

September 2016

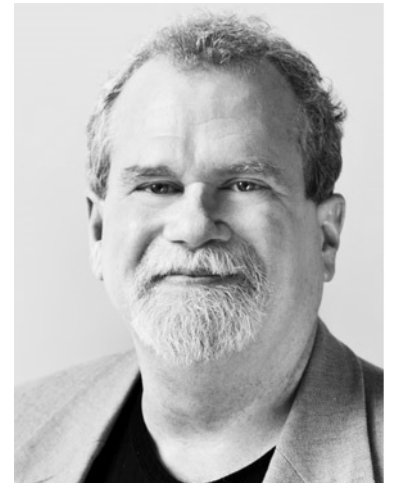
the world in words

Guest Directors Featured in 22nd Season

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is proud to announce the hiring of two guest directors for its 22nd theatrical reading season. J.R. Sullivan will direct Shakespeare's "Henry V" October 14-18, 2016. Mr. Sullivan is the former artistic director of the Pearl Theatre Company in New York City, and previously was artistic director for many years at the New American Theatre in Rockford, Illinois. He served as associate artistic director at the Utah Shakespearean Festival from 2002-2009. Steve Scott is pro-



J.R. Sullivan



Steve Scott

ducer of the Goodman Theatre where he has overseen more than 200 productions and directed many others. He is a member of the Goodman's artistic collective, and is the recipient of five Jeff award nominations. Mr. Scott, a frequent director at many of Chicago's best theatres, will direct The Project's third play of the season with the staging of "The Changeling" by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, February 24-28, 2017. Artistic director Peter Garino will direct Shakespeare's history "King John" January 13-17, 2017. The season will conclude with associate artistic director Barbara Zahora directing Shakespeare's timeless comedy "Love's Labours Lost" May 5-9, 2017.



The Cast of "Cardenio" by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles Mee, presented April 15-19, 2016.

Win a Free Performance of “50-Minute Hamlet”

The Shakespeare Project is sponsoring a letter-writing contest for high school students. Students are to write a letter stating why they would like The Shakespeare Project to present a performance of “50-Minute Hamlet” at their school. Winners will receive a free performance of the play during the Winter/Spring 2017 semester. All letters must be received by November 30, 2016. Winners will be announced in December. Entries can be sent to: “50-Minute Hamlet” Contest, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, P.O. Box 25126, Chicago, IL 60625.



Gail Rastorfer and Christopher Prentice in “50-Minute Hamlet”

Shakespeare Project to Re-Visit Buchanan Chapel

Newberry patrons, please take note: Due to a scheduling conflict at the Newberry Library, The Shakespeare Project will present its theatrical reading of “King John” at Fourth Presbyterian Church’s Buchanan Chapel at 10:00AM on Saturday, January 14, 2017. The chapel, which is wheelchair-accessible, is on the second floor and located at 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. Last season, The Project presented its theatrical reading of “Julius Caesar” at the chapel. The stunning all-white space highlighted by an imposing copper wall provides a dramatic backdrop for our performances. Special thanks to our good friends at Fourth Presbyterian Church for their help and accommodations.



December Revival of Dickens' "Cricket"

Last presented in 2003, The Shakespeare Project will stage a revival of Charles Dickens' classic tale, "The Cricket on the Hearth," adapted and directed by Jeff Christian. A performance will be given on Friday, December 16 at 7:00PM at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles, IL. Pre-registration is required for this performance by calling the Niles Public Library at 847-663-1234. A second performance will be given the following day on Saturday, December 17 at 10:00AM at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago. Don't miss this rarely seen classic tale of love, loss, and reunion during the holiday season.



Jeff Christian

David Bevington to Introduce "Henry V" at Newberry

The Shakespeare Project is delighted to announce that renowned Shakespeare scholar and editor, David Bevington, will give a special introduction to "Henry V" at the Newberry Library performance on Saturday, October 15, 2016. Dr. Bevington's remarks will begin promptly at 9:45AM with the performance immediately following at 10:00AM. Seating is limited, so please arrive early. Dramaturge John Nygro will introduce "Henry V" at all other performance venues. Dr. Bevington's Complete Works of Shakespeare is now available in its 7th edition, published by Pearson.



David Bevington

"My Name Is Will" to Play Morton Grove Public Library

The Shakespeare Project's long-running adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, "My Name Is Will" will be staged on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 2:00PM at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL. "My Name Is Will" is presented by two men and two women and takes the audience on an intricate journey through the many dimensions of the deeply personal and complex relationships underpinning the sonnets. The songs from Shakespeare's plays provide commentary and counterpoint to the themes explored. With an original score by Chris Walz, the non-baroque music (with a decidedly American foundation ranging from pop to blues to bluegrass) presents these songs in a fresh and newly imagined context and is the perfect complement to the Bard's poetry and lyrics.

Thank You to our 2015-2016 Benefactors

The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges all of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 21 years.

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2015-2016 season: John Allen, Catherine C. Alterio, Anonymous, Sarah & Allen Arnett, Ann & Ken Avick, Gary & Mary Ann Berg, Ingrid & Phil Berman, Bruna Bertocci, Christine Brode, Ben Brown, Regina Buccola, Dan Burns, Robert Bray, Belinda Bremner, Rebecca Cameron, Craig Campbell, Michael Carelly, Mary Christel, Carol P. Colby, Helen Crowley, Cecilia Cygnar, Brian & Lydia Davies, Ken Davis, Linda Dienberg, Steve Dixon, Dan Durbin, Anne Eagleton, Suzanne Engle, Marc D. Falkoff, Liz Farris, Darlene Flynn, Betsy Frank, Judith Friedman, Diane Friel, James & Martha Fritts, In Memory of Margaret D. Garino, Maureen Gawlik, Virginia Gibbons, Joan Golder, Scott Gordon, Brian Gore, Anita Gottlieb, Mike & Joan Gumbel, Patrick Haun, Barbara Hudoba, Liz Huyck, Elissa Issacs, Steven Issacson, Carl Jacobson, Leigh Johnson, John Katzberger, Marcia Kazurinsky, Diana King, Neil J. King, Kathryn Klawans, John & Regina Kulczycki, Bill Leonard, Rhita Lippitz, Marcia Levy, Harvey T. Lyon, Carol Lewis, Donald & Sharen Linder, Peter Lukidis, Diane C. Luhmann, Sheila MacManus, David Mahvi, Lynn Mallek, Alan Mansfield, Julia Marchenko, Bill Marcus, Ann Marikas, Michael Maurer, Duane & Vickie Mellema, George & Geraldine Messenger, Annie Moldafsky, Edward Muir, Jr., Bob Murphy, Elise Naccarato-Grosspietsch, Jeffrey Nahan, Dawn & John Palmer, Marsha Parrott-Boyle, Raymond & Jeanette Piesciuk, Daniel Pinkert & Freddi Greenberg, Edward Pinkowski, Elizabeth Pollace, Maria Poulos, Jordan Pritikin, Cynthia Rademacher, Theodora Rand, George Reisch, Harv & Elanor Reiter, Karla Rennhofer, Michael and Joan Restko, Mary Ringstad, John Rohskothen, Mary Ann Rouse, Jay & Lou Ann Schachner, Regina Schwartz, Helen F. Schmierer, David Sibley, Eileen & Hal Sirkin, Vikram Sharma, Hisae Shea, Brian & Melissa Sherman In Memory of John Field Sherman, David Skidmore, Melanie Skidmore, Felicity & Thomas Skidmore, Ernest Sota, Jack & Joan Spatafora, Stephen Spencer & Brenda Fournier, Sara Spitz, Carol Southard, Kurt & Lora Swanson, Ljiljana Brkic Tasic, Hilary Thornton, David Thurm, Linda Tiesse, Ann Tighe, Anastasia Tinari, Elizabeth Van Ness, Deborah Walsh, Bronna Wasserman, Rick Weber, Amy Wickett, Laurie Williams, Lynn Zurowski. The Illinois Arts Council, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Niles Public Library, Kraft Foods, William Wrigley, Jr. Company Foundation, McMaster-Carr.

National Shakespeare Competition

The Newberry Library hosted the Chicago regional finals of the National Shakespeare Competition, an annual event sponsored by the English Speaking Union. Shakespeare Project artistic director, Peter Garino, helped broker an agreement with the Newberry to hold the finals during the evening, so that parents, teachers and friends could see the student actors compete for the chance to represent the Chicago region at the national finals held at New York's Lincoln Center. The event, held on March 1, 2016, was well-



attended and included local and international VIPs. Carlo Zenner (pictured at right with his family and teacher) was selected to move on to the New York finals. Shakespeare Project actors Michele Shupe and Christopher Prentice served as finalist judges. The event was co-hosted by Peter Garino and Jacqueline Thompson who serve as co-chairs of the ESU's Shakespeare committee. The event featured a special introduction by Shakespeare scholar David Bevington. Special thanks to Kathryn Samples from the Newberry Library for her help in bringing the competition finals to Ruggles Hall. The finals were preceded by the Chicago regional competition which was held a week earlier at Roosevelt University. We are pleased to announce that the finals will be held again at the Newberry in the coming year on Wednesday, February 22, 2017. For more information on the National Shakespeare Competition please visit: https://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/

Fall Benefit Tickets Now Available for "The Food of Love"

"The Food of Love" will be the theme for this year's fall benefit for The Shakespeare Project which will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 in Evanston. Festivities will begin at 6:00PM. The evening will feature musical performances from plays presented by The Shakespeare Project over the past seven seasons. A love-inspired menu will be featured. Limited tickets are available for a donation of \$100 per person and can be reserved by emailing benefit@shakespeareprojectchicago.org or calling 773-710-2718 and leaving message with ticket request. Don't miss out on this very special evening.



Barbara Zahora (Simonetta) and Matt Kahler (Melchiorre) in The Project's "Cardenio".

Actor Profile: Christopher Prentice



Christopher Prentice debuted with The Project in 2015 as the title revenger (Vindici) in “The Revenger’s Tragedy” and subsequently appeared in readings of “The Contrast/Saving Grace”, “Julius Caesar” (Mark Antony), and “The Winter’s Tale” (Leontes). He switched gears for Tom Stoppard’s “Darkside” when he served as stage manager and assistant director, and he performed this past spring in “50-Minute Hamlet.”

A native Texan, Chris is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he majored in theatre and played his first Shakespearean roles, 2nd Court Lord and William in “As You Like It” and was a French horn player in the Mustang Band.

Following college, he moved to the Midwest, first interning in Wisconsin at Milwaukee Rep and American Players Theatre before making his way to Chicago in 2001. Chris co-founded Signal Ensemble Theatre, with two friends he met on a production of “Hamlet”. During Signal’s first five years, he served as producing artistic director and acted in many productions including “Much Ado About Nothing”, “Catch-22”, “Waiting for Godot” and many others. He also directed Jeff-nominated productions of “The Weir” and “Old Wicked Songs.”

He spent a season touring Big Sky Country with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, before moving on to Stratford, Ontario, to join the Stratford Festival, North America’s leading classical repertory company. At Stratford, he appeared in over a dozen productions and numerous readings in five years. Since coming home to Chicago in 2014, Prentice returned to the Illinois Shakespeare Festival to play Beatrice in an original practices-inspired “Much Ado About Nothing.” During that summer, he met Peter Garino and Chuck Stransky of the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Chris is grateful for the opportunities afforded by the Shakespeare Project. In Project shows, often actors can stretch their boundaries, take risks, and perform roles they might not be considered for in other productions (for Prentice, Mark Antony comes to mind). Moreover, the words are the thing. With SPC patrons needn’t worry about dazzling directorial flourishes; they only must focus on listening to the extraordinary word strings Shakespeare has given us.

*For more information on Christopher Prentice, visit **christopher-prentice.com**.*

Education Outreach

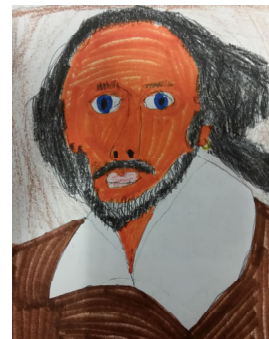
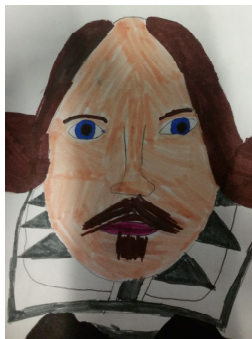
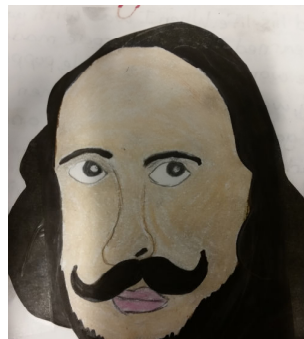
Gail Rastorfer and I had the pleasure recently of conducting a series of Shakespeare workshops for 5th graders at St. Paul of the Cross School in Park Ridge, Illinois. We each facilitated three, one-hour workshops with approximately 20 students in each session. We were immediately impressed with the students' curiosity and knowledge of Shakespeare thanks to their teachers who had done a splendid job of introducing him through videos and preparatory materials. This reaffirmed something I have long believed: that teachers who are passionate about Shakespeare are likely to have students that share their enthusiasm. Taking nothing for granted, Gail and I built our workshop agenda around a series of games and activities to make the experience fun and thought-provoking. Our mission for our education outreach has always been to make students' first experience of Shakespeare positive. Our "coined phrases" game had each student draw a phrase written on a piece of paper from a hat. Each student would share their phrase with the group and discuss its meaning and use it in a sentence. Many did not know that the phrases which they were already familiar with were coined by Shakespeare in his plays. One of their favorites was, "Knock knock, who's there?", the Porter's famous line from Macbeth. Another was "elbow room" which they said they all needed more of. Then, each student got to audition for the big part by reading a famous line and giving it their best after receiving coaching on the character and the situation in the play. So we progressed from a simple phrase, to a few lines and, along the way, the students confidence and interest grew. A few weeks after the workshop, a large envelope arrived in our mailbox with over 100 beautiful hand-written, artfully decorated thank-you notes from the students describing what they learned from the workshop. — Peter Garino, Artistic Director

"I had fun solving a mystery, and learning lines from Shakespeare's plays."

"I wasn't surprised at how many things that gent coin'd. I wisheth we couldst do this ev'ry year."

"Within this wall of flesh, there is a soul that counts thee its creditor for coming to our school to teachest more about Shakespeare."

"I learned that he was an awesome guy!"



A sampling of the artwork from the "thank-you" cards received from 5th graders at St. Paul of the Cross School, Park Ridge, Illinois.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

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The Shakespeare Project
of Chicago is a 501c(3) not-
for-profit organization.

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 productions 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. Actors share their talents with The Shakespeare Project because they support The Project's mission of making the Shakespeare experience accessible to all.

Donate Today to The Shakespeare Project

Thanks to you, our patrons and supporters, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, will soon commence its 22nd Theatrical Reading Season. What began in 1995 as an informal gathering of Equity actors reading Shakespeare's plays aloud to one another is today an integral part of the cultural fabric of six local libraries in Chicago and its suburbs.

Your support has also helped fund our education outreach program in local schools. Our goal of making students' first experience with Shakespeare positive can be seen in the faces of young people at our performances of "50-Minute Hamlet," "50-Minute Romeo & Juliet" and our Shakespeare workshops.

53% of financial support for The Project comes from individuals like you who strongly share our mission of providing free theatrical readings of Shakespeare's plays to all. The balance of our funding comes from our valued library partners, our annual benefit, and ad hoc performance fees. Individual donations average about \$60 annually.

75% of The Project's revenue goes to compensation for our artists. We are proud that, with your financial support, artist compensation has grown from a meager stipend in our early days to what can be said to be a meaningful wage today. Your donation to The Project has two direct and visible benefits: You help produce our programming while helping local artists sustain a living.

In this the year in which we mark the 400th anniversary of the great Bard's passing, we should reflect on a critical question. Will Shakespeare's legacy, the greatest dramatist in the history of the English language, endure? The answer to that question today is by no means certain despite our best intentions. The answer will not come from any of us, but from our children and theirs. We do, however, have an opportunity to influence and shape the outcome we desire. Your support of The Shakespeare Project reaffirms our mission today and will help sustain his timeless words for those tomorrow. - Peter Garino, Artistic Director