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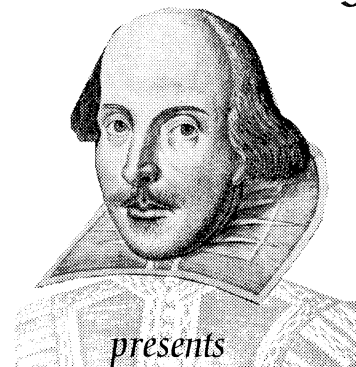
Judy Blue  
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*The Shakespeare Project*



presents

A "Theatrical Reading" of

**Twelfth Night,  
 or what you will**  
 by William Shakespeare

*Directed by Nancy Nickel*

*Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Mara Polster*

*Sound Design: Christopher Walz*

*Music Performed by Michael Butler Murray*

*Directing Support Team: Craig Bryant, Jason Eric Hays,  
 Kathryn Nash, Mara Polster, Dennis Sook and Michelle Sterling.*

**Presented: December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 1997**



Chicago Public Library

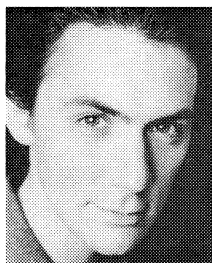


READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!

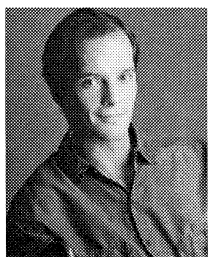
*The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is graciously supported by the  
 Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington  
 Center, The Illinois Arts Council and the voluntary contributions of  
 our audiences. All of the actors and stage managers with *The  
 Shakespeare Project* are members of Actors' Equity Association.



This program is  
 publicly sponsored  
 by a grant from the  
 Illinois Arts Council

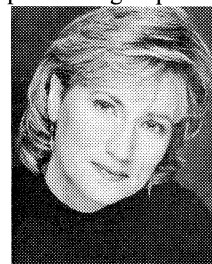


**Kameron Steele** (Valentine, Fabian) recently appeared as Christy Mahon in the Chicago Humanities Festival production of *The Playboy of the Western World*. Off and Off-Off Broadway credits include Ben in *The Dumb Waiter* (Classic Stage Company), Cassio in *Othello* (Horace Mann Theatre), Odysseus in *Penthesilea* (Juliard School/The Salon), and Frank in James Joyce's *Eveline* (Trilogy Theatre). Some regional credits include, Caliban in *The Tempest* (StageWest, MA), Simon in *Hay Fever* (Centennial Theatre Festival, CT) and most recently as Gerald in *An Inspector Calls* (Wayside Theatre, VA). Kameron has also appeared in Japan on stage and television with Tadashi Suzuki's SCOT Company as, Romeo's Ghost in *Juliet*, which toured to the '93 Saratoga International Theatre Festival



**Mark Ulrich** (Malvolio) has been acting with *The Shakespeare Project* since November of 1996, when he first played Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Since then, he has also appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as King Edward in *Richard III*, Prince Hal in *Henry IV, part 2*, young John Talbot in *Henry VI, part 1*, and in *The Life and Death of King John* last January as well as the revival performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* in April of 1997 at the Oakton Community College. He has also performed with Organic/Touchstone Theatre, Next Act Theatre and New American Theatre, among others. Mark is currently at work on his one man show *Don Ho in Hell*.

**Nancy Nickel** (Director) is delighted to make her maiden voyage as a director with this particular group of actors in this particular play, one she performed in years ago and only now is



beginning to get a clue about. Such is life. She has performed in a number of other *The Shakespeare Project* presentations, most notably as Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III*, Margaret in *Henry VI, part 2*, Queen in *Richard II*, Queen Isabella in *Edward II*, Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, and as the Assistant Director for *Henry V* last July. As a member of the Board of Directors, she spearheads *TSP's* Education and Outreach programs. Currently, Nancy is working to complete the development of her one woman show entitled "*Second Best (the comedie and tragedie of Will Shakespeare's wife)*", a

fictionalized exploration into the life experiences of Anne Hathaway. Nancy has performed with many of the theaters in the Chicago area including National Jewish Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, and Shakespeare Repertory in their award-winning production of *The Tale of Cymbeline*. In her other life, she works in an advertising agency but still doesn't understand how the word "impactful" should be used in a sentence.



**Mara Polster** (Artistic Director/Stage Manager) is delighted that *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* has now begun its third year presenting free public performances of the complete works of William Shakespeare. The project began in May of 1995 as a "fire in the belly" and has grown to an object of much pride and promise with little more than a tireless imagination and a love of the words (plus a brilliant Acting Company). Mara has performed on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. With *TSP*, she has played Lady Macbeth, Goneril (*King Lear*), Katherina (*Shrew*), Isabella (*Measure for Measure*), Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*) and Margaret (*3-Henry VI*) and directed *Titus Andronicus*,

*Henry VIII*, *Comedy of Errors* (twice), *Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Julius Caesar*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Othello*, *Loves Labours Lost*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth* (three times), *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Coriolanus*, *Edward II*, *Henry V*, *Richard III* and next month *King Lear*. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* exists as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia (the sower of the seed) and Michael A. Wilson.

# The Shakespeare Project

Presents

## Twelfth Night or what you will

### The Players

(in order of appearance)

Viola, sister to Sebastian.....	Judy Blue
Sebastian, brother to Viola.....	Craig Bryant
Orsino, Duke of Illyria.....	David Skidmore
Curio, a gentleman attending on the Duke.....	Jason Eric Hays
Valentine, a gentleman attending on the Duke.....	Kameron Steele
Sea Captain, friend to Viola.....	Dennis Sook
Sir Toby Belch, uncle to Olivia.....	Robert J. Miller
Maria, Olivia's gentlewoman.....	Rengin Altay
Sir Andrew Aguecheek.....	Lance Retallick
Feste, a clown - servant to Olivia.....	Michael Butler Murray
Olivia, a rich countess.....	Connie McGrail
Malvolio, steward to Olivia.....	Mark Ulrich
Antonio, a sea captain, friend to Sebastian.....	Jason Eric Hays
Fabian, servant to Olivia (out of favor).....	Kameron Steele
An Officer.....	Dennis Sook
An Officer.....	David Skidmore
The Priest.....	Dennis Sook

The Scene: A city in Illyria, and the sea-coast near it

There will be one 10 minute intermission

## Director's Notes

O, fellow, come, the song we had last night.  
Mark it, Cesario; it is old and plain:  
The spinsters and the knitters in the sun,  
And the free maids that weave their thread with bones,  
Do use to chant it: it is silly sooth,  
And dallies with the innocence of love.  
Like the old age.

The innocence of love. What a concept for this time we live in. It always seems slightly out of reach to us as to Orsino, something from an age long past. But as Shakespeare reveals scene after scene in this play, and most clearly through the deep, abiding and achingly sweet love of a pair of separated twins, despite our emotional misfires, confused desires, and mistaken intentions, love (and our sometimes pathological desire to track it down) endures and is right here, right now.

Into the topsy-turvy world of Illyria (a world of perhaps "peculiar" enchantment where servants seem to rule the roost and one man's fate may be determined by the color of his stockings), come Viola and later Sebastian, who carry an inner world of enchantment born out of their extraordinary love and deep connection. No wonder people fall in love with them! But Shakespeare, in his wisdom and with great humor, reminds us that the path to love is hardly ever a clear one and at its best is a mystery, for as Feste reflects, "Nothing that is so is so." And the path is not without its disappointments, sometimes brutal ones, for not everyone will be standing with their heart's desire when all is said and done. The play is quite bittersweet in this regard, but to me unsparingly true. There is hope and loss, but above all, the unfailing desire to connect.

What a wonderful holiday message for this old age, winding down as it is and opening up to...?

--Nancy Nickel

## Regarding "The Shakespeare Project of Chicago"



**The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** is an Acting Ensemble made up entirely of members of Actors' Equity Association and dedicated to the exploration of the complete works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists. **TSP Chicago** currently presents monthly "Theatrical Readings" of the complete works of Shakespeare that achieve a clarity usually only accomplished by fully producing the plays. Established as a vehicle to enable Chicago's professional actors to explore great literature while working in the company

of others with like experience and interest levels, these exceptionally skilled performers have previously been seen on the stages of The Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf, Shakespeare Repertory, Northlight Theatre, The Court Theater, and many other great stages in the Chicago area and around the country.

Our 1998 Theatrical Reading Series begins next month with *King Lear*. Performances will be held at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center on Friday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup> ( 7:00 p.m.), at the Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Center on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and at the Berger Park Cultural Center on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> (both at 1:00 p.m.). In January we begin our 1998 Series featuring twelve of the popular favorite plays by William Shakespeare, beginning with *King Lear* and ending with *Hamlet*. All readings are free to the public.

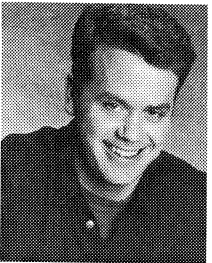
**TSP Chicago** is a nonprofit organization and may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you wish, you may send contributions to **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago**, 2706 North Albany Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. To receive information on performance dates and locations as we push toward the completion of the entire canon -with *Hamlet* in December of 1998- fill out a card as you enter or leave the performance and you will be put on our mailing list. For further information or to book a reading, contact **TSP Chicago** at 773/252-5433. (Phone and Fax). Email address TSPchicago@aol.com. Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.



**Rengin Altay** (Maria) previously appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Joan in *1-Henry VI*, as the Duchesses of York & Gloucester in *Richard II*, Duchess of Salisbury in *Edward III*, and the Duchess of Gloucester in *Edward II*. She has been seen on many of Chicago's many stages, most recently at the Court Theater in *Carmen*; also at The Goodman in *Unjustifiable Acts*, *A Little Night Music*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Iceman Cometh*, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*; Steppenwolf in *Awake and Sing*; Wellington Theater in *Prelude To A Kiss*, and Victory Gardens, Appletree and Wisdom Bridge Theaters. Regional credits include work at Peninsula Players, Milwaukee Rep., The Huntington Theatre in Boston, Pittsburgh's Public, Trinity Rep. in Rhode Island, and Madison Rep.

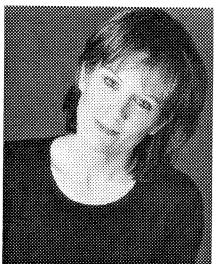
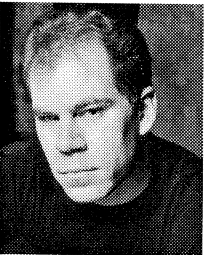


**Judy Blue** (Viola) for TSP: Lady Grey in *3-Henry VI*, Hero in *Much Ado*, Titania in *Midsummer*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*, Portia in *Merchant of Venice* (to name a few). Judy was Viola in Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Twelfth Night*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* at Stage West and Pebe in *As You Like It* at the Dallas Theater Center. In Chicago, roles include Desiree in *A Little Night Music* at The Goodman and Arlene in Apple Tree's *Baby*. She has appeared opposite Timothy Busfield in *Fool For Love* at B Street Theatre in CA and favorite roles include *Evita* and *Piaf* and also Alice and Elizabeth in the world premiers of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*. Other theaters include Baltimore Theatre Project, Movement Theatre Int'l, Henry Street New Federal Theatre in New York.



**Craig Bryant** (Sebastian) most recently appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Earl Rivers, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Murderer and the Duke of Norfolk in *Richard III*. Craig debuted with *TSP* as *Richard II*. Craig has appeared in productions at the Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Repertory, Mayfaire Theatre, and various local stages with the comedy troupe, "Wilde Boys". He has performed regionally at the Hartford Stage Company and The Indiana Repertory Theatre and also toured nationally in John Houseman's "The Acting Company".

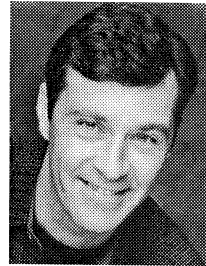
**Jason Eric Hays** (Antonio, Curio) directed *Henry VI, part 3* for *The Shakespeare Project* in October. Jason played both Jack Cade and the Earl of Suffolk in *2-Henry VI* and prior to that he was Henry Bullingbrook in *Richard II*. Other *TSP* credits include the title role in *Macbeth*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Antigonus in *The Winter's Tale*, The Bastard in *King John* and Kent in *Edward II*. Prior to becoming a company member of *The Shakespeare Project*, Jason had the pleasure of performing at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, and also with Chicago's Shakespeare Repertory. Jason is pleased to return to Chicago after directing a full season of Summer-Stock in southern Illinois



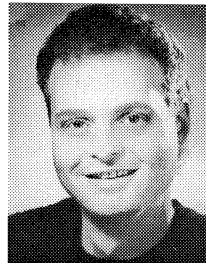
**Connie McGrail** (Olivia) has appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Katharine in *Henry V*, Perdita in *The Winter's Tale* and in varied roles in *Richard III*. She has been seen locally with Northlight Repertory, Illinois Theatre Center, The Cypress Group, Alternative Shakespeare Co., and the Drury Lances, and regionally with Peninsula Players (Door County, MI), and Florida's Asolo Theatre. Connie can currently be seen as Belle in Drury Lane Oakbrook's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*.



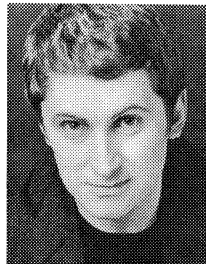
**Robert J. Miller** (Sir Toby Belch) recently debuted with *The Shakespeare Project* as Suffolk in *1-Henry VI*. His Chicago credits include: Freddie in *George M*, Rudolph in *Hello Dolly*, Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma*, all at Drury Lane Oakbrook; Mr. Lundie in *Brigadoon*, Haskins in *Corpse* and Bill in *Run for The Money*, all at Candlelight Dinner Theater. Some of Bob's favorite roles are Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Uncle Chriss in *I Remember Mama*, Chebutekan in *Three Sisters*, Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Sweeny Todd in *Sweeny Todd*. Bob was Sam Sampson in *Oklahoma Rigs* and Thickstick in *Spring Awakening* at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Politic), Blake in *Blake* (Writer'), Michael in *Fur* (Latino Chicago), Bernie in *Nightside* (Victory Gardens) and Joe in *Separation* (Illinois Theatre Center). At year's end he will be Scrooge in



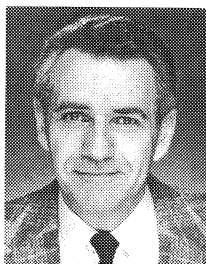
**Michael Butler Murray** (Feste) was last seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His Chicago credits include: *As You Like It* at The Goodman Theatre, The Fool in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* with Sphonge Productions, Ray Bob in *Always patsy Cline*, Piper in *Life is a Dream*. Other credits include Bellhop in *Lend Me a Tenor* and Jaskson in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* all over the place.



**Lance Retallick** (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit with an M.F.A. in acting as a member of the Hilberry Repertory Theatre, performing in over a dozen productions, including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other work in Detroit area theatres includes: *Mass Appeal*, *The Foreigner*, and *A Christmas Carol*, *The Good Times Are Killing Me* and the original production of *The Half-Life of Karen Silkwood*. Recently Lance was seen in *Greater Tuna* at New American Theatre in Rockford.



**David Skidmore** (Orsino) was last seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as Clarence in *Richard III* and prior to that, in the title role of *Henry VI in parts 2& 3* and Hotspur in *Henry IV, part 1*. He recently returned from Milwaukee Chamber Theare, where he appeared in *The Cure at Troy* and in their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Shaw Festival. David has also appeared professionally in such roles at Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys*, Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, and Malcolm in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, as well as Romeo and other roles in *The Shakespeare Project's* ongoing series of staged readings for the Chicago Park District. David grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, received a BA from Brandeis University in Boston and an MFA in Acting from Temple Universit Philadelphia. He thanks his wife Kori for all her support.



**Dennis Sook** (Sea Captain, Officer, Priest) has appeared in many of *TSP's* readings and recently appeared as a poker player in *The Odd Couple* at Candlelight's Forum Theatre. He's glad to be back in Chicago after working in New York for several years, where he appeared in commercials, on the soaps, and Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing* and the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond*. Dennis was also in the Actors' Studio production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. His career began touring with the National Shakespeare Company for two seasons. Dennis earned his Master of Arts degree from the City College of New York.