespeare's masterworks.

50-Minute HAMLET

*the poetry
the pathos
the power*



*the greatest play in the English language
all in one class period!*

DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE,
FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE.

50-Minute Macbeth

SHAKESPEARE'S WORDPLAY, WARFARE AND WITCHCRAFT...
BOILED DOWN TO 50 MINUTES.

To book performances, contact:

Laura St. John,
Director of Education
773/334-TSPI

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
the world in words

Thank You to our Benefactors!

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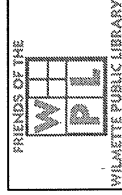
Sarah & Allen Arnett
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Masters of the Revels
(\$100 - \$249)

Janet and Jack Christian
Edward R. Cox

Four Corners Tavern Group

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



Masters of the Revels (cont'd)

Rhita Lippitz
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Arlene Polster & Ralph Moore
Marc Aaron Polster
Ruth S. Polster
Leonard & Elizabeth Ringstad
Mary Ringstad

Mette and David Shayne
Herbert Siegel
Thomas and Felicity Skidmore
Richard & Mary Woods

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

Dr. Murray Berkowitz
Joseph A. Gagliano
Jean A. Haley
Dr. & Mrs. Hanlon
Jeanne Hawy
Jim & Mary Lunz Houston, PhD.
Laura Polster Jolley
In Loving Memory of
Samuel E. LaMacchia
Judith P. L'Amoureux
Joan & Donald Miller

Anne M. Poutinen
Julian & Lou Ann Schlachner
Mette and David Shayne
Dr. & Mrs. Harry L. Sheehy
Joan C. Spatafora
Robert G. Stift
Elizabeth Van Ness
Peter & Patricia Van Pelt
Professor Oscar Walchirk
Julie & Joseph Zuercher

Beloved Groundlings (\$10 - \$49)

Judith Alexander
A.J. Arendt
Ellen J. Bennett
Judy Blue
Paul R. Burkhardt

Beloved Groundlings (cont'd)

Alicia Burns
Royal Buscombe
Jean A. Clough
Elizabeth & Leeber Cohen
Lawrence & Kimberly Cozzi
Phyllis Feuerstein
James B. Fritts
Ronni & James Graff
Sharon Houtkamp
Annette B. Jacobson
Jannie Jefferson
Richard F. Johnson
Steven A. Kailes
Mary Kaye
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Klawans

Marcia Levy
Marlene Arbetter Mitchell
Annie Moldafsky
Rose A. Nikodem
Dawn & John Palmer
Joan and Charles Plock
Eleanor J. Reiter
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Norma Shaffer
Richard Shavzin
Melissa F. Sherman
Mary L. Smith
D.C. & M. Stenerson
Marjorie Stevenson
Carol Westmorland
Diane Willet

Yeomen of the Guard The Brownstone Tavern

Jeff Christian
Ketel One
The Newberry Library
Swedish Covenant Hospital
Laura St. John
Marlon St. John
David Skidmore
Kori Skidmore
Joseph Patrick Sweeney
Christopher Walz
Christopher Wilson
James P. Wilson
Michael Aaron Wilson
Nita Lee Wilson

The Shakespeare Project is partially supported by the following:

The Players

in order of appearance

Leonato _____ Edward James Morgan
Balthasar _____ Brad Harbaugh
Beatrice _____ Melissa Carlson
Hero _____ Katie Jeep
Don Pedro _____ Peter Garino^f
Benedick _____ Dan Rodden
Don John _____ Fredric Stone^f
Claudio _____ Sean Cooper
Conrade _____ Mark McCarthy
Borachio _____ Will Clinger
Antonio _____ Gary Brichetto
Margaret _____ Deborah Clifton
Ursula _____ Catherine Glynn
Dogberry _____ John Kishline
Verges _____ Brad Harbaugh
First Watchman _____ Deborah Clifton
Second Watchman _____ Catherine Glynn
Friar Francis _____ Mark McCarthy
Sexton _____ Fredric Stone^f

The action takes place in Messina.

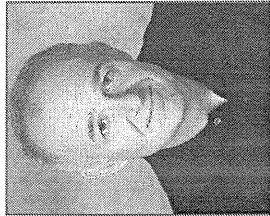
There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Please stay for a post-show discussion.

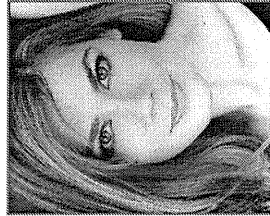
^fDenotes Founding Members of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

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

This Month's Artists



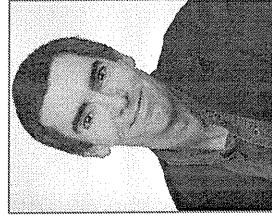
Gary Brichetto (Antonio) is happy to be working once again with The Shakespeare Project, having performed previously as Vincentio and other roles in *The Taming of the Shrew*. He has appeared in several Chicago theatre productions including *Glengarry Glen Ross* at Steppenwolf Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet* 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*.



Melissa Carlson (Beatrice) happily rejoins The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where she has also been seen playing Katharine in *Love's Labours Lost* and Helen of Troy and Covetousness in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Faust*. Her other 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*.



Deborah Clifton (Margaret, 1st Watch) Made her TSP debut as Nicole in *The Parvenu*, appeared in *A Woman of No Importance* and earlier this season was Mrs. Culver in *The Constant Wife*. She was a Theatre X company member for years and years, acting, writing and directing plays and won an OBIE somewhere back there. She's performed at various theatres in Milwaukee and Madison and in Chicago at the Goodman (understudy for *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*) and The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*King John*) and with Aspect Theater (*Medea*). She spends her summers in Wisconsin, cooking and serving lunches at her restaurant, The Monches Mill House Tea Room.



Will Clinger (Borachio) This is Will's fifth appearance with the Shakespeare Project. He's been acting on Chicago stages since 1982, most recently as Will Rice in *Two for the Show* with Theater Wit and Jake in *Stones in His Pockets* at Apple Tree Theatre. Prior to that he was Elbow in Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's *Measure for Measure* and Leopold Bloom in Irish Repertory's world premiere of *A Dublin Bloom*, a stage adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Other Chicago credits include *Eric LaRue* at A Red Orchid Theater, *Fuddy Meers* at Apple Tree Theatre, *How I Learned to Drive* at the Illinois Theater Center, *Hamlet! The Musical* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the world premiere of John Guare's *Moon Under Miami* at Remains Theater. Will has spent two summers with the Peninsula Players

Announcing our

13TH SEASON

50-Minute Macbeth

from William Shakespeare

Adapted and directed by Mara Polster

September 29, 2007

The Newberry Library, 10:00 am

The Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 pm

September 30, 2006

The Highland Park Public Library, 2:00 pm

HENRY VI

from all three parts of William Shakespeare's Henry VI

Adapted and directed by Jeff Christian

October 27, 2007

The Newberry Library, 10:00 am

The Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 pm

October 28, 2007

The Highland Park Public Library, 2:00 pm

The Importance of Being Ernest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Peter Garino

February 16, 2008

The Newberry Library, 10:00 am

The Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 pm

February 17, 2008

The Highland Park Public Library, 2:00 pm

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Jeff Christian

April 26, 2008

The Newberry Library, 10:00 am

The Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 pm

April 27, 2008

The Highland Park Public Library, 2:00 pm

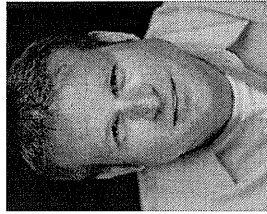
Always FREE. No Reservations Required. 773.334.1351

This Month's Artists

Jeff Christian (Artistic Director) leads the company into his fifth 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* and *Love's Labours Lost* for the company. Other directing credits include *A Whistle in the Dark* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lakeside Shakespeare), the national touring production of the interactive comedy *Sister Bernice's Bingo Bash*, both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeyman; 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) -- and will direct S.N. Behrman's *Biography* for The Artistic Home (on whose Advisory Board he serves) in the fall. Acting credits with TSP 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*, appeared in Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins* and recently completed work on the thriller, *Witches' Night*. He earned a BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin.

Mara Polster⁴ (Founder and Executive Director) started The Shakespeare Project of Chicago in May, 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 including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and most recently, her own adaptation *50 Minute Macbeth*. This production, featuring Nathan M. Hosner, James Krag and Laura St. John will have its in-school premiere next week and will kick off the 2007-08 Season in September. Prior to her life with The Shakespeare Project, Mara acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and across the country. She is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis, is married to Founding Member, Chris Wilson, and has two brilliant (and beautiful) sons, Michael and Nathan. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson and continues in memory of Board Member, Chuck Lippitz.



This Month's Artists

in Door County, Wisconsin, where he appeared in six shows. He is an alumnus of The Second City National Touring Co. and one third of The Famous Brothers bluegrass band.



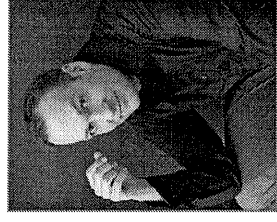
Sean Cooper (Claudio) has appeared in *Dandelion Wine* (Chicago Children's Theatre) *Cradle of Man* (Victory Gardens), *Red Herring* (Northlight Theatre), *Mojo* (Mary-Arrchie) *Eurydice*, *Melancholy Play*, *Mad Forest*, *Book of Days* (Piven Theatre), *Merchant of Venice* (Strawdog Theatre), *A Lesson Before Dying* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Lysistrata* (Running With Scissors), *H2O*, and *K*. (The Neo-Futurists). Other companies he has worked with include Terrapin Theatre, Raven Theatre, and Pegasus Players among others. Upcoming this summer he will appear in *Honus and Me* with Chicago Children's Theatre.



Peter Garino⁵ (Don Pedro) is a founding member of TSP and has contributed to over 40 TSP productions as an actor and director. Most recently he appeared as Mortimer in *The Constant Wife* and in multiple roles in *Henry V*. Last season, he directed his adaptation of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Songs, *My Name Is Will* in addition to appearing as Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Other recent roles for TSP include 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 for TSP, Peter 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 *The Rape of Lucrece*. In May, he will direct a staged reading of Chicago playwright Leigh Johnson's new play, *Lefties* at the Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. Next year, he will direct TSP's reading of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



Catherine Glynn (Ursula, 2nd Watch) is delighted to be making her debut with the Shakespeare Project as Ursula in *Much Ado*. Her last big role was playing Haley in *Bad Dates* out at NAT in Rockford. Other notable work includes playing Adriana, Titania and Lady Capulet at Riverside Shakespeare Festival, working with Tadashi Suzuki on *Oedipus Rex* in Toga Mura, Japan, and Adrian Hall on his world premiere of *All the King's Men*. She has her MFA from the PTTP at the University of Delaware, and is a proud member of AEA. Many thanks to Jeremy and the wild ones for their endless love and pooches.



Brad Harbaugh (Balthasar, Verges) is appreciative to be making his Shakespeare Project debut. He was recently seen in Chicago Actors Workshop's production of *Bread and Salt*, a collection of Carl Sandburg's *Chicago Poems*, and as Bob Cratchit in Provision Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. Brad was Jeff nominated for his turn as Austin in the Hypocrites' production of *True West*. He sends his love and thanks to his wife Julie Ganey and their daughter Dorothy.

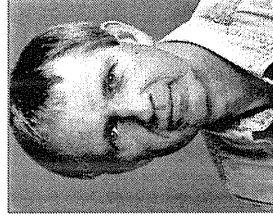
A discussion of the play will follow this Performance!

*You are all welcome.
Please stay, meet the cast,
and share your ideas and questions.*

This Month's Artists



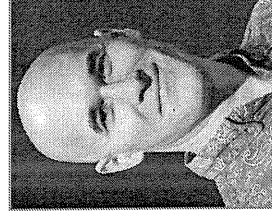
Katie Jeep (Hero) is pleased to be working with The Shakespeare Project for the first time! She most recently played Laurie in *Oklahoma!* at American Theater Company. Chicago credits include: *A Christmas Carol* with Goodman Theatre; *Lady Madeline* with Steppenwolf Theatre; *Ruthless! the Musical* with Noble Fool Theatricals; *Queen Lucia* with Lifeline Theatre (Jeff Citation nomination); NEA touring production of *Romeo and Juliet* with Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Psyche* and *Cirrus* with New Theater Collective; *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging* at the Griffin Theatre (Jeff Citation, Best Ensemble); *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *South Pacific* at the Metropolitan Performing Arts Centre and work with Victory Gardens Theater, Emerald City Theatre, Healthworks Theatre, and New Tuners Theatre. She also plays Robin in the upcoming independent film 5-25-77. Katie is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University and Webber Douglas Academy in London.



John Kishline (Dogberry) is pleased to join The Shakespeare Project for his fifth production, having done *King Lear*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Parvenu*, and *Henry IV*. John played the Irish father from hell in Seanachai's production of *A Whistle in the Dark* last year at Victory Gardens because Jeff Christian directed it. Kish was a founding member of Theatre X, performing much in Europe, Japan and 28 of these United States and winning an OBIE along the way. He's done about 170 plays with most of the Milwaukee theatres and written 10 or so and is married to Deborah Clifton who's playing Margaret, the tart.



Mark McCarthy (Conrade, Friar Francis) is an actor, director, writer, stage combat choreographer, and theatre instructor with nationwide credits. He's acted at Portland Center Stage, Denver Center Theatre Company, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame, and Chicago's Mercury Theatre. He's written various plays and screenplays. Several monologues from his play *Occupational Hazards* were published by Smith and Kraus in their collection *Audition Arsenal*. His voice is on TV and radio commercials for McDonalds, Culligan Water, Peerless Faucets, and Bayer Crop Science. He's played hapless people in several cheesy TV movies and indy films. He lives in Chicago with his wife, actress Hollis McCarthy

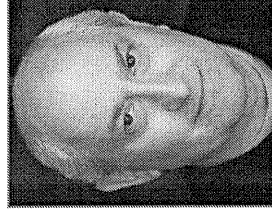


Edward James Morgan (Leonato) is pleased to join the Chicago Shakespeare Project. His previous outings with the Bard include shows at The Shakespeare Theatre in D. C. and seasons with several Shakespeare Festivals. As a director this season, Mr. Morgan staged *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Carroll College, *To Kill a Mockingbird* for Virginia Stage Company, *Arms & the Man* at UVA and *Last of the Boys* and for Next Act Theatre. He was previously Associate Artistic Director at Milwaukee Rep and a winner of the Drama League of New York's *Director's Project*. In September, he'll help *Cirque de Soleil* hold auditions in Chicago.

This Month's Artists



Dan Rodden (Benedick) This play marks Dan's tenth production with TSP and, yet, he comes back for more. Other TSP credits: *Henry V*, *My Name is Will*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Henry IV*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Parvenu*, *Macbeth*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. 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.



Fredric Stone^f (Don John, Sexton) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project (of which he is a Founding Member), having last been seen in *Love's Labours Lost*, *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 Joli* (Victory Gardens), *Isn't it Romantic* (Ivanhoe), and 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.



Mary Ringstad^f (Director) Most recently appeared in *My Name is Will*, the final play of our 2005-06 season. 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 Lady Jane Hunstanton in *A Women of No Importance*, Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts*, 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*, Rosiland in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *Henry VI*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Prince Edward in *Edward II*, Witch & Gentlewoman in *Macbeth*, 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.