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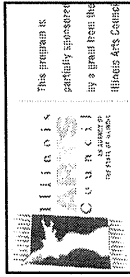
Christopher Wilson

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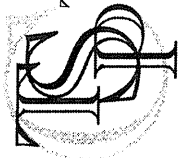
Michael Aaron Wilson

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and the generous contributions of our program audiences. Thank You!



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Presents

All's Well that Ends Well

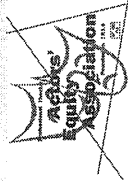
a theatrical reading

Directed by
Mary Ringstad*

Stage Manager
Shawn Pace

Performances: March 15 and 16, 2003

All Actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of **Actors' Equity Association** the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.



Notes from the Director:

All's Well That Ends Well, which centers around Helena's quest to capture both the hand and heart of Bertram, is a transitional play in the Shakespearean canon. In this "comedy of forgiveness", according to scholar David Bevington, we see a "line of development from the early comedies to the late romances."

In addition, we receive a glimpse of Elizabethan political humor through Shakespeare's satiric treatment of his European neighbors. For example, the Duke of Florence is asking the King of France for money to finance a skirmish against neighboring Sienna!?! (Anyone who saw the recent Medici exhibit at the Art Institute may see the humor in this request.) Although the King refuses to send monetary support, he gives his permission to the French nobles who are itching for a fight to join in the fray. Which side they choose to fight on, however, is of no importance. The King's greatest warning to his countrymen: "Those girls of Italy, take heed of them."

I hope you can imagine the English court laughing at these and other foibles. If Shakespeare were writing today, what would he have to say about our country's foreign policy?

Enjoy the play!!

- Mary Ringstad

This Month's Artists



Judy Blue*
Countess Rousillon



Joseph Bowen
Lafeu



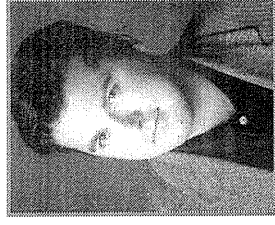
Aaron Christensen
Parolles



Roxanne Fay
Widow of Florence



Peter Garino*
*King of France,
Duke of Florence*



Daniel Gately
Lavach



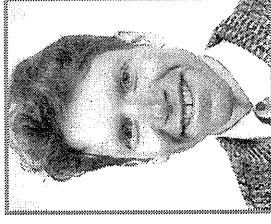
Ian Novak
Bertram



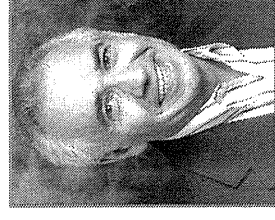
Carey Peters
Helena



Dan Rodden
First French Lord



Daniel Scott
Second French Lord



Dennis Sook*
Rinaldo, Page



Georgina Stovles
Diana



Mary Ringstad*
Director



Jeff Christian*
Artistic Director

* Denotes Artistic Associates of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*.

Mary Ringstad* (Director) who serves as a TSP Artistic Associate and TSP Board Member, is thankful for this fantastic cast. Previously for TSP, Mary directed *Love's Labor's Lost* and served as Assistant Director for *King Lear*. Former TSP roles include Anna in the premiere production of *My Name Is Will*, the title role in *The Rape of Lucrece*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Portia in *Julius Caesar*, Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Rosilind in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *I-Henry VI*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Prince Edward in *Edward II*, Biondello in *Taming of the Shrew* and Falstaff's Page in *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Mary, who has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University, is an adjunct faculty member at Wright College, Oakton Community College and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Jeff Christian* (Artistic Director) Jeff was appointed the company's second Artistic Director in August 2002, having adapted and directed last season's *50 Minute Hamlet*. He will direct a full production of that revised piece this April and will stage *King Lear* in May. Acting credits with The Project include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Buckingham in *Richard III*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night* and Hortensio in *Taming of the Shrew*. Other Chicago credits include Writers' Theatre, Shakespeare Rep, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Lifeline, Illinois Theatre Center, CT20 Ensemble, Bailiwick, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Shakespeare's Motley Crew and Bernie Sahlin's production of *Murder in the Cathedral*. He also shared in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award for his work on The Journeymen's production of both parts of *Angels in America*, co-directing, playing Joe Pitt and choreographing the fights. Regional credits include work with Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, Michigan Ensemble and New American. Jeff directed *Driving Miss Daisy* for New American Theater, is currently acting in a critically-acclaimed production of *The Laramie Project* at Madison Repertory Theatre, and co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler.

Laura St. John (Education Director) was last seen as Gal in the 2002 season's premier of *50 Minute Hamlet*. She was Balthasar in *Romeo and Juliet*, for which she was also Assistant Director. She directed and played the role of Maria in last December's *Twelfth Night*. Other TSP roles include Calpurnia (*Julius Caesar*), 3rd Witch (*Macbeth*), and the Player Queen (*Hamlet*). Laura works as a Drama Artist with Whirlwind -- a drama based reading program servicing the children of the Chicago Public Schools. She is an ensemble member of *The Women and Labor History Project* and a collaborator on the children's book *Through the Cracks* (Davis Publications).

Mara Polster* (Producer, Founding Director) during her tenure as Artistic Director, Mara guided The Shakespeare Project through over 50 productions and the entirety of William Shakespeare's canon, directing such plays as *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and playing many great Shakespearean women, like Emilia, Tamora, Margaret, Paulina, Isabella, Katherina, Lady Macbeth. The Shakespeare Project began on May 7, 1995. After seven years of outstanding performances, Mara and the Board of Directors invited Jeff Christian -- with his strong attachment to TSP's mission and ideals, his outstanding talent, vision, experience and charismatic leadership -- to beacon our continued journey. Mara is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis and her work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago continues as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson.

The Players

(In order of appearance)

Countess Rousillon.....	Judy Blue*
Bertram.....	Ian Novak
Lafeu.....	Joseph Bowen
Helena.....	Carey Peters
Parolles.....	Aaron Christensen
Page.....	Dennis Sook*
King of France	Peter Garino*
First French Lord	Dan Rodden
Second French Lord	Daniel Scott
Rinaldo, a Steward	Dennis Sook*
Lavatch, a Clown.....	Daniel Gately
Duke of Florence	Peter Garino*
Widow of Florence	Roxanne Fay
Diana	Georgina Stoyles
Mariana	Judy Blue*
First Soldier	Daniel Gately
Second Soldier	Roxanne Fay
Gentleman	Daniel Gately

Scene: *Rousillon; Paris; Florence; Marseilles.*

There will be one 10 minute intermission

* Denotes Artistic Associates of *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.*

Profiles

Judy Blue* (Countess, Mariana) A core member of TSP, she performed in TSP's production of the sonnets, *My Name Is Will* and has been fortunate to explore many roles in the canon through the years. Currently, Judy can be heard on WBEZ in the Stories on Stage novella, *The Age of Grief*. Most recently she was seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with CollaborAction Theatre, *The Liquid Moon* at Chicago Dramatists, and the Goodman Theatre's production of *House and Garden*. Other credits include Lyssa Dent Hughes in *An American Daughter* at the Organic Theatre, Desiree in *A Little Night Music* at the Goodman and the premier productions of Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day* and Jack Heifner's *Homefires*. Theatres include the Apollo Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, Theatre Three, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Stagewest, B Street Theatre, Apple Tree, Theater at the Center, Movement Theatre International and New York's Henry Street New Federal Theatre. She is also a member of THEM Theatre Company and American Theatre Company's Relatives.

Joseph Bowen (Lafeu) Joe is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project. His past TSP appearances have included *Henry IV, Part 1* and *Two Noble Kinsmen*. As a company member of ShawChicago, he has appeared in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Back to Methuselah* and *Geneva*. Joe has also performed at the William Inge Theatre Festival, Meadowbrook Theatre and the Red Barn Playhouse, among many others.

Aaron Christensen (Parolles) is thrilled to be working for the first time with The Shakespeare Project. He recently appeared as Ned in Remy Bumppo's production of *Holiday*. Other Chicago credits include *Anna Christie* (Apple Tree), *Among the Thugs* (Goodman), *King Lear* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Mrs. Coney, True West*, and *Broken Spokes* (Bailiwick), *Not About Nightingales* (Timeline), *Xena Live!* (About Face/greasy joan & co.), *Richard III* (Shakespeare on the Green), *Twelfth Night* (Festival), and *Among the Thugs* (Next).

Roxanne Fay (Widow of Florence) is the current Producing Artistic Director of the Oak Park Festival Theatre (in partnership with Jack Hickey). She most recently directed *A Lovely Sunday For Creve Coeur* for Oak Park's Village Players. This is her first reading with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.

Peter Garino* (King of France, Duke of Florence) Peter is an Artistic Associate with TSP and has been a company member since 1995. As an actor he has appeared in over 30 TSP staged readings and he has directed readings of *Pericles*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and, his adaptations *My Name is Will* (of Shakespeare's sonnets) and *The Rape of Lucrece* (the narrative poem). He dedicates his performance today to the memory of his Mom, Margaret Garino.

Dan Gately (Lavach) Born and raised in New England, Dan studied at the Boston Conservatory and at Emerson College. He has lived and worked as an actor, writer, producer and director in Boston, New York City, and for the past decade, Chicago.

Ian Novak (Bertram) is pleased to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where he appeared in *Romeo & Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. International credits include two seasons at the Stratford Festival of Canada. Regionally, he has appeared in *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Pygmalion* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Chicago credits include: *Shakespeare's R&J* (Romeo) at Apple Tree Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* (abridged) at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; as well as productions at Live Bait Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Bailiwick Repertory, and The Griffin Theatre where he is an active company member. He is a graduate of The Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training at The Stratford Festival of Canada as well as the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

Profiles

Carey Peters (Helena) Carey is thrilled to be working with the wonderful people of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. She has been seen at several Chicago area theaters, including Steppenwolf, Court, Northlight, American Theater Company and the Apollo Theater. Favorite Shakespeare roles include Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Carey is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University. She can also be seen in Apollo Theater's *The Vagina Monologues*.

Dan Rodden (First French Lord) Dan is pleased to mark this his debut with TSP. Most recently, he was seen as Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace* at New American Theater in Rockford. On the Chicago stage, he's been seen at Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Aardvark Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the ImprovOlympic. Regionally: Texas Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Cidermill Playhouse, Beechwood Theatre Company. Special thanks to Gail for her love and support.

Daniel Scott (Second French Lord) is delighted to make his seventh appearance with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Previous roles include Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Catesby in *Richard III*, and Alciabiades in *Timon of Athens*. Director-in Residence of the Bog Theater, his credits include *The Rainmaker*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Little Women*, *Our Town*, *The Diviners*, and *The Crucible*. Dan is especially pleased that his old buddy Jeff Christian has, at long last, found a productive activity to occupy his time.

Dennis Sook* (Rinaldo, Page) is one of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's Artistic Associates and has appeared in many of TSP's Theatrical Readings in roles ranging from Servants, Soldiers and Fools to Julius Caesar. Dennis began his career touring for two seasons with the National Shakespeare Company. He then worked in New York for several years appearing in commercials, on soaps, Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing*, the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond* and the Actors' Studio production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. Dennis earned his Master of Art degree from the City College of New York.

Georgina Stoyles (Diana) returns to The Shakespeare Project where she was last seen as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and as the Jailer's Daughter in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Most recently she has been involved in several industrial commercials. Other credits include: Jean in *The Entertainer* at Illinois Theatre Center, two seasons as Belle in *A Christmas Carol* at The Goodman Theatre, Cordelia in *King Lear* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Ft. Worth's Shakespeare in the Park, Susan Brady in *Playboy of the Western World* at both Steppenwolf Theatre and Long Wharf Theatre, Maggie in *The Mill on the Floss* with Vitalist Theatre at The Blue Rider, Pam in *Saved* at Profiles Theatre, *Macbeth* with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *A Night In The Ukraine* and *The Lion Who Wouldn't* at Callaway Gardens, and Veruca Salt in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* for ECT at the Athenaeum Theatre. Georgina can also be seen as Jackie in the film *With a Family Like Mine* and Lucy in the film *Dead Decisions*. Ms. Stoyles is a graduate of the Theater School at Depaul University.

Shawn Pace (Stage Manager) Shawn has just returned from Minnesota where he stage managed the world premier musical *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings*, directed by Graciela Daniele at Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company. His last Chicago credit was *Mirandolina*, directed by Steve Scott at The Noble Fool Theater. This spring he will be back at the Noble Fool stage managing *Don't Drink the Water*. He is excited to be a part of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago.