

recently discovered *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Seanachai and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, teaches directing in Columbia College's Department of Film & Video, 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*, *The Last Rider*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus* and *Good People*. Jeff thanks you for your continued support of The Project.

Announcing the 2012-2013 Theatrical Reading Season

We are proud and very excited to announce our lineup for our 18th season of free theatrical readings at our four venues: the Newberry Library, Chicago; the Niles Public Library, the Wilmette Public Library and the Highland Park Public Library. The season will open the weekend of October 26-28, 2012 with one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, *The Tragedy of Othello, Moor of Venice*. Last produced by The Shakespeare Project in 2001, the reading will be directed by Artistic Director Peter Garino. Our multi-year exploration of Shakespeare's contemporaries continues the weekend of January 18-20, 2013 when we present Thomas Heywood's, *A Woman Killed With Kindness*. Our post-Valentine's Day offering the weekend of February 22-24, 2013 will be Shakespeare's romantic comedy *Twelfth Night*, directed by former Artistic Director Jeff Christian. The season will culminate the weekend of April 19-21, 2013 when we present the apocryphal history, *The Reign of King Edward III*, attributed to Shakespeare and Thomas Kyd.

Performances will be given on Friday evenings at 7:00PM at the Niles Public Library, on Saturdays at 10:00AM at the Newberry Library and 2:00PM at the Wilmette Public Library. The Sunday performance at the Highland Park Public Library is at 2:00PM. An introduction to each play will commence 15 minutes prior to each performance. Each performance is followed by a discussion with the cast and creative team.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago has been providing free performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists to Chicago area audiences since 1995. The Project's presentations place an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and leverage the talents of professional actors, members of Actors' Equity Association. The company's educational programs bring The World in Words to high schools and universities through abbreviated adaptations of Shakespeare's plays and interactive actor-led workshops. Location maps and further information are available at www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org



the world in words

PRESENTS

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

From

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Adapted by Barbara Zahora, Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino

Directed by Barbara Zahora

50-Minute Hamlet

From

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Jeff Christian

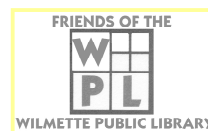
September 12, 2012 – The Newberry Library
September 14, 2012 – The Wilmette Public Library

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

P.O. Box 25126, Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-710-2718

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 17 years. With sincere thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2011-2012 season:

Francois Alouf, Anonymous, Karin Catania, Jeff Christian, Sheldon & Kayla Cohen, Carol Colby, Brooks Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Denham, Anne Eagleton, Hannah Finston, Patrick Gagnon, Barbara S. Glatt, *In memory of Margaret D. Garino*, Virginia Gibbons, Joan Golder, Phillip & Suzanne Gossett, Christopher & Karen Harris, Chris & Suzanne Henn, Elissa L. Issacs, Kathy Janies, Leigh Johnson, James & Paula Kiefer, Kathryn Klawans, Michael Laird, Donald & Sharen Linder, Rhita Lippitz, Vicki & Duane Mellema, George & Gerry Messenger, Marlene Mitchel, Margaret L. Moses, Edward W. Muir, Jr., Daniel Pinkert & Freddie Greenberg, Dawn & John Palmer, Marina C. Phelps, Elizabeth Pollace, Gail Rastorfer, Catherine Regalado, Mary Ringstad, Julian & Lu Ann Schachner, Regina Schwartz & William A. Davis, Eric & Jill Schiller, *In honor of Florence Haggan Sheridan & Megan Gibbons Glasgow*, *In memory of John F. Sherman*, Felicity & Thomas Skidmore, Jack & Joan Spatafora, Melanie J. Spitz, Richard Strier & Camille Bennett, Dick & Mary Woods, Barbara & George Zahora, The Illinois Arts Council, Season of Change Foundation, Swedish Covenant Hospital, The Ogden International School of Chicago, Kraft Foods Foundation, Bamboo Worldwide



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Gail Rastorfer (Gal) has been involved in over 16 productions with The Project. She was last seen with The Project in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Gail returns to Chicago after a five month stint at Cleveland Playhouse acting in *Ten Chimneys* and *In The Next Room: Or The Vibrator Play*. Gail has worked at many Chicago theatres including the Goodman, Northlight, The Chicago Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Chicago

Dramatists and has performed regionally with Indiana Rep, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and Hope Summer Rep. You may have seen her selling cars or steam cleaners on TV. When she's not acting, Gail shares a healthy appreciation for Star Trek and Andy Griffith with her husband Dan Rodden. She is a proud member or Actors Equity Assn. and SAG-AFTRA. www.gailonline.net.

Jeff Christian (adaptor/director, *50-Minute Hamlet*) led the company for eight seasons, having adapted and directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *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 *The Taming of the Shrew*, *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *As You Like It*, Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, Sheridan's *The Rivals*, Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* and Regina M. Schwartz's adaptation of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Other directing credits include *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labours Lost* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), *Kill Me* (WildClaw) 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, Caliban, Oberson/Bottom/Theseus, Ajax, Enobarbus, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver, Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Leicester (*Mary Stuart*), Aegeus (*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, Satan (*Paradise Lost*) and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. Other acting credits include work with The Goodman, 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'

Artist Biographies

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet



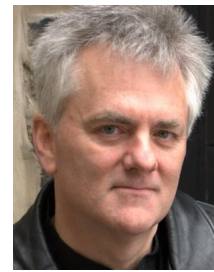
Judy Blue* (Woman) a devoted member of The Project, recently appeared in *I Am Going To Change The World* at Chicago Dramatists where she is an Associate Artist. She also appeared with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in *Romeo & Juliet* (as Lady Capulet), and in *Richard III* and *The Winter's Tale*. Other Chicago credits include: *Talking Pictures*, *Blind Date*, *House and Garden*, *A Little Night Music*, *Frank's Home* (Goodman); Gary (Steppenwolf); *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Collaboraction); Elizabeth Berg's *The Pull of the Moon* (16th Street Theater); *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *An American Daughter* (Organic/ Touchstone); and Chicago Symphony Orchestra's *Welcome Yule!* Regional credits include: *Fool for Love* (B Street, Sacramento); *As You Like It* (Dallas Theater Center); *Merchant of Venice*, *Piaf* (Stage West); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare Dallas); *Tender* (Syzygy Theatre Group, L.A.); and *Evita* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Other credits include productions with New York's Henry St. Theatre, Apple Tree, Theatre Three, Movement Theatre International and Writers' Theatre. Along with film and commercial work, Ms. Blue is a company member of Syzygy Theatre Group in L.A.



Amanda Catania* (Juliet) is very thankful to be working with The Project once again, following last season's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Measure for Measure*. Other recent credits include: *Othello*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Charlotte's Web* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Julius Caesar*, *Catch-22* (Aquila Theatre Company national tour); *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Aquila Theatre Company); and a staged reading of *The Iliad* (Classic Stage Company). Amanda holds a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



Matthew Fahey* (Romeo) is glad that such things as The Shakespeare Project of Chicago exist and appeared this season past season as Hector in *Troilus and Cressida*, Roderigo in *The Duchess of Malfi*, and Henry Percy in *Richard II*. Previously, for The Project, he played Ferdinand in *The Tempest*. Matthew has worked with such theatres as the Court Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare on the Green, The Second City, Free Associates, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Theatre Banshee, Chicago Theatre Works, Steppenwolf for Young Adults, Victory Gardens, ImprovOlympic and Organic Theatre Greenhouse among others. In 2005 he had a featured role in the award winning short film *The Call of Cthulhu*. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.



Peter Garino* (Man) is Artistic Director and a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has contributed to over 50 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. He will direct *Othello*, *The Moor of Venice* to open The Project's 18th theatrical reading season in October. He is co-adaptor with Barbara Zahora and Michelle Shupe of The Project's newest education outreach production, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. This past season, he appeared as Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Delio in *The Duchess of Malfi* and directed and appeared in *Richard II*. Previously for The Project, he directed *The Tempest*, *Measure For Measure* and appeared as Sir Amias Paulet in *Mary Stuart*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*. On behalf of The Shakespeare Project, he has facilitated his *Sonnet Workshop* and *Page to the Stage Macbeth* for local public and private schools and colleges. Other roles includes Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Creon in Jeff Christian's adaptation, *In Medea Res*, 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, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). His directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles* (1996 and 2008), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his own adaptations of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. Peter attended the National Shakespeare Conservatory and 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. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.

Michelle Shupe (Co-Adaptor) is the Dramaturge for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and recently appeared in the title role in The Project's *The Duchess of Malfi*. She was seen in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place here in Chicago. Michelle is co-adaptor of The Project's newest educational outreach offering, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. This past summer, she appeared as Gal in The Project's *50-Minute Hamlet*. Last season, she dramaturged The Project's readings of *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Mary Stuart*. She has acted with The Project in *Measure for Measure* (which she also dramaturged). Michelle made her acting debut with The Project in 2010 in *Antony & Cleopatra*. She previously appeared as Lady Macbeth in The Project's *Page to Stage Macbeth* education outreach program. Michelle has been seen on stage at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, where she appeared as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Elizabeth in *Richard III* and Nerine in *Scapin*. Favorite roles include Dionyza in Mary Zimmerman's *Pericles* at the Shakespeare Theatre/ Goodman, Lady Chatterley in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, for which she was nominated for a Helen Hayes award, and Imogen in *Cymbeline*, for which she was also nominated for a Helen Hayes Award. She has performed in New York at Axis Theater, and in Washington, DC at The Shakespeare Theater, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theater J, TheWashington Shakespeare Company (former ensemble member) and many others.

Barbara Zahora (Co-Adaptor, Director) most recently directed *Troilus & Cressida* for The Project in April and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2011. Associate Artistic Director since 2010 and performing with The Project since 2005, Barbara's favorite roles include Queen Elizabeth I in *Mary Stuart*, Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Henry VI Parts 1, 2, and 3*, Constance Middleton in *The Constant Wife*, and Gal in *50-Minute Hamlet*. As an actor, other Chicago credits include Writers' Theatre, ShawChicago, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, First Folio Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Northlight, Lookingglass and many others. She has also performed at a variety of places regionally and internationally, such as the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, where she was part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. Barbara teaches in Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory as well as being a voiceover artist and a dialect coach. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and she's very grateful for the opportunities The Shakespeare Project provides in working with her favorite playwright and bringing his work to the public.

George Zahora (Sound Designer) has done sound design, in professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. Since early 2011, it has been his pleasure to be The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his work earlier this season in *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Richard II*. He hopes his work on *Troilus and Cressida* will deepen and enrich your experience today.

50-Minute Hamlet



James Krag (Guy) appeared last season as Achilles in *Troilus and Cressida*, Ferdinand in *The Duchess of Malfi* and the Earl of Northumberland in *Richard II*. Previously, he appeared as Alonso in The Project's reading of *The Tempest* and Count D'Aubespine in *Mary Stuart*. Other appearances with The Project include Beelzebub in *Paradise Lost*, Scarus in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Buckingham in *Richard III* and Adriano in the gender-switched *Comedy of Errors*. Other notable Project appearances include Jaques in *As You Like It* and the title role in *Pericles* directed by Mr. Garino. Jim most recently appeared as Carson in *Night and Day* at Remy Bumppo and understudied and appeared as Elyot in *Private Lives* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. At Victory Gardens, he originated the role of EKO in the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. Other Chicago credits include *Well* at the Next Theatre and *The Trip to Bountiful* at the Goodman, *The Best Man* at Remy Bumppo, *Thyestes* at Court Theatre, and *Pacific* at Steppenwolf. New York credits include the original Broadway production of *Burn This*, *Mill Fire* at the Women's Project, and *Phedre* at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include *While You Were Sleeping*, *Mercury Rising*, *Molly*, *Prison Break*, *Early Edition*, *ER*, *Ellen*, *Dharma & Greg* and a recurring role on *Missing Persons*. Jim continues to perform *According to Mark*, his solo show of the Gospel of Mark, directed by Jeff Christian.

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

GIRL (Juliet) Amanda Catania*
 BOY (Romeo) Matthew Fahey*
 MAN Peter Garino*+
 WOMAN Judy Blue*+

Understudies: Brynne Barnard (Woman), Karen Vance (Juliet)

50-Minute Hamlet

GUY James Krag*
 GAL Gail Rastorfer*

* Member, Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding Member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

A discussion will immediately follow the performance

