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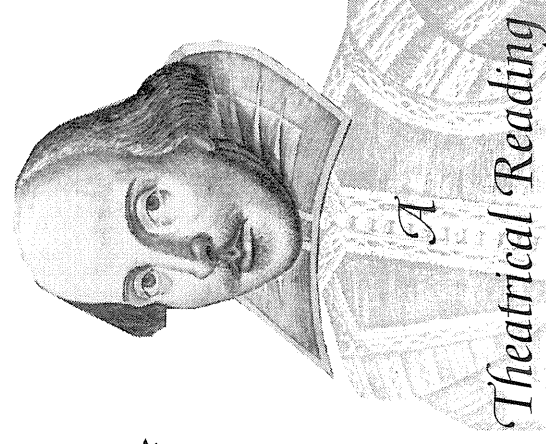
Regarding "The Shakespeare Project of Chicago"

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 1997 Theatrical Reading Series "A History of the English Kings..." has been a source of great pride and excitement for audiences and actors alike. Join us as we take you through the remainder of the Elizabethan history plays in chronological order. Together with our beloved audiences, *The Shakespeare Project* is exploring these fantastic plays while piecing together the puzzle of the European history they represent. All readings are free to the public.

Next month, we continue "The War of the Roses cycle" with *Henry the Sixth, Part 2*, performing at the Berger Park Cultural Center and the Chicago Public Library/The Harold Washington Library Center. Make sure you are on our Mailing List to receive information on performance dates and locations as we push toward the completion of the entire canon --with *Hamlet* in December of 1998-- and our first full production, scheduled for the summer of 1998. *TSP Chicago* is a nonprofit organization and may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you wish, you may send contributions to *The Shakespeare Project*, 2706 North Albany Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. For further information or to book a reading, contact *T.S.P.* at 773/252-5433. (Phone and Fax). Email address TSPchicago@aol.com. Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.

The Shakespeare Project
presents



The
War of the Roses
Cycle
BEGINNING WITH
Henry VI, part I
Directed by Kristan Schmidt

Directing Support Team: Peter Garino, Connie McGrail,
Nancy Nickel, Mara Polster, Mary Ringstad.

"The Shakespeare Project of Chicago" is cosponsored by
Chicago Public Library

CHICAGO
PARK
DISTRICT
COME OUT AND PLAY

&

READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!

All of the actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of professional Actors and Stage Managers. This presentation is sponsored by The Chicago Park District/Berger Park Cultural Art Center and The Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Library Center.

A History of the English Kings

(as represented by Elizabethan dramatists)

This is our eighth play of eleven in our 1997 readings series...

We began with Shakespeare's *King John*, which told us of the son of Henry II and brother of King Richard I (Coeur-de-lion) and his struggles for power with France and within his own family. We saw John succeeded at the end of the play by his son, Henry III, who reigns for 57 years, followed by his son, King Edward I.

We then picked up the story with Christopher Marlowe's characterization of *Edward II*'s stormy reign, which concluded with a promising young prince ascending the throne—King Edward the Third.

The Reign of King Edward the Third, an Apocryphal play, told the story of this King's manhood, in battle to achieve his mother, Isabella's seat in France, and with his own honor. *Edward III* ended with the king's infamous young son, Edward the Black Prince, having proved himself a warrior and the *perfect* heir apparent to the English Throne.

However, as we learn in Shakespeare's *Richard II*, this never came to pass. Instead we heard the story of one king's painful journey to self awareness as we revisited themes of political manipulation, intrigue, familial struggle and true leadership abilities. We witnessed the death of King Richard following his "voluntary" abdication of the throne to his cousin Henry Bullingbrook.

Henry the Fourth, parts 1 & 2 acquainted us with the political disquiet that haunted Henry IV's reign. With the line of legitimacy interrupted, he introduced us to many new questions in our search for the perfect king. We frolicked with the young Prince Hal and Sir John Falstaff, Mistress Quickly, Bardolph, and Poins at the Boar's Head Tavern. In part two we followed the English to war again, and with them weeded through the mire of rumor and truth. Upon the death of Henry IV, we saw Henry the Fifth's ascension to the throne and his rejection of his alternative father-figure, Falstaff.

The Life of Henry the Fifth showed us the triumphant reign of our long awaited perfect king, accented with victories in France and Henry's betrothal to Katherine, the French king's daughter. The play ends with the acquiescent marriage of the two kingdoms.

Now we begin The War of the Roses cycle with the first part of *Henry VI*. Crowned King of England and France at the age of nine months, Henry VI's reign was racked with Civil War and ill-advised misrule. Today's play opens with the funeral of Henry V, two years after the closing events of last month's play.

King John

Henry III

Edward I

Edward II

Edward III

Richard II

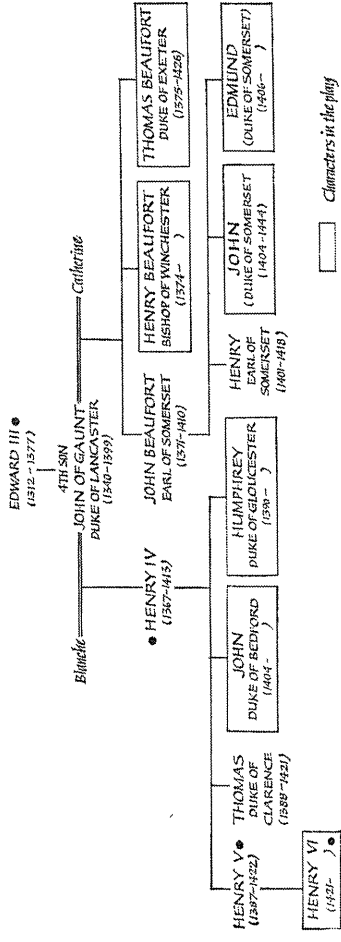
Henry IV
parts 1 & 2

Henry V

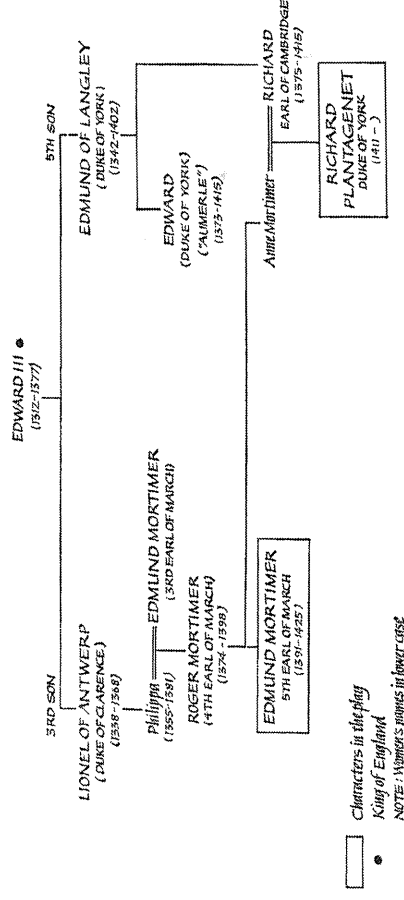
I-Henry VI

HENRY VI PART I

HOUSE OF LANCASTER



HOUSE OF MORTIMER-YORK



Characters in the play
King of England

NOTE: Women's names in lower case



Mark Ulrich (Alonçon, John Talbot) been acting with *The Shakespeare Project* since November of 1996, when he first played Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mark was recently seen as Prince Hal in *Henry IV, part 2*. Mark has also appeared in *The Shakespeare Project* readings of *The Life and Death of King John* in January and 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.

Marcus Vaughn (King Henry VI) last appeared as Bedford and Gower in *Henry V* and prior to that Green and Scroop in *Richard II*, has acted in many readings with *The Shakespeare Project*, and composed and performed the musical accompaniment for *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Marcus received his B.A. in Anthropology and Theatre from The University of Notre Dame in 1993 and continued his acting studies at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Before moving to Chicago he could be seen performing in Las Vegas for a spell. In September he can be seen playing a rather bizarre character in a rather bizarre feature at the Toronto Film Festival.



Mary Ringstad (Margaret, Narrator, *et al*) is pleased to be joining the talents of *The Shakespeare Project* again for this reading *Henry V*, part 1, having recently played Falstaff's page in *Henry IV*, part 2 and Margaret in *Much Ado* at Oakton College. Mary debuted with **TSP** in February as Prince Edward in *Edward the Second*. Although Mary calls Chicago her home, she is really a "road hag" - traveling to wherever the work is. She has performed in theaters all over the country, particularly when she appeared in the national tour of *CATS*. Most recently, she completed a run of *OklaHoma* at Drury Lane Oakbrook. Mary has a MFA in Acting from Ohio University.



Malcol Rothman (Exeter, Mortimer, *et al*) has been part of the Chicago/Midwest theater scene since the glory days of the late seventies. He has appeared at the Court Theatre, Candlelight/Forum, Marriott, Drury Lane (all of 'em), and Guthrie, New American Theatre, National Jewish Theatre and, once at Victory Gardens. Malcol has been seen on TV in *E-Z Streets*, *Early Edition*, *The Untouchables*, *Angel Street*, *Dillinger*; in industrial films; on numerous commercials (he was Harry Caray's dance double); at live industrials and generally around.



Ned Schmidtke (Gloucester) theatrical credits include Broadway, National Tours, Canada's Stratford Shakespeare Festival, as well as appearances at Arena Stage, Long Wharf, Huntington and Michigan Ensemble theatres and in Chicago, the Goodman, Briar Street, Steppenwolf, Northlight, Court, Body Politic, St. Nicholas, Forum, Candlelight, Drury Lane, Shakespeare Repertory, American Blues and Victory Gardens theatres and has twice been nominated for the Joseph Jefferson Award. Ned holds an MFA in theatre directing from Carnegie-Mellon University, taught acting and directing at The Goodman School of Drama and the Theatre School at Depaul University.



David Skidmore (Charles the Dolphin) was last seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as Hotspur in *Henry IV*, part 1. He recently returned from the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, where he appeared in *The Cure at Troy* and in their 15th 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 Malcol 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 University in Philadelphia.



Dennis Sook (Burgandy, Woodville, *et al*) has appeared in many of **TSP's** reading 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.

Kristan Schmidt (Director) is a former member of the Organic Theatre where she helped to develop new works. She earned her BFA in Acting from Webster Conservatory in St. Louis and a Graduate Directing Fellowship from Indiana University. Before moving to Chicago, she directed *Julius Caesar* at Washington University in St. Louis, *Hell is Too...* with Mummer Andada Company in London and *The Little Dictator* with Theatre Du Bilboquet in Brussels, Belgium. While in Chicago she had the pleasure of working in many capacities with Steppenwolf, Famous Door, Next and Live Bait Theaters. Currently, she is the Literary Manager for Great Jones Theater Company.

The Shakespeare Project Presents 1-HENRY VI

THE PLAYERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

CHORUS from <i>HENRY V</i> , NARRATOR.....	MARY RINGSTAD
Duke of Bedford, <i>UNCLE TO THE KING</i>	DAN PAYNE
Duke of Gloucester, <i>UNCLE TO THE KING</i> , AND <i>PROTECTOR</i>	NED SCHMIDTKE
THOMAS BEAUFORD, Duke of EXETER.....	MALCOLM ROTHMAN
HENRY BEAUFORD, Bishop of WINCHESTER.....	GARY HOUSTON
CHARLES, <i>DOLPHIN</i> , AND <i>AFTERWARDS KING OF FRANCE</i>	DAVID SKIDMORE
Duke of ALANCON.....	MARK ULRICH
REIGNIER, <i>Duke of Anjou, and King of Naples</i>	RICHARD HENZEL
BASTARD of ORLEANS.....	TERRY HAMILTON
JOAN la Pucelle, <i>COMMONLY CALLED JOAN OF ARC</i>	RENGIN ALTAY
WOODVILLE, <i>LIEUTENANT OF THE TOWER</i>	DENNIS SOOK
MAYOR of LONDON.....	MARY BECKER
LORD TALBOT.....	ROBERT EUSTACE
Duke of BURGUNDY.....	DENNIS SOOK
COUNTESS of AUVERGNE.....	MARY BECKER
AUVERGNE'S PORTER.....	MALCOLM ROTHMAN
RICHARD PLANTAQUENET.....	RICK CARTER
EARL of Suffolk.....	ROBERT J. MILLER
JOHN BEAUFORD, <i>Earl, afterwards Duke of SOMERSET</i>	ANDREW POWDERMAKER
EARL of WARWICK.....	PETER GARINO
VERNON, <i>of the WHITE ROSE or YORK faction</i>	RICHARD HENZEL
BASSET, <i>of the RED ROSE or LANCASTER faction</i>	DAN PAYNE
A LAWYER.....	MARY RINGSTAD
EDMUND MORTIMER, <i>Earl of MARCH</i>	MALCOLM ROTHMAN
KING HENRY the Sixth.....	MARCUS VAUGHN
GOVERNOR of PARIS.....	DENNIS SOOK
SIR WILLIAM LUCY.....	PETER GARINO
JOHN TALBOT, <i>Lord Talbot's Son</i>	MARK ULRICH
MARGARET, <i>daughter to REIGNIER</i>	MARY RINGSTAD
SHEPHERD, <i>FATHER TO JOAN DE PUCELLE</i>	DAN PAYNE
VARIOUS MESSENGERS, SERVANTS, WARDERS of the TOWER, Papal Legates, Officers, PRISON KEEPERS and ATTENDANTS <i>FRENCH and English</i>	MARY BECKER,
RICK CARTER, TERRY HAMILTON, ROBERT J. MILLER, DAN PAYNE, ANDREW POWDERMAKER	MARY RINGSTAD, MALCOLM ROTHMAN, MARK ULRICH and MARCUS VAUGHN
(INTO A THOUSAND PARTS divide ONE MAN" - CHORUS, <i>HENRY V</i>)	

THE SCENE: ENGLAND AND FRANCE
THERE will be ONE 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Reigin Altay (Joan la Puella) has previously appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* 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 Public, Trinity Rep. in Rhode Island, and Madison Rep.

Mary Becker (Countess of Auvergne) has worked at regional theatres such as Old Log in Excelsior, MN, the Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee, and Off-Broadway at Carnegie Hall Playhouse. For *TSP* Mary has done *Coriolanus* (his mom), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winters Tale*, and Eleanor in *The Life and Death of King John*, playing his mom, Eleanor of Aquitaine. (Having played Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, she developed a serious awe and fondness for the amazing and intriguing dynasty and dynamics, of the English kings ...and queens.) Local credits include work with Equity Library Theatre, Victory Gardens, Northlight and Chicago Dramatists' Workshop.

Rick Carter (Richard Plantagenet) was Orleanse and Nym in *Henry V* for *The Shakespeare Project* last month. In addition to his work with *TSP* he has performed locally for 10 years appearing in Shakespeare Rep's touring *Macbeth* as Macduff, Mr. Darcy in Lifelines original adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, and MacHeath in Bailiwick's *Three Penny Opera*. He also worked with the Commons Theatre where he portrayed Tyler in the original script by M. Nowak and A. Meyer *The Signal Season of Dummy Hoy*, reprising the role off-Broadway at the Hudson Guild Theatre. Rick has also appeared regionally with the Iowa Shakespeare Project as Don Pedro in *Much Ado*, and the title role of *Macbeth*, and with Actor's Repertory as Danny in *Grease*, Young Joe in *Damn Yankees*, and Action in *West Side Story*.

Robert Eustace (Talbot) Made his Chicago debut last month with *The Shakespeare Project*, Robert is a veteran of nearly twenty years in regional theater. Acting primarily in the west, Robert spent four seasons in Santa Maria, CA as a company member at The Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts. He spent five years in Seattle, WA working with several of the fine theaters there. Additionally, Robert spent six years in Denver, CO in the acting company at the Denver Center Theatre. He is also a proud member of the capella, rhythm and blues quintet, The Amazing Larks.

Peter Garino (Warwick, Sir William Lucy) has acted with the company as the Constable of France in *Henry V*, Warwick in *2-Henry IV*, Carlisle in *Richard II*, Salisbury in *Edward III*, Mortimer in *Edward II*, Hubert de Burgh in *King John*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale*, Banquo in *Macbeth*, Titus Lartius in *Coriolanus*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*, and Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice*. He has directed *Taming of the Shrew*, *Pericles* and *2-Henry IV* for *TSP*. Other credits include work with Steppenwolf Theatre, Organic Theatre, Body Politic Ensemble, Equity Library Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Hofstra Shakespeare Festival (1974-97, Illinois Shakespeare Festival (1981-84).



Terry Hamilton (Bastard of Orleanse, *et al*) was last seen as Claudius and The Ghost in Powertap Productions and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's Production of *Hamlet*. He has appeared on Broadway, off-off Broadway, and regional, summer stock and Dinner Theaters throughout the country. Mr. Hamilton has studied with Lee Strasberg and Snonia Moore in New York, and Shakespeare with Peter Forster her in Chicago.

Richard Henzel (Reignier, Vernon) last appeared with *The Shakespeare Project* as Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV, part 2*. He was also John of Gaunt in *Richard II* and Egeus and several others in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last July. For the past twenty years Richard has appeared on stage at all but a few Chicago Area Theatres and in over 30 plays here and around the world. Chicago audiences will best remember him as Mark Twain in *Mark Twain in Person*, as Coles in *Other People's Money* at The Royal George, and in his widely known personification of Ronald Reagan in *Rap Master Ronnie* and *Reagan: Dementia In Absentia*. In his spare time, Richard acts in Voice overs, Industrials, TV Shows, Movies and makes beeswax candles.

Gary Houston (Winchester) for *TSP* directed *The Merchant of Venice* and played Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lenox in *Macbeth*, John in *King John*, Lancaster in *Edward II*, Edward in *Edward III* and York in *Richard II*. For the Oak Park Festival Theatre he was Buckingham in *Richard III*. Quite recently he was on the Goodman stage as Sturdyvant in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Other roles are George Pullman in *American Enterprise* (Organic), the blind Tom Hanratty in *Triple Exposure* (Wisdom Bridge), Arthur Goldman in *The Man in the Glass Booth* (Next), William Blake in *Blake* (Writers' Theatre Chicago), Michael in *Fur* (Latino Chicago) and Sam in *Emma's Child* (Victory Gardens.)

Robert J. Miller (Suffolk, Messenger) is an Indiana native. 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 *Sweeney Todd*. Bob was Sam Sampson in *Oklahoma Rigs* and Thickstick in *Spring Awakening* at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

Dan Payne (Bedford, Bassett, The Shepherd) most recently appeared in the Jeff Nominated version of *Hitting for the Cycle* at Famous Door. Other recent Chicago credits include *You Can't Take it With You* and *It Runs in the Family* at Candlelight Forum, Edward Albee's *Midwest Premier of Finding the Sun*, Court Theatre's *Mystery Cycle*, Shakespeare's Motley Crew's *Comedy of Errors* and Equity Library Theatre's Production of *Julius Caesar*, where, for the first time he appeared on stage with his daughter, Tracy.

Andrew Powdermaker (Somerset, *et al*) Is pleased to return to *The Shakespeare Project* stage for the 1997 series of history plays. He was last seen as Justice Shallow in *2-Henry IV* and previously as Worcester in *1-Henry IV*, and Angus and the Porter in *TSP's* reading of *Macbeth*. Andrew also appeared as Ligarius in Equity Library Theatre's *Julius Caesar*. Originally from Philadelphia, favorite roles include; Lysander in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Chestnut Hill Shakespeare in the Park, and Warren in *Moon Over the Brewery*, in the Walnut Street Theatre's showcase studio.

