

Michelle Shupe (Co-Adaptor) most recently served as dramaturge for The Project's theatrical reading of *The Two Gentleman of Verona*. She has dramaturged a number of The Project's readings including: *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Mary Stuart*, *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Taming of the Shrew* to name a few. She has acted with The Project in various projects, including: *50-Minute Hamlet*, The Project's *Page to Stage Macbeth* educational outreach program and the staged readings of *Measure for Measure*, *Antony & Cleopatra* and *The Duchess of Malfi*. She also directed The Project's *Merchant of Venice* earlier this season.

George Zahora (Sound Design/Original Music) has done sound design, in various professional and non-professional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's currently enjoying his fourth season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his sound effects and original music in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Fair Maid of the West*, *Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness* and *Othello*, among others. He sincerely appreciates your support of The Project and the excellent Chicago artists it employs, and hopes that his work on *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet* will add context and depth to your experience today.

Since 1995, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago has dedicated itself to presenting free theatrical readings of William Shakespeare and other classic dramatists to Chicago area audiences. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago also offers education outreach programs in Shakespeare studies to local schools. The company draws its talent from the extraordinary pool of local professional actors, all members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors. The actors receive a stipend for their work, which is well below their regular union pay scale. Actors lend their talents to The Shakespeare Project because they share the Project's mission of making the Shakespeare experience accessible to all, regardless of economic means. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

Adapted from

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

By *William Shakespeare*

Adapted by

Barbara Zahora, Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino

Directed by

Barbara Zahora

19th Season

March 5, 2014

Moraine Valley Community College



Actors are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

GIRL (Juliet)..... Amanda Catania*
 BOY (Romeo)..... Behzad Dabu*
 MAN..... Peter Garino*+
 WOMAN..... Judy Blue*+

Running Time: Approximately fifty minutes.

* Member, Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding Member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



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 (Girl) most recently appeared as Portia with The Project in *The Merchant of Venice*. Previous Shakespeare Project credits include *Taming of the Shrew*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Measure for Measure* and *Juliet* in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. Other recent credits include: *Measure For Measure* (Goodman Theatre), *Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth*, *Failure: A Love Story*, *Othello*, *As You Like It*, *The Rivals* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival) *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.



Behzad Dabu (Boy) Behzad makes his Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut and grew up in Syracuse, NY, made Chicago his home in 2005 and has since been performing on various stages all over town; most recently, in *Blood and Gifts* at Timeline Theatre where he also appeared in *The History Boys* and is an artistic associate. Other credits include, *Disconnect* at Victory Gardens, *Disgraced* at American Theater Company, First Folio's *Twelfth Night*, The Goodman's *Christmas Carol*, *Holes* at AdventureStage, and *We Live Here* at TheatreSeven, where he is an artistic associate. In addition to stage work, he can be seen and heard in various commercial and voice-over spots. Behzad attended Columbia College Chicago, where he now works full-time in addition to acting. He is represented by Paonessa Talent.



Peter Garino (Man, Co-Adaptor) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and is now in his fourth season as Artistic Director. He recently directed Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* for The Project. Earlier this season, he played Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. He will next appear as LaFeu in *All's Well That Ends Well* in April. Peter has contributed to over 60 theatrical readings as an actor and director since 1995. Last season, he directed *The Reign of King Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness* and *Othello*. On-stage appearances with The Project include Man in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*, Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Delio in *The Duchess of Malfi*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*, 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*, 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*. 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. 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). Other directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include *The Tempest*, *Richard II*, *Measure For Measure*, *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 proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and SAG/AFTRA.

Barbara Zahora (Director, Co-Adaptor) is The Project's Associate Artistic Director and has been performing with The Project since 2005. Favorite roles for The Project include Queen Elizabeth in *Mary Stuart*, Margaret in Jeff Christian's adaptation of *Henry VI Parts 1, 2, and 3* and Constance Middleton in *The Constant Wife*. Chicago credits include Writers' Theatre, ShawChicago, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, First Folio Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and Lookingglass Theatre. She has also performed at a variety of places regionally and internationally, including American Players Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Barbara is an adjunct faculty member in Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory, a voiceover artist, a dialect coach, and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.