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Diane Willet



Mary Ringstad (First Merchant/Second Merchant) Previously for The Shakespeare Project, Mary directed *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *Love's Labor's Lost* and assistant directed *King Lear*. Former roles include Phebe in *As You Like It*, Lady Jane Hunstanton in *A Women of No Importance*, Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts*, Anna in the premiere production and theatrical readings 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*, Rosilind in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *I- 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 Founding Member, Mary also serves on the Board of Directors of The Shakespeare Project.



Loretta Rezos (Angela) Loretta is proudly making her Shakespeare Project debut. Most recently, Loretta was a guest artist for Anne Bogart's MFA Directing class at Columbia University in New York. She is a former ensemble member of Strawdog Theatre (*Julius Caesar*, *Detective Story*, *Impossible Marriage*) and has also performed with Appletree Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Greasy Joan & Co., and About Face Theatre. Loretta has also worked extensively with the American Musical Theatre of San Jose (*Chess*, *No, No Nanette*, *Grand Hotel*) and Theatreworks (*Josephine*). Regional theatre: Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Fort Worth Shakespeare in the Park, and Lakeside Shakespeare of Michigan. Film and TV: *Lipstick Jungle*, *Watch*, *The Distance*.



Dan Rodden (Luciano) is pleased to make this his twelfth production with TSP. Other TSP credits: *Henry VI*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *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*. Most recently he had the good fortune to guest artist at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*. Other recent credits include *Marrying Terry* with the Nightingale Group and Felix in *The Odd Couple* at Drury Lane Oakbrook. Other credits: Oak Park Festival Theatre, New American Theater, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, The Aardvark, Apple Tree Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the IO Chicago. Regionally: Texas Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Cidermill Playhouse, and Beechwood Theatre Company. He is excited to share the stage with his lovely wife, actress Gail Rastorfer.





Tiffany Scott (Officer) returns to The Shakespeare Project, after having appeared in *As You Like It* and *In Medea Res*. Chicago credits include Goodman (*Christmas Carol*, *Finding the Sun*), Chicago Shakespeare (*Two Noble Kinsmen* – Jeff Award nomination, Supporting Actress), Provision (*Beast on the Moon* – Jeff Award nomination, Principal Actress), Apple Tree (*M Butterfly*, *Kindertransport*), TimeLine (*Hauptmann*) and Lifeline (*Jane Eyre*). Regional credits include Berkeley Rep, McCarter, Seattle Rep and the Illinois Shakespeare and Utah Shakespearean Festivals. Tiffany is excited to be returning this spring for a second season at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin.



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 Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res* and directed *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. Last season, he directed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and appeared as Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*. Previously for The Shakespeare Project he has appeared as 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. 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.

COMING IN APRIL...

Richard III

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Charley Sherman

April 25, 2009
The Newberry Library, 10:00 am
The Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 pm

April 26, 2009
The Highland Park Public Library, 2:00 pm

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

**THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

The Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare

Directed by
Jeff Christian

February 14-15, 2009
The Newberry Library
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.

Artist Biographies



Jeff Christian (Director, Artistic Director) leads the company into his seventh season, having adapted and directed *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* 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, Oliver, Amiens, Richard of Gloucester in *Henry VI*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, Aegeus in *In Medea Res* 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*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*. He earned a BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin, and is currently acting in and directing Seanachai Theatre Company's Monday night production of *Our Father* (www.seanachai.org).



Deborah Clifton (Aega) Deborah spent decades in experimental theatre, working in Europe, Japan and across our country. This made her turn to Shakespeare, where she has found much of her work since then. This is her 5th production with The Shakespeare Project and she thanks Jeff Christian for a long draught of the Bard.



Mitchell Fain (A Courtesan) was born in Providence, Rhode Island but moved to Chicago at 25 to grow up. Since being here, he has danced naked at Dance Chicago, played three dead gay poets, a Shakespearean king, joined a circus, performed the words of James Joyce and Anne Frank and David Sedaris, played a dying Dalmatian, a petulant dictator and most importantly...a killer cheerleader named Pepper. He has worked with many wonderful theater companies and extraordinary people. He is an artistic associate of Chicago's Midnight Circus...where he flips, flops and flies...and directs sometimes too. He spent three years as the head counselor at Circus Smirkus; the world's largest touring youth circus. Most recently he spent

four months doing improv/sketch comedy for the famed Second City as a member of the cast on the lovely Norwegian Jade...visiting every country on the Mediterranean Sea...plus England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway. Up next, he will continue his touring with The Second City -- this time in South America and Mexico. Watch for him on episode #11 and #12 of the Patrick Swayze rogue cop show *The Beast*.



Katie Jeep (Dromia of Ephesus) Katie Jeep is thrilled to be working with The Shakespeare Project for the second time! She's also participated as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Most recently she played Belle in *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman Theatre. Other Chicago credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* at Oak Park Festival Theatre, *Oklahoma!* at American Theater Company, *Ruthless! The Musical* at Noble Fool Theatricals, *Lady Madeline* at Steppenwolf Theatre, *Queen Lucia* at Lifeline Theatre, NEA touring production of *Romeo and Juliet* with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *Citrus* and *Psyche* with New Theater Collective, *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging* at the Griffin Theatre, *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *South Pacific* at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre and work with Writers' Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Emerald City Theatre, and Provision Theater. Also, look to see her play Robin in the upcoming independent film '77. Katie is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University and Webber Douglas Academy in London.



Linda Kimbrough (Duchess of Ephesus/Pinch) has worked for 35 years in many Chicago theatres - large and small. She last appeared locally as Nora in *Better Late* at Northlight Theatre, which then travelled to the Galway Arts Festival in Galway, Ireland. She then played Dottie in *Noises Off* at the Cleveland Play House and the Maltz Jupiter Theater in Jupiter, Florida. She is glad to be home and delighted to be doing this play.



John Kishline (Abbot) This is John's sixth production working with The Shakespeare Project. He's been Gloucester in *King Lear*, the title guy in *Henry IV* and other blowhards and dimwits designated by Mr. Christian. He's done nine-score plays in a bunch of countries and lots of states and written 10 or 11 of his own. He is also the first death in the upcoming film, *Public Enemies*, which opens in July. Don't be late, as he will be dead before the title hits the screen.



James Krag (Adriano) makes his seventh appearance with The Shakespeare Project, having been seen most recently playing the title role in *Pericles* and Jaques in *As You Like It*. He recently appeared in *Well at the Next Theatre* and *The Trip To Bountiful* at the Goodman. Other recent appearances include *Thyestes* at the Court Theatre, *Court Martial At Fort Devens* at Victory Gardens and *The Best Man* at Remy Bumppo. Jim has also been seen at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Steppenwolf Garage, New American Theatre and The Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, MI. New York credits include the original Broadway production of *Burn This*, *Mill Fire* at the Woman's Project, and *Phedre* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include, *While You Were Sleeping*, *Mercury Rising*, *Prison Break*, *Early Edition*, *ER*, *Ellen*, *Dharma and Greg*, and a recurring role on *Missing Persons*. Jim continues to appear in *According To Mark*, his solo show of the gospel of Mark. For more information, go to www.accordingtomark.org.



Robin Lewis-Bedz (Antiphola of Ephesus) This is Robin's first show with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. She holds a BFA from the University of Detroit-Mercy and an MFA from Ohio University's Professional Training Program. Originally from Michigan, Robin has worked at many theaters there, as well as the Cincinnati Playhouse, the Human Race Theatre, the Huntington Theatre, and the Goodman Theatre. She can also be seen in Jeff Daniel's independent film "Super Sucker."



Brandy McClendon (Dromia of Syracuse) is honored to be working with the good people of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago again. She has performed at many theatres in Chicago and regionally such as Northlight Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Rivendell Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Utah Shakespeare, Dallas Shakespeare, Indiana Repertory, Madison Repertory, Hope Summer Repertory, Cleveland Play House, Kitchen Dog Theatre and Chicago Dramatists. She can be seen this Spring in *The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee* at The Marriott Theatre and finds it most appropriate that she is in *The Comedy of Errors* as she is the mama to 14 month old twins that thankfully look nothing alike.



Gail Rastorfer (Antiphola of Syracuse) This marks Gail's thirteenth production with TSP. Other Shakespeare Project credits include *50 Minute Hamlet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Henry V*, *My Name Is Will*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Faust*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Parvenu*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Twelfth Night*. Other regional and Chicago credits include: *Proof* (Arrow Rock Lyceum), *Comedy of Errors* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Lend Me A Tenor* (Theatre at the Center), *As You Like It* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), *Shear Madness* (Chicago Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (First Folio Shakespeare Festival), *The Rose Tattoo* (Goodman Theatre), and *The Gamester*

(Northlight Theatre). Gail has been living in Chicago for over 10 years with fellow actor and husband, Dan Rodden. She can currently be seen on commercials for Bissell and Jollytime Popcorn.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

The Comedy of Errors

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

AEGEA, a merchant of Syracuse..... Deborah Clifton

SOLINA, Duchess of Ephesus..... Linda Kimbrough

OFFICER Tiffany Scott

FIRST MERCHANT, friend to Antiphola of Syracuse..... Mary Ringstad

ANTIPHOLA OF SYRACUSE..... Gail Rastorfer

DROMIA OF SYRACUSE Brandy McClendon

DROMIA OF EPHEBUS Katie Jeep

ADRIANO, husband to Antiphola of Ephesus James Krag

LUCIANO, his brother Dan Rodden

ANTIPHOLA OF EPHEBUS Robin Lewis-Bedz

ANGELA, a goldsmith Loretta Rezos

SECOND MERCHANT, to whom Angela is a debtor..... Mary Ringstad

A COURTESAN..... Mitchell Fain

PINCH..... Linda Kimbrough

EMILIO, an abbot at Ephesus..... John Kishline

Scene: Ephesus



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