

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the lineup for our **25th Anniversary Season**. "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, directed by J.R. Sullivan (Oct. 11-17, 2019); "Richard III" by William Shakespeare, directed by Peter Garino (Jan. 10-16, 2020); "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare, directed by Michelle Shupe (Feb. 21-27, 2020); "Measure for Measure" by William Shakespeare, directed by Erin Sloan (May 15-21, 2020). For venues and show times, visit: www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

THE CALIFORNIAN INCIDENT



By James Richard Goeser

adapted for the stage with Peter Garino

Directed by Peter Garino

Assistant Director: Sarafina Vecchio

Sound Design and Original Music by George Zahora

September 20-21, 2019

Niles-Maine District Library
The Admiral at the Lake



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

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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Chicago, Illinois 60625

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THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

Gratefully acknowledges the contributors
to the performance of “The *Californian* Incident”

at The Admiral at the Lake

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Artist Biographies



Jack Hickey (Sir Rufus Issacs) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and is always happy to work with The Project. He was previously seen as Sinius Velutus in *Coriolanus*, Thomas Hoghton in *Shakeshafte* and Holofernes in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Other roles with The Project include Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. Jack is the Artistic Director Emeritus of Oak Park Festival Theatre and this summer he will play Percy in *Elizabeth Rex*. Recent roles with the Festival include Grandpa in *You Can't Take It With You* and Stephen Price in *The African Company Presents Richard the Third*. Previously he played King Duncan and the Porter in *Macbeth*, Col. Pickering in *Pygmalion* and Gremio in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Other roles include Sheriff Heck Tate in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, King Claudius in *Hamlet*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, Charlie in *Seascape*. He was nominated for an Equity Jeff Award for playing Michael in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. He was Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind*, Falstaff in *The History of King Henry the Fourth*, Fluellen in *Henry V*, Teddy in *Faith Healer*, Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Jack is company member of ShawChicago and appeared there this season as Burgess in *Candida* and as Dr Blenkinsop in *The Doctor's Dilemma*, the very last production of that company which is, sadly, closing its doors June 30. In over ten years there he played roles in *The Devil's Disciple*, *Jeeves in Bloom*, *Misalliance*, *Jeeves Intervenes*, *Heartbreak House*, *You Never Can Tell*, *Geneva*, *Major Barbara*, *Pygmalion*, *Widower's Houses*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Man and Superman*, *St. Joan*, *Androcles and the Lion*, *Candida*, *The Philanderer*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *The Apple Cart*, and *John Bull's Other Island*. He played Prospero in *The Tempest*, Cymbeline in *Cymbeline* and Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, as well as roles in *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing* with The Backroom Shakespeare Project. He played Claude in *Heroes* with the Illinois Theatre Center. TV credits: *Chicago Med* and *Unsolved Mysteries*.



Gary Houston (Captain Stanley Lord) for The Shakespeare Project last year appeared as John Adams in *Jefferson & Adams* and Dr. Watson in *A Baker Street Christmas Caper*. His last appearance as a sea captain was in Pegasus Theater's *Rutherford's Travels*, an adaptation of the Charles Johnson novel, *The Middle Passage*.



Doug MacKechnie (Second Office Stone, Clive) last appeared with The Project in *Coriolanus*. Previous appearances with The Project include Dr. Antrobus and the Witchfinder in Tom Stoppard's *Darkside*, Shakespeare himself in Shaw's *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, and several roles in *The Cervantes Interludes*. He's a regular with ShawChicago, seen as Rev. Anthony Anderson in *The Devil's Disciple*, Hector Hushabye in *Heartbreak House*, Victor Prynne in *Private Lives*, Adolphus Cusins in *Major Barbara*, Jack Tanner in *Man and Superman*, the Earl of Warwick in *Saint Joan*, and Jeeves in *Jeeves Intervenes* – a role he'll return to this February in *Jeeves in Bloom*. Other recent work includes Victor

Frankenstein in *The Gravedigger* (First Folio), *Menorca* (16th Street), *Lucinda's Bed* (Chicago Dramatists), *Slaphappy* (Beat The Jester Productions), and *Unnecessary Farce* (BoarsHead Theater; Lansing, MI) – all world premieres. Other Chicagoland credits include *A Christmas Story* (Theater Wit); *That Championship Season*, *Pitz & Joe* (Red Hen Productions); *Polish Joke*, *Don't Drink the Water* (Noble Fool); *Uncle Fred In the Springtime*, *Taking Steps*, *She Stoops To Conquer* (City Lit); *Translations* (Seanachai); *An American Daughter* (Organic); *Principia Scriptoriae* (Circle); *Artist*

Note from the Author

In April, 1912 the freighter *Californian* was stopped for the night in the Atlantic Ocean by a large field of ice. Her watch officers saw a similar freighter approach them from the East and also stop a few miles away. They signaled with the Morse lamp, but got no replies from her. They saw some rocket lights which did not have the characteristics of distress signals. Later the other freighter sailed away into the night. The radio operator of *Californian*, having finished a seventeen-hour day, was asleep and his apparatus turned off. Early the next morning, the ship's officers learned when he tuned in again that the largest passenger liner in the world, the *R.M.S. Titanic*, had struck an iceberg and sunk.

The formal British Inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic* faced the question whether she and her distress rockets had been seen by the *Californian*, and whether prompt action by that ship could have lessened the great loss of life in that disaster. This was "the *Californian* incident" in the Inquiry and the ensuing formal Report.

THE CALIFORNIAN INCIDENT

Dramatis Personae

Maggie, a young reporterErin Sloan*

Crew of the SS *Californian*:

Captain Stanley Lord Gary Houston*+
Chief Officer George Frederick Stewart Bill McGough*
Second Officer Herbert Stone Doug MacKechnie*
Third Officer Charles V. Groves Daniel Millhouse*
Wireless Operator Cyril “Sparks” Evans Khnemu Menu-Ra*
Apprentice James Gibson Erin Sloan*

Officer and Crew Member of the Royal Mail Ship *Titanic*:

Fourth Officer Joseph Groves Boxhall Erin Sloan*
Lookout Reginal Robinson Lee Khnemu Menu-Ra*

Official and Counsel at the British Wreck Commissioner’s Inquiry into the Loss of the RMS *Titanic*:

Baron Mersey of Toxteth, Wreck Commissioner Randy Steinmeyer*
Attorney General Sir Rufus Issacs Jack Hickey*+
Robertson Dunlop, for the Leyland Line and *Californian* Officers ...Christopher Prentice*

Professional and Commercial Gentlemen Member of the Gresham Club:

Clive Doug MacKechnie*
Nathan Bill McGough*
Robert Khnemu Menu-Ra*

Scene: London and aboard the SS *Californian*

Running Time: Approximately 75 minutes.

A discussion of the play will follow this performance

* Members of Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

James Richard Goeser would like to acknowledge the following sources used in creating “The *Californian* Incident”:

-- Transcript of *Titanic* Inquiry (1912)

--- Leslie Harrison, “A Titanic Myth: the Californian Incident” (The S.P.A. Limited, Second Ed. (Revised) 1992 (Harrison conducted 1961 interviews with Captain Lord)

--- Peter Padfield, “The Titanic and the Californian” (The Quality Book Club, edition by arrangement with Hodder and Stoughton Limited) 1965

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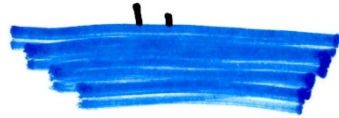
RMS TITANIC
Length: 882 feet, 9 inches
Height: 104 feet



SS CALIFORNIAN
Length: 447 feet
Height: 53 feet

VISIBLE DISTANCES AT SEA:

SHIP
10 MILES AWAY:



8 MILES AWAY:



5 MILES AWAY:



Descending A Staircase, How the Other Half Loves, Noises Off (Broutil & Frothingham Productions); and countless readings at Chicago Dramatists, where he's been an Associate Artist since 2008. Doug is an MFA graduate of The Theatre School (DePaul University) and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



Khnemu Menu-Ra (Evans, Robert) has appeared with The Shakespeare Project in *Moby Dick Rehearsed, Pericles, Much Ado About Nothing, Coriolanus* and *As You Like It*. A relative newcomer to the Chicago scene, Khnemu has been seen in productions by Artemisia and Chicago Dramatists. Earlier this year, Khnemu made his television debut as a reporter on an episode of *Chicago Med*. In 2015, Khnemu created and was featured in his first cabaret show *Origins of Love: A Shakespearean Cabaret*. Visit him weekly as a Karaoke DJ in River North @Local 221 Thanks to The Shakespeare Project for this opportunity, friends and family all!



Daniel Millhouse (Third Officer Groves) is grateful to be back with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago! Chicago: *The Roaring Girl, Moby Dick: Rehearsed, Back of the Yards, Titus Andronicus, As You Like It, Women Beware Women*, and *A Baker Street Christmas Caper* (Shakespeare Project of Chicago); *The Doctor's Dilemma* (ShawChicago); *The 39 Steps* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble); *Born Yesterday* (Remy Bumpo - Understudied for Paul Verrall and Performed); *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* (A Crew of Patches); *Soda Pop Culture Shock, Chair*, and *Rotten Onion!* (Second City Training Center). Regional: *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mamma Mia!* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival); *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mamma Mia!* (Great Lakes Theater); *Troilus and Cressida* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); *Hamlet* (Great River Shakespeare Festival - Understudied); *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival Touring Company). Motion Capture: *Call of Duty* Franchise (Activision/Raven Software). Education: MFA - University of Wisconsin-Madison; BS - Eastern Michigan University. Daniel is an Acting Adjunct Professor at the College of DuPage. Daniel is a proud member of AEA and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Check out more information on his website at www.danielmillhouse.com and on his Twitter: @DCMillhouse



Bill McGough (Chief Officer Stewart, Nathan) gratefully returns to the Shakespeare Project where he was previously seen in *The Roaring Girl* and *King John*. His recent Chicago theatre work includes *My Fair Lady* at Lyric Opera, *Continuity* at the Goodman Theatre's New Works festival, *Dee Snider's Rock 'n Roll Christmas Tale* at the Broadway Playhouse, and four consecutive summers of Chekhov with the UV Theatre project at Ragdale in Lake Forest. He has worked with Silk Road, TimeLine, the Hypocrites, Steppenwolf, Mary Arrchie, and Raven Theatre among many others. His on-camera appearances include the television shows *Chicago Fire, The Chicago Code, Sirens*, and *South Side*. He has also been seen in the award-winning short *Reversal* and the feature films *Design, In Memoriam*, and *Monuments*.



Christopher Prentice (Robertson Dunlop) Although he's a big fan of Shakespeare, Chris is thrilled to work on a new play for The Project. (He also appeared in *Shakeshafte*.) Other roles with the company include Serious Actor/Starbuck (*Moby Dick—Rehearsed*), Sherlock Holmes (*A Baker Street Christmas Caper*), Touchstone, Berowne, Alsemero (*The Changeling*), Philip the Bastard, Leontes, Mark Antony (*JC*), Vindici (the revenger in *The Revenger's Tale*), as well as John (*My Name Is Will*), and Guy (who plays Hamlet in *50-Minute Hamlet*). He was the dramaturg and text coach for this season's *Midsummer*—you might remember his “tight five” that probably lasted twice that. Other theater includes work with

Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, First Folio, Oak Park Festival, and Signal Ensemble Theatre (co-founder). He also spent five seasons at Canada's Stratford Festival. Education: Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre, Stratford Festival; BFA, Southern Methodist University. christopher-prentice.com.



Erin Sloan (Maggie) appeared as Abigail Adams in *Jefferson & Adams*. She made her debut with The Shakespeare Project in *Women Beware Women*. Erin will direct *Measure For Measure* for The Project in May 2020. Erin is a member of Actor's Equity and was an Affiliated Teaching Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. She holds an MFA in Classical Acting from The Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. She has several east coast theatrical credits including Ford's Theatre and Taffety Punk Theatre Company in Washington D.C. Erin is originally from Oklahoma and was a company member with

Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park for 10 years. She helped to co-found OSP's Young Company and taught master acting classes to students from around the state of Oklahoma. Erin recently co-founded The Enlightenment Theatre Project with her colleague Dan Crane and the company produced staged readings of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* and *The Tempest*. The company also staged a full production of *Twelfth Night* in historic Colonial Williamsburg. Erin has also appeared in the Emmy Award-winning *Electronic Field Trips* produced by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.



Randy Steinmeyer (Baron Mersey) Previous for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago: *The Roaring Girl*, *Back of the Yards*, *The Changeling*. New Work: *A Steady Rain*, *Johnny 10 Beers*, *Daughter*, *Chops*, *McMeekin Finds Out*, *Psychedelic Sundae*, *The Prophet of Bishop Hill*, *All That Entertainment*, *Larger Than Life*, *The Troll and the Elephant Prince*. Other stage: *Man and Superman*, *The Infernal Machine*, *The Diviners*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Reckless*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Brigadoon*, *Out of Order*, *Rough For Theatre 2/Catastrophe*, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. Television: *Chicago Med*, *Chicago PD*, *The Playboy Club*, *The Beast*, *Early Edition*, *Turks*, *The Untouchables*, *Mario and the Mob*. Film: *Public Enemies*, *The Babe*, *Transformers 3*, *Game Day*, *The Letter: A Lovecraftian Tale*.

Sarafina Vecchio (Assistant Director) Sarafina is thrilled to be working with The Shakespeare Project for the first time! A teaching artist in Chicago for many years, she holds a post graduate degree in Teaching Shakespeare from The University of Warwick in Coventry, England. She is also on the faculty at Acting Studio Chicago and works as a freelance audition coach. Sarafina has worked as a performer with many local companies, including: Timeline, Remy Bumppo, Oak Park Festival, The Other Theatre Company, Metropolis, Steel Beam, and Janus. This fall she will be

assisting directing the upcoming production of *Mary Poppins* at Drury Lane Oakbrook, followed by directing *Kiss Me Kate* at ECC Musical Theatre. Many thanks to Peter for this opportunity! www.SarafinaVecchio.com

George Zahora (Sound Design and Original Music) has done sound design, in various professional and nonprofessional capacities, for more than 25 years, and has been composing original music since 2012. You've heard his work in dozens of Project readings over the last eight years. Additional recent work includes shows at Oak Park Festival Theatre (*Macbeth*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The African Company Presents Richard III, I and You*), where he's also an artistic associate, and many productions at the already-much-missed ShawChicago. Upcoming projects: *Elizabeth Rex* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for OPFT's summer season. George is also a playwright, and is currently putting the finishing touches on *Christmas Comes But Once A Year*, The Shakespeare Project's holiday offering for 2019. George thanks you for supporting the Project and the many outstanding Chicago actors it employs, and hopes that his work will add context and depth to your experience today.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He will direct *Richard III* in The Project's 2019-2020 season. This past season, he appeared as Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus* and as Helicanus in *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*. He also directed *The Roaring Girl* in May 2019. He adapted and directed The Project's holiday show this past season, *A Selection of English Christmas Carols/A Baker Street Christmas Caper*. Last season, he directed *Much Ado About Nothing* and played the Duke of Florence in *Women Beware Women* and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*. He also directed John Kishline's *Dream Upon Avon* and Rowan Williams' *Shakeshafte* for The Shakespeare Project. Previous appearances with The Project include Boyet/Anthony Dull in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Sir Thomas Erpingham and the Duke of Burgundy in *Henry V* and Tackleton in Charles Dickens' *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Peter directed the Chicago premier of Tom Stoppard's *Darkside* (Incorporating *The Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd). Other appearances for The Project include the Bard in *Cymbeline*, Camillo in *The Winter's Tale*, the title role in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. Other directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *King John*, *Cardenio*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *King Lear*, *The Fair Maid of the West*, *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*. Other appearances with The Project include Friar Laurence/Lord Capulet in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*, Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*, Lord Stanley in *Richard III* 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). 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.

James Richard Goesser (Playwright) grew up in southwest side of Chicago and attended the Chicago Public School system. Graduated from Oberlin College and the University of Michigan Law School, passing the bar examination of the District of Columbia in 1969. Served as a diplomatic officer for the State Department in the Netherlands Antilles (1969-1971) and in South Viet Nam (1972-1974). Served as a federal attorney with the Department of HEW and HHS (1974-2001). Life-long interest in stage drama, his play *The Californian Incident* is his first play. Residing at The Admiral on the Lake retirement community since 2014, Jim has been active mostly with play reading and performance activities there, a reading program with third graders of the local public school and writing and editing for the local Admiral newsletter. Working on a new play about Richard III.