

Artist Biographies



Shane Kenyon (Guy) is very excited to be working again with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. He was last seen in *50-Minute Hamlet* on its previous tour. Select Chicago credits include *Buried Child* (Writers Theatre); *Buzzer*, *Ohio State Murders* (Goodman Theatre); *Hushabye*, *Where We're Born* (Steppenwolf); *The Who & The What* (Victory Gardens); *The Seafarer*, *Shining City* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *Dada Woof Papa Hot* (About Face Theatre); *Season On the Line* (The House Theatre); *If There Is...* (Steep Theatre); *Mary's Wedding* (Rivendell Theatre). Select Regional credits include *Sweat* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Hypeman* (Actors Theatre of

Louisville); *Romeo & Juliet*, *Shakespeare In Love*, *As You Like It*, (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *Hedda Gabler* (StudioTheatre of DC). TV Credits include *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Justice*, *Chicago PD* (NBC); *Empire* (FOX); *Mind Games* (ABC). Shane is represented by Stewart Talent and a proud member of AEA & SAG-AFTRA.



Kayla Carter (Gal) Chicago credits include *Roe*, *How to Catch Creation* (Goodman), *The Last Match*, *Smart People* (Writers), *Mansfield Park* (Northlight), and work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Regional credits: *River City* (NNPN World Premiere, Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, Phoenix Theatre Indianapolis), *The Patron Saint of Losing Sleep* and *Passing Strange* (Actor's Theatre of Charlotte). Film/TV: *Knives and Skin* (dir. Jennifer Reeder), which had its world premiere at Berlin Film Festival, neXt

(Fox), *Chicago Med* (NBC) and *APB* (Fox). She is a graduate of University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Instagram: @kaylacrater

Jeff Christian (Adaptor/Director) is pleased to continue his work with The Project and to share this play again with our wonderful audiences. He led the company for eight seasons, and has adapted and directed *Cymbeline*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry VIII*, the gender-identity-swapped *The Comedy of Errors*, *In Medea Res* (from Euripides' *Medea*), *Henry VI* (from Shakespeare's trilogy), *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*), Ibsen's *Ghosts*, Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, Other directing credits include *Shining City*, *Mojo Mickybo*, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Our Father* (Irish Theatre of Chicago, formerly Seanachai Theatre Company), *Romeo & Juliet*, *50 Minute Hamlet*, *The Rivals*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Love's Labours Lost* and *The Two Gentlewomen of Verona* (Lakeside Shakespeare; Michigan), *Middletown* and *The Plough and the Stars* (Roosevelt University), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (The Artistic Home), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *Kill Me* (WildClaw), both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeymen; co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award), James Krag's one-man show *According to Mark*, the short films *Echo Chamber*, *Irimi*, *Papaya*, *The Structure of Our Moments* and *Still Live*. Acting credits with The Project include Iago, Richard III, Brutus, Proteus, Mercutio, Caliban, Oberon/Bottom/Theseus, Ajax, Feste, Enobarbus, Bassanio, Hortensio, Buckingham, Oliver, Amiens, Antonio (*Twelfth Night*), Richard (*Henry VI*), Leicester (*Mary Stuart*), Aegeus

(*In Medea Res*), Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, Satan (*Paradise Lost*), Roughman (*Fair Maid of the West*), one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will* and originating a role in John Kishline's *Dream Upon Avon*. Other acting credits include work with Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Writers' Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, The Women's Project of New York, Irish Theatre of Chicago, Chicago Dramatists, Lakeside Shakespeare, New American Theater, Artists' Ensemble Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Oak Park Festival, Artistic Home, Bernie Sahllins' production of *Murder in the Cathedral*, seven seasons of JR Sullivan's *Hometown Holiday* (as a writer and actor) and Tennessee Williams' *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Cape Cod). He is a member of the Irish Theatre of Chicago and Lakeside Shakespeare ensembles, co-fronts the rock band Ingenious Whittler, is a creative consultant for Tessera Publishing, writes and directs live action and animated sequences for production houses including the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen and Sarofsky, and teaches directing in Columbia College's Department of Cinema and Television Arts, where he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award. Film and television work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Express*, *The Poker House*, *Happy Hour*, *The Last Rider*, *Pickman's Muse*, *Helix*, *Cyrus*, *Good People* and Showtime's *Shameless* and NBC's *Chicago Fire* and *Chicago PD*. Jeff thanks you for your continued support of The Project.

Peter Garino (Producer/Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He recently directed *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell, and *News From Gravesend: The Wonderful Year*, adapted from the plague pamphlets of Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker. He is co-director (with Helene Augustyniak) of the film *By Help of Devils*, in which he portrays 14 of Shakespeare's villains. Selected appearances with The Project include Polonius in *Hamlet*, *Prince of Denmark*, the Prince/Peter in *Romeo and Juliet*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Helicanus in *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, the Duke of Florence in *Women Beware Women*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, 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 the title role in *The Merchant of Venice*. For The Shakespeare Project he has directed *Richard III*, *The Roaring Girl*, *A Baker Street Christmas Caper*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Dream Upon Avon* and Rowan Williams' *Shakeshafte*, among many others. Peter directed the Chicago premier of Tom Stoppard's *Darkside* (Incorporating *The Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd). 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.

George Zahora (Sound Design) hasn't seen any of these people in more than two years. George has been The Project's resident composer and sound designer for more than 10 years (if you count the pandemic), during which time he created music and sound effects for literally dozens of productions. He also wrote The Project's 2019 holiday offering, *Christmas Comes But Once A Year*, which most folks seemed to enjoy. He has also worked regularly with (the much-missed) ShawChicago, Misalliance Repertory and Oak Park Festival Theatre, whose production of *The Winter's Tale* opens in a few weeks. He is very happy to see you in the audience today. That's right -- he's watching you, so don't even think of playing with your phone.

Welcome!

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 (such as *50-Minute Hamlet*) to local schools. We believe that the key to creating a transformative experience of Shakespeare is through making Shakespeare's words understandable and impactful for our audiences. Story telling that is truthful, simple, fantastical, poetic, lyrical, sometimes challenging, but always universal. Our gifted artists deliver performances that are intimate and emotionally engaging – Shakespeare at its best.

In our theatrical reading series, our artistic focus is rooted in illuminating the timeless truths found in the words of these great plays. Our audience members value the emphasis we place on the text, opening up a unique experience for them unencumbered by scenery, props, costumes and imposed conceptual conceits. Beginning in November 2022, our nine local venues for our theatrical reading series include the Niles-Maine District Library, the Newberry Library, Chicago, the Highland Park Public Library, the Des Plaines Public Library, the Elmhurst Public Library, the Athenaeum Center For Thought and Culture, Chicago, the Wilmette Public Library, the Vernon Area Public Library and the Mount Prospect Public Library.

Our education outreach programs such as *50-Minute Hamlet* provide abridged performances of Shakespeare's plays and in-class workshops to augment middle-school and high school teachers' studies of Shakespeare. For our young learner audiences, our approach to the work is driven by a simple goal: to make the student's first experience with Shakespeare a positive one.

Thanks for coming.



Peter Garino
Artistic Director
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
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50-Minute Hamlet

Dramatis Personae (in order of appearance)

Claudius, *King of Denmark*

Hamlet, *son to the late King Hamlet, and nephew to the present King*

Horatio, *friend to Hamlet*

Polonius, *Lord Chamberlain*

Laertes, *son to Polonius*

Ghost of *Hamlet's Father*

Gertrude, *Queen of Denmark, and mother to Hamlet*

Ophelia, *Daughter to Polonius*

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, *Courtiers*

A Clown, *gravedigger*

Scene: Denmark

The actors appearing in today's performance are members of Actors' Equity Association.



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 27 years.



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Hamlet in 50 minutes? How do you do that?

Notes from the adapter and director, Jeff Christian

Not only is that a question I hear a lot these days, but it was one I continually asked myself when I agreed to take on this project. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago decided that it was incumbent upon us to offer an outreach program that could give students a quick and exciting introduction to the power of Shakespeare. We bandied about many ideas before settling on a condensed version of what many consider to be the greatest drama in English literature.

Budgets being what they are, I decided that we should pare the cast down along with the story, and arrived at this two-actor format. Having given myself some seemingly unworkable constraints, I set to work on the adaptation. I soon realized that it is both the story and the exquisite use of language that make the play so engrossing, so I knew that I could sacrifice neither in this 50 minute version. I plotted out the story line to its essence and began cutting. It became readily apparent that we would need some kind of narration to guide us through the story, and that it could be utilized without compromising the poetry or any of the most famous lines.

I also acknowledged that we needed a way into the story. Like many students, I was intimidated by Shakespeare and didn't think that it had anything to offer a modern young man like myself. By giving each actor a unique point of view on how the telling of the story should be approached, we created even more dramatic conflict while allowing humor to put the audience at ease. By requiring one actress to play all the roles in the play, save the titular one, we also gave the audience a better opportunity to connect with that actress as a person and to marvel at her theatrical flexibility. Furthermore, this had the effect of solidifying Hamlet's relationship to the audience and further elucidated his internal conflicts for them.

This production has played well to very young students, as well as to veteran play-goers (in fact, my parents used a viewing of the show as a refresher course before endeavoring to attend a full production). We hope that you enjoy the show.

Announcing the 2022-2023 Theatrical Reading Season

Conditions permitting, we hope to resume our theatrical readings in November 2022.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, by William Shakespeare; directed by Peter Garino

Friday, November 11, 2022; Niles-Maine District Library, 7:00PM
Saturday, November 12, 2022; Newberry Library, 10:00AM
Sunday, November 13, 2022; Highland Park Public Library, 2:00PM
Wednesday, November 16, 2022; Des Plaines Public Library, 6:30PM
Thursday, November 17, 2022; Elmhurst Public Library, 6:30PM
Friday, November 18, 2022; Athenaeum Center, 7:00PM
Saturday, November 19, 2022; Wilmette Public Library, 2:00PM
Monday, November 21, 2022; Vernon Area Public Library, 6:30PM
Tuesday, November 22, 2022; Mount Prospect Public Library, 7:00PM

TROILUS & CRESSIDA, by William Shakespeare; directed by Michelle Shupe

Friday, January 20, 2023; Niles-Maine District Library, 7:00PM
Saturday, January 21, 2023; Newberry Library, 10:00AM
Sunday, January 22, 2023; Highland Park Public Library, 2:00PM
Wednesday, January 25, 2023; Des Plaines Public Library, 6:30PM
Thursday, January 26, 2023; Elmhurst Public Library, 6:30PM
Friday, January 27, 2023; Athenaeum Center, 7:00PM
Saturday, January 28, 2023; Wilmette Public Library, 2:00PM
Monday, January 30, 2023; Vernon Area Public Library, 6:30PM
Tuesday, January 31, 2023; Mount Prospect Public Library, 7:00PM

THE TEMPEST, by William Shakespeare; directed by J.R. Sullivan

Friday, February 17, 2023; Niles-Maine District Library, 7:00PM
Saturday, February 18, 2023; Buchanan Chapel, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 10:00AM
Sunday, February 19, 2023; Highland Park Public Library, 2:00PM
Wednesday, February 22, 2023; Des Plaines Public Library, 6:30PM
Thursday, February 23, 2023; Elmhurst Public Library, 6:30PM
Friday, February 24, 2023; Athenaeum Center, 7:00PM
Saturday, February 25, 2023; Wilmette Public Library, 2:00PM
Monday, February 27, 2023; Vernon Area Public Library, 6:30PM
Tuesday, February 28, 2023; Mount Prospect Public Library, 7:00PM

MEASURE FOR MEASURE, by William Shakespeare; directed by Erin Sloan

Friday, April 28, 2023; Niles-Maine District Library, 7:00PM
Saturday, April 29, 2023; Newberry Library, 10:00AM
Sunday, April 30, 2023; Highland Park Public Library, 2:00PM
Wednesday, May 3, 2023; Des Plaines Public Library, 6:30PM
Thursday, May 4, 2023; Elmhurst Public Library, 6:30PM
Friday, May 5, 2023; Athenaeum Center, 7:00PM
Saturday, May 6, 2023; Wilmette Public Library, 2:00PM
Monday, May 8, 2023; Vernon Area Public Library, 6:30PM
Tuesday, May 9, 2023; Mount Prospect Public Library, 7:00PM

**THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

50-Minute Hamlet

From

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Jeff Christian

Summer Tour 2022



All actors with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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