

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Presents
THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
in

LINCOLN IN LIMBO

A Drama by Robert Bray
Directed by Peter Garino

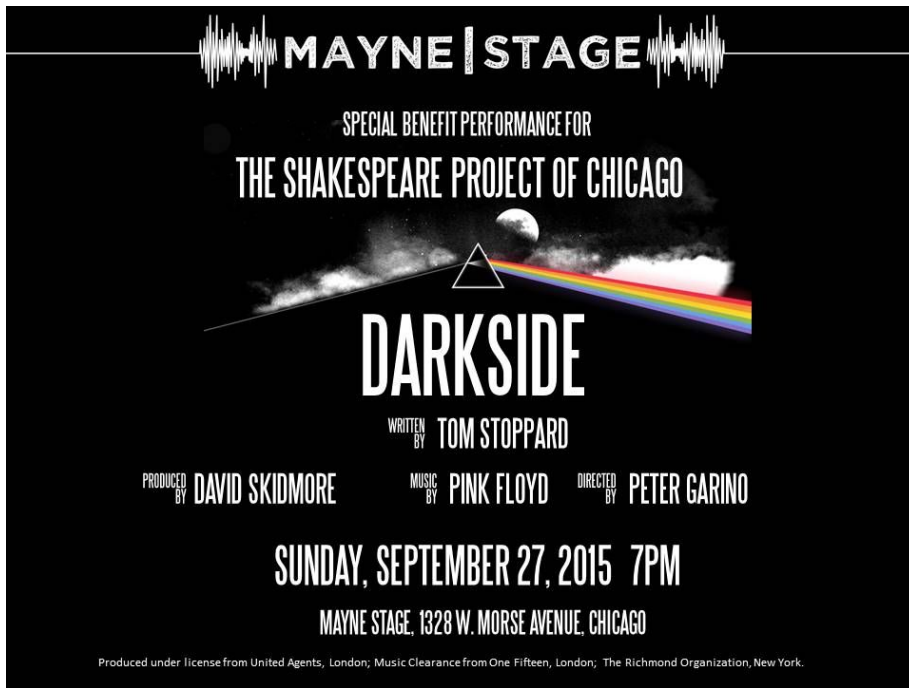
Sound Design: George Zahora

April 4, 2015 - The Newberry Library
April 6, 2015 – Hansen Center, Illinois Wesleyan University



All actors appearing in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-710-2718
facebook.com/shakespeareprojectchicago



We are very excited to announce that we have obtained the rights to produce a single performance of Tom Stoppard's newest play, "Darkside." The proceeds raised from this benefit performance will help fund our education outreach program.

"Darkside" was originally broadcast as a radio play by BBC2 in 2013. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago will stage a live performance of the play with an all-Equity cast at Chicago's Mayne Stage located at 1328 W. Morse Avenue, Chicago on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 7:00PM.

"Darkside" has been described as vintage Stoppard, a philosophical feast that touches on everything from analytical philosophy and ethics to game theory and altruism. The play incorporates music from one of the most important and ground-breaking rock albums of all time, "The Dark Side of the Moon" by Pink Floyd with lyrics by Roger Waters.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive more information about this special benefit performance please send an email to:

darkside@shakespeareprojectchicago.org.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

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|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Peter Garino | Artistic Director |
| Barbara Zahora | Associate Artistic Director |

SPECIAL THANKS

Jonathan Green, Provost and Dean of Faculty, Illinois Wesleyan University

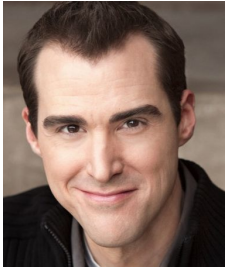
Rachel Bohlmann, Director of Continuing Education and Interim Director of the Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture, The Newberry Library

ABOUT THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO



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 on Shakespeare to local schools. The company draws its talent from the extraordinary pool of local professional actors, all members of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional stage actors. Since 2011, the company has also offered acting internships to local college students each season as part of its commitment to developing the next generation of professional actors. Actors enjoy working with The Shakespeare Project not only because of our artistic emphasis on Shakespeare's text but also because they share The Project's mission of making the Shakespeare experience accessible to all. For the past 20 years we have successfully pursued our mission, having produced over 100 classic plays (every one of Shakespeare's plays at least once, many twice or more), leveraging Chicago's most talented and experienced actors, and inviting our audiences to experience the plays for no admission charge. What began as informal table readings of Shakespeare's plays by AEA actors, who simply shared a love of Shakespeare, has now grown into a unique cultural institution like no other with four venue partners, a loyal and expanding audience base, and a commitment to finding new and innovative ways to make young learners' first experience with Shakespeare positive. In a recent article in the *Chicago Tribune*, Rick Kogan described The Shakespeare Project as "...an essential thread in the cultural fabric of this clime."

Artist Biographies



Chris Amos (Abraham Lincoln) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project. Chicago credits include Remy Bumppo, Northlight, BoHo Theatre, American Theatre Company, Provision, and Chicago Shakespeare. Regional credits include multiple seasons at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Chris holds an MFA in acting from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and BAs in both music and theatre from Oklahoma State University.



Alan Ball (John Wilkes Booth, Francis Carpenter, Jack Kelso, John Hay, William Henry Herndon, Peter Cartwright, Walt Whitman) is based in Chicago, but his work as an actor and singer has taken him to 48 states, Canada, Austria, Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands. He also traveled to Russia for a month of study at the Moscow Art Theatre in conjunction with earning his MFA in Acting from Wayne State University. Some favorite productions include *Conversations with My Father* (Eddie - Free Press Award, Best Actor); *Metamorphoses* (Zeus); *No Way to Treat a Lady* (Morris - Wilde Award, Best Actor in a Musical); and a dozen productions with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, where he is an Artistic Associate, including *Hamlet* (Polonius); *King John* (the Bastard); *Twelfth Night* (Feste - Wilde Award nomination, Best of the Bard - Performance); and the title role in *Tartuffe*.



Melody Betts (Mamaloï, Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley, Voice of Ann Rutledge) is so happy to be a part of this cast and even more excited for the progress of this new theatrical work! Regional Credits include Rain Lady in *Witness Uganda*, BJ in *Smokey Joe's Café*, The Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, Darlene the Church Lady in *The Color Purple*, Sarah's Friend in *Ragtime*, Muzzy Van Hossmere in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Luce in *The Boys from Syracuse*, Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical the Musical*, Asaka in *Once on this Island*, Sister Hubert in *Nunsense*, Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* (TYA), Sylvia in *All Shook Up*, Trix the Aviatrice in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Courtesan/Abbess in *Short Shakes! Comedy of Errors*, Blue Fairy in *Pinocchio*, Tasha in *Motherhood the Musical*, Mother of Mary in *The Nativity*. TV credits include Keisha in *Chicago Code* (FOX); Talia Cook in *Chicago PD* (NBC). MFA (WIU), AEA, AFTRA-SAG, BMI. Follow me @melodyabetts on Twitter, @THEEMelodyB on IG, Like J Melody "Mukwano" Betts on FB. Let's be kinder to one another, daily and randomly...! John 3:18



Michelle Shupe (Carrie Roby Gentry, Cordelia Harvey) is thrilled to be appearing in *Lincoln in Limbo* with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. She has appeared at various theaters throughout the country, including: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman, Washington Shakespeare Company, Studio Theater, Theater J and many others. An active participant with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, she has dramaturged a number of The Project's readings, is a co-adaptor of their educational outreach offering, *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*, and

performed in many staged readings. A budding director, Michelle has directed *What You Will* for Taffety Punk, Washington, DC and *The Merchant of Venice* for The Shakespeare Project.



Kendall Zwillman (Mary Todd Lincoln) is very pleased to be part of *Lincoln in Limbo* and working with The Shakespeare Project again -- particularly in a new work which is one of her great passions. Past credits include *Medea* at the New Jersey Theater Festival, *Marriage of Figaro* at Stageworks, *Othello* at the Actors Cafe and The World Premier of *Freud in Vienna*. Other new works include *Quissisana* and *Bludgeon the Lime* at the Beckman Theatre in NYC. Kendall has also appeared in a series of One Acts on Theatre Row under the umbrella of Playwrights Horizons. She has also performed in Radio Drama with Stage Shadows at the Museum of Radio and Television. Kendall recently worked on a short film *Cicero in Winter* starring Daniel J. Travanti.

Other TV and film credits include *Lipstick Jungle*, *Law and Order*, *Private Parts* and *The Pallbearer*.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. Peter was honored to give a reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the Newberry Library in November 2013 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the address. He recently appeared in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet* at Hofstra University's 66th Annual Shakespeare Festival in Hempstead, NY. He directed *King Lear* for The Project in October. This month, he will direct Thomas Middleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy* for The Project. This coming September, he will direct Tom Stoppard's *Darkside* for The Project. Last season he directed Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* and appeared as Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and as Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. Directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *The Reign of King Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, *Othello*, *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*. On-stage appearances with The Project include Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*, Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, and many others. 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). He 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. Special thanks to Helene and Glen.

Robert Bray (Playwright) is an Abraham Lincoln scholar and playwright, and professor of English emeritus, Illinois Wesleyan University. Books and plays: *Reading with Lincoln*, Southern Illinois University Press, winner of the 2010-11 Illinois State Historical Society's Russell P. Strange Memorial Book Award, and runner-up for the Lincoln Prize, 2011. *Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution*, (with Paul Bushnell). *Rediscoveries*, University of Illinois Press, 1982. *A Reader's Guide to Illinois Literature* (editor-in-chief and contributor). *Peter Cartwright: Legendary Frontier Preacher*. University of Illinois Press, 2005 [Winner of the inaugural Saddlebag Selection of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church for the best book on American Methodism, 2006]; *Lincoln's in Town!* (with Nancy Steele Brokaw), produced in Bloomington IL, Feb., 13-15, 2009, as part of the celebration of the bicentenary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

George Zahora (Sound Design) 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 *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *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 *Lincoln in Limbo* will add context and depth to your experience today.

Barbara Zahora (Associate Artistic Director) has been The Project's Associate Artistic Director since 2010, and has adapted and directed *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for their regular staged reading seasons. She's also collaborated on the adaptation of *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*. Favorite roles with the Project have included 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*. As an actor, Barbara's Chicago credits include ShawChicago, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Goodman Theatre, Northlight, Lookingglass, First Folio Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and Artemisia Theatre, among others. She has also performed at a variety of places regionally and internationally, such as American Players Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, where she was part of the International Artistic Residency in 2004. Barbara teaches at Northwestern's Bienen School of Music and the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She's represented by Paonessa Talent and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

"THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY"

BY THOMAS MIDDLETON

DIRECTED BY PETER GARINO

April 24, 2015: 7:00PM at The Niles Public Library
 April 25, 2015: 10:00AM at The Newberry Library, Chicago
 April 25, 2015: 2:00PM at The Wilmette Public Library
 April 26, 2015: 2:00PM at The Highland Park Public Library
 ADMISSION IS FREE -- SEATING IS LIMITED
 PRE-SHOW INTRODUCTION COMMENCES 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN

CHRIS AMOS
 DEBORAH CLIFTON
 MATTHEW FAHEY
 PATRICK GAGNON
 SCOTT LYNCH-GIDDINGS
 STEVEN LEE JOHNSON
 PATRICK KELLY
 SEAN KELLY
 JOHN KISHLINE
 MADELINE PELL
 MICHAEL PESOLI
 CHRISTOPHER PRENTICE
 MICHELLE SHUPE
 FREDRIC STONE
 CHARLES STRANSKY
 ASHLEY WICKETT

Lincoln in Limbo

(characters, in order of appearance)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Abraham Lincoln | Chris Amos* |
| Mary Todd Lincoln | Kendall Zwillman* |
| John Wilkes Booth | Alan Ball* |
| Mamaloï, a Haitian Priestess | Melody Betts* |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley | Melody Betts* |
| Carrie Roby Gentry | Michelle Shupe* |
| Francis Carpenter | Alan Ball* |
| Jack Kelso | Alan Ball* |
| John Hay | Alan Ball* |
| William Henry Herndon | Alan Ball* |
| Peter Cartwright | Alan Ball* |
| Voice of Elizabeth Rutledge | Melody Betts* |
| Cordelia Harvey | Michelle Shupe* |
| Walt Whitman | Alan Ball* |

Scenes

The Induction: Ford's Theatre

1. Banks of the Ohio
2. Constrain Your Skirts
3. Along the Sangamon
4. Scrubbin' the Ethiopian
5. The Great Guffaw
6. Annie
7. Willie & Will
8. Beautiful Dreamer
9. Down to the Mississippi

Coda: Dancing in the Worst Way

A discussion with the actors and creative staff will follow this performance

* Members of Actors' Equity Association

