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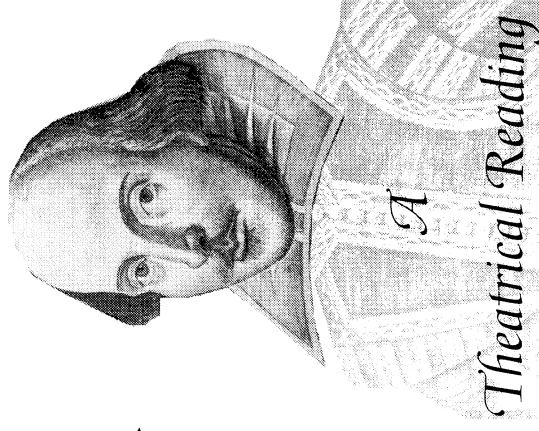
Regarding "The Shakespeare Project of Chicago"

*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 Theatre, 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 3*, 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](mailto:TSPchicago@aol.com). Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.

# The Shakespeare Project presents



## The War of the Roses Cycle

CONTINUES WITH

## Henry VI, part 2

Directed by Steven Young

**Directing Support Team:** Gary Houston, Kathryn Nash,  
Mara Polster, Kristan Schmidt, Michelle Sterling.

"The Shakespeare Project of Chicago" is cosponsored by

Chicago Public Library

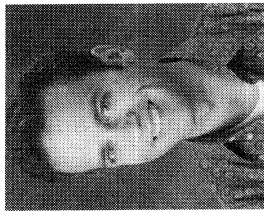


&



READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!

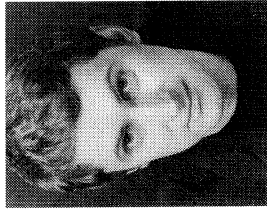
All of the actors with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of professional Actors and Stage Managers. This presentation is sponsored by The Chicago Park District/Berger Park Cultural Art Center and The Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Library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



**Scott Olson** (Thomas Horner, Richard, Ensemble) last appeared with *T.S.P.* in the title role of *Henry V* and prior to that in *Edward III*, *Richard II* and *Henry IV, I and II*. He appeared for nine months as Tony Whitcomb in *Shear Madness* as Opie in *As The Beaver at Zebra Crossing* and Ali in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*. Past Shakespeare roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Denver Center Theatre Company; Oliver in *As You Like It*, Chiron in *Titus Andronicus*, Elbow in *Measure for Measure* at Idaho Shakespeare Festival; Hortensio in *The Taming of the Shrew* for the Commonweal Theatre Company and touring as Romeo in *R & J* and Cassius in *Julius Caesar* for Chiespeare Productions.



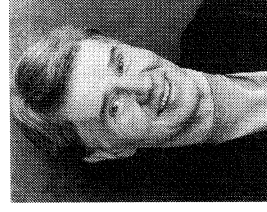
**Ned Schmidtke** (Gloucester, William Stafford, Ensemble) theatrical credits include Broadway, National Tours, Canada's Stratford Shakespeare Festival, as well as appearances at Arena Stage, Long Wharf, Huntington and Michigan Ensemble theatres and in Chicago, the Goodman, Briar Street, Steppenwolf, 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** (King Henry the Sixth) was last seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as Charles the Dolphin in *Henry VI, part I* and prior to that as Hotspur in *Henry IV, part I*. He recently returned from the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, where he appeared in *The Cure at Troy* and in their 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Malcolm 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.



**Stephen Spencer** (Buckingham, Ensemble) most recently played Fluellen in *Henry V* and prior to that Ross, Salisbury & Exton in *Richard II*. He recently appeared in *Season's Greetings* at the Forum Theatre. In Chicago, he originated the title role in *Shakespeare's Robin Hood* at Chicago Dramatists Workshop where he's performed in *Judevine*, *Marisol* and *Wingwalkers*. Other Chicago credits include *The Sea* with The Cypress Group and *Limbo Tales* at Cafe Voltaire. Regional theaters include Florida's Asolo State Theatre and The Ruth Foreman Theatre; the Utah Shakespearean Festival; Wisconsin's Evergreen Theatre and New Jersey's Cape May Playhouse. He toured throughout Russia, starting with Moscow's Leninsky Komsomol Theatre, and performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.



**Bob Thorson** (Salisbury, Simpcox, Ensemble) debuted with The Shakespeare Project in May playing King Henry in *Henry IV, part I*. He most recently appeared as Sagot in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," directed by Randall Arney, at the Briar Street Theatre. Other Chicago credits include work at Chicago Dramatists Workshop, Victory Gardens and The Body Politic. Bob was a company member at the Cleveland Play House for five years, appearing in over 30 productions there. He also directed Chekov's "Swan Song" at the Play House. Around the country Bob has worked for Princeton Theatre Company in New Jersey, Mountain Playhouse in Pennsylvania, and at theatres in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chatautaqua, and New York where he appeared in "The Student Prince" with the Metropolitan Opera company.

# The Shakespeare Project

Presents

## 2-HENRY VI

THE PLAYERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| RICHARD PLANTAGENET, <i>Duke of York</i> .....  | TERRY HAMILTON            |
| JOHN BEAUFORD, <i>Duke of SOMERSET</i> .....  | ROBERT EUSTACE            |
| DUKE of Suffolk.....  | JASON ERIC HAYS           |
| MARGARET, <i>QUEEN to KING HENRY</i> .....  | NANCY NICKEL              |
| KING HENRY THE SIXTH.....   | DAVID SKIDMORE            |
| HUMPHREY, <i>Duke of Gloucester, his UNCLE</i> .....  | NED SCHMIDTKE             |
| CARDINAL BEAUFORD, <i>Bishop of WINCHESTER, GREAT-UNCLE to the King</i> ....  | GARY HOUSTON              |
| EARL of Salisbury.....  | BOB THORSON               |
| EARL of Warwick.....  | ALAN BALL                 |
| DUKE of Buckingham.....   | STEPHEN SPENCER           |
| ELEANOR, DUCHESS of Gloucester, <i>wife to Humphrey</i> .....   | MAUREEN GALLAGHER         |
| JOHN HUME.....  | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| THOMAS HORNER, <i>AN ARMORER</i> .....  | SCOTT OLSON               |
| PETER THUMP, <i>His MAN</i> .....   | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| ROGER BOLINGBROOK, <i>A CONJURER</i> .....  | RICK CARTER               |
| MARJERY JOURDAIN, <i>A WITCH</i> .....  | JUDY BLUE                 |
| SIMPFOX.....  | BOB THORSON               |
| Wife to SIMPFOX.....  | JUDY BLUE                 |
| MAYOR of SAINT ALBONS.....  | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| TWO MURDERERS.....  | RICK CARTER, CRAIG BRYANT |
| VAUX.....   | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| JACK CADE.....  | JASON ERIC HAYS           |
| DICK THE BUTCHER.....   | RICK CARTER               |
| SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD.....  | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| WILLIAM STAFFORD, <i>His brother</i> .....  | NED SCHMIDTKE             |
| LORD CLIFFORD.....  | GARY HOUSTON              |
| ALEXANDER IDEN, <i>A KENTISH GENTLEMAN</i> .....  | GARY HOUSTON              |
| EDWARD, <i>SON of York</i> .....  | CRAIG BRYANT              |
| RICHARD, <i>SON of York</i> .....   | SCOTT OLSON               |
| LORD Clifford's SON.....  | JUDY BLUE                 |
| SHIP MATE, CAPTAIN, SMITH THE WEAVER, MICHAEL, SHERIFF, BEADLE, VARIOUS MESSENGERS, SERVANTS, LORDS, PETITIONERS, NEIGHBORS, POSTS, HERALDS, OFFICERS AND ATTENDANTS..... | THE ENSEMBLE              |

THE SCENE: ENGLAND

THERE will be ONE 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION



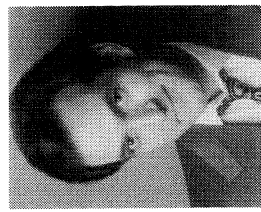
**Alan Ball** (Warwick, Ensemble) recently performed with *The Shakespeare Project* in *Henry IV, part I*, and as the Duke in *Measure for Measure*. He recently completed a run of *Hamlet* with Equity Library Theatre, as Laertes. Five days before joining rehearsals already in progress, he closed *Sunset Boulevard* in Vancouver. Other work in the last year includes touring New England as Mendel, the neurotic psychiatrist in *Falsettos*, playing Jimmy Deegan, the singing bootlegger in Cole Porter's *The New Yorkers* at Marriott and eviscerating the title character in *Macbeth*, as Macduff. Alan has also done numerous readings with The Shakespeare Project and Chicago Dramatists Workshop.



**Judy Blue** (Clifford, Marjory Jourdain, Ensemble) for TSP: Hero in *Much Ado*, Elinor in *King John*, Titania in *Midsummer*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*, Portia in *Merchant of Venice* (to name a few). Judy was Viola in Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Twelfth Night*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* at Stage West and Phebe in *As You Like It* at the Dallas Theater Center. In Chicago, roles included Desirée in *A Little Night Music* at The Goodman and Arlene in Apple Tree's *Baby*. She has appeared opposite Timothy Busfield in *Fool For Love* at B Street Theatre in CA and favorite roles include *Evita* and *Piaf* and also Alice and Elizabeth in the world premieres of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*.



**Craig Bryant** (Edward, Peter Thump, Ensemble) recently appeared as Richard in *The Shakespeare Project's Richard II*. Craig has appeared in productions at the Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Repertory, Mayfair Theatre, and various local stages with the comedy troupe, "Wilde Boys". He has performed regionally at the Hartford Stage Company and The Indiana Repertory Theatre and also toured nationally in John Houseman's "The Acting Company".



**Rick Carter** (Dick the Butcher, Ensemble) was Orleans 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** (Somerset, Ensemble) Made his Chicago debut a few months ago 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.



**Maureen Gallagher** (Duchess of Gloucester, Ensemble) most recently appeared as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* with TSP. Previous roles include Constance in *King John*, Thaisa in *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, Lady Macduff and 2<sup>nd</sup> Witch in *Macbeth*, and as Calpurnia in *Julius Caesar*. Elsewhere in Chicago she has performed at The Goodman Theatre, Body Politic Theatre, Next Theatre, Remains Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Wisdom Bridge Theatre, Shakespeare Repertory, The Court Theatre and for Shaw Chicago, where she will appear in *The Glass Menagerie* later this month.



**Terry Hamilton** (Duke of York) debuted with TSP last month as the Bastard in *Henry VI, part I* and previous to that 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 Sonia Moore in New York, and Shakespeare with Peter Forster here in Chicago.



**Jason Eric Hays** (Suffolk, Cade) is scheduled to direct *Henry VI, part 3* and to serve as Assistant Director for *The Shakespeare Project's* premier production of *The Reign of Edward the Third*, tentatively scheduled for August of 1998. Jason most recently played Henry Bullingbrook in *Richard II* and previous TSP credits include the title role in *Macbeth*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Antigonus in *The Winter's Tale*, The Bastard in *King John* and Kent in *Edward II*. Prior to becoming a company member of *The Shakespeare Project*, Jason had the pleasure of performing at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, and also with Chicago's Shakespeare Repertory. Jason is pleased to return to Chicago after spending the summer directing a full season of Summer-Stock in southern Illinois.



**Gary Houston** (Cardinal Beaufort [Winchester]; Ensemble) for TSP directed *The Merchant of Venice* and played Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, John in *King John*, Edward in *Edward III*, York in *Richard II* and Winchester in *Henry VI, part I*. At Oak Park Festival Theatre he was Buckingham in *Richard III*. He was on the Goodman stage this summer as Sturdyvant in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Other roles are Lemuel Gulliver in *Gulliver's Last Travels* (Organic), the blind Tom Hanratty in *Triple Exposure* (Wisdom Bridge), Thomas A. Foran in *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial* (Remains), Arthur Goldman in *The Man in the Glass Booth* (Next), William Blake in *Blake* (Writers' Theatre Chicago), Michael in *Fur* (Latino Chicago Theatre) and Sam in *Emma's Child* (Victory Gardens).



**Nancy Nickel** (Margaret) is a long time company member of *The Shakespeare Project*, and has taken part in many readings, playing the Queen in *Richard II*, Queen Isabella in *Edward II*, Hermione in *The Winter's Tale* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, among others. As a member of the Board of Directors, she spearheads TSP's Education and Outreach programs. Nancy has performed with many of the theaters in the Chicago area, most notably National Jewish Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, and Shakespeare Repertory in their award-winning production of *The Tale of Cymbeline*. As guest artist at the University of Indiana in South Bend, she provided coaching for students and has taught acting workshop's at St. Scholastica High School. Nancy will direct *Twelfth Night* for TSP this December.

# A History of the English Kings

(as represented by Elizabethan dramatists)

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

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES:** It has always been my contention that the *HENRY VI* plays are underrated as works of art. Their appeal to me transcends history, for few plays capture the essence of a world in spiritual chaos and civil strife as does *HENRY VI, part 2*. The progression of destruction is terrifying. I liken it to sharks coming upon a fresh kill and midst the ecstasy of the bloody frenzy they begin to consume each other. Every character in this play oversteps their bounds at the expense of family, nation, morality, and self. Civilized characters behave in a bestial manner. The world is out of balance.

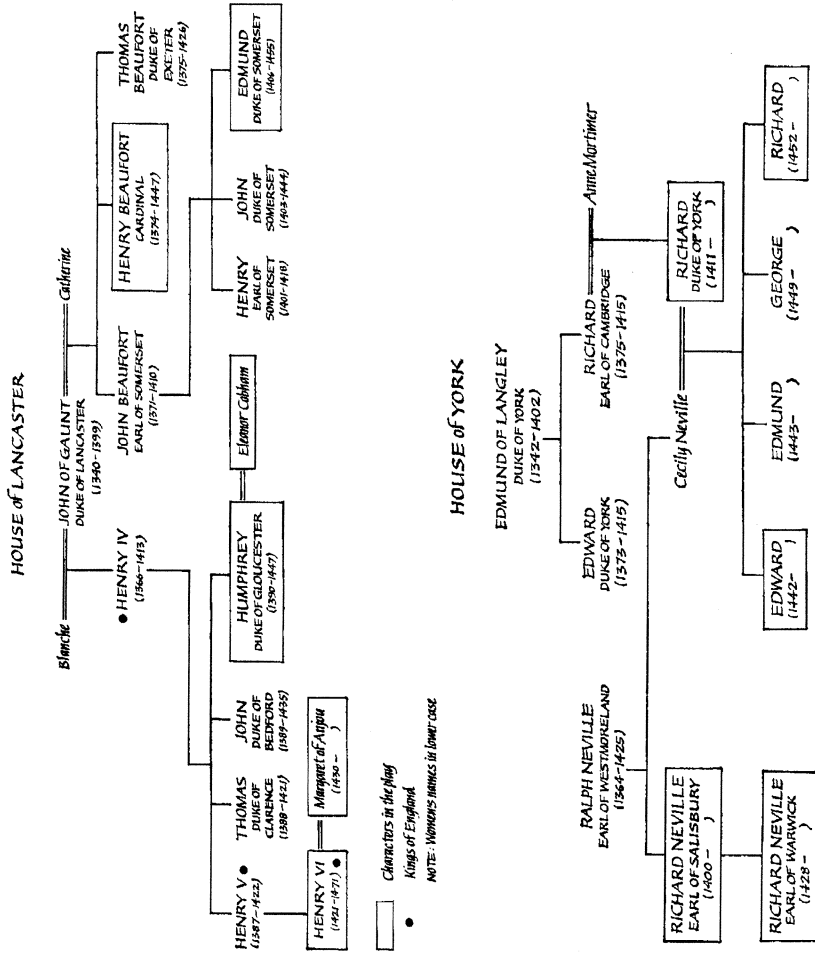
Forces of the spiritual and physical are in conflict. In *HENRY V* we are presented with a King that is able to rule by physical might and is capable of inspiring his followers with a moral cause. In *HENRY VI, part 1* the spiritual force, Joan of Arc, is destroyed by the English. In *PART 2*, best typified by the hawking scene, we are presented with a King that is mainly interested in ascension and a court fighting to become the next ruler of the physical world. The union of the spiritual and physical is blasted apart when we meet Jack Cade, the leader of the rebellion. His immersion into the physical and his promise of a world based on impulse and pleasure without cost, leaves a legacy of anarchy, ignorance, wanton destruction, and civil war.

The play seems to suggest that civilization requires a balance between the two. Society works because we as a collective have agreed to live under certain constraints that acknowledge a greater good.

Thank you for coming to the show. Please tell your friends about *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*.

- Steven Young

## HENRY VI PART II



**Steven Young** (Director) His directing credits include *Mad Forest* at the Milwaukee Rep., *Don't Disappoint Captain January* at American Blues, *The Triumph of Love* at the Boulevard Ensemble, *Small Town Girl* for the Playwright's Studio Theatre, *Oliver-Eastlight Theatre Company, Annie* for the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center, *Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet* for The New Tradition Theatre Company, *Taming of the Shrew* for the Summer Nights Festival, *The 15 Minute Hamlet* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, *Lysistrata* for the U of Minnesota-Duluth, *Much Ado About Nothing, The Seagull*, and *The School for Scandal* at Illinois State University and *Richard III, Oedipus the King*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the People's Theatre. In 1996 Steve was selected as an alternate for the New York Drama League's Director's Fellowship. Following *HENRY VI, part 2*, he will be directing *The Mouse Trap* at the U. of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



**Mara Polster** (Artistic Director) founded *The Shakespeare Project* in May of 1995 and is a graduate of *The Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Dance* in St. Louis. She has acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. Favorite acting credits include *The Roads to Home, Macbeth, Our Town, Top Girls*, and more musicals than she cares to name. Since its inception, *The Shakespeare Project* has enabled Mara to explore these brilliant and timeless works of William Shakespeare as both actor and director, and to provide the same opportunity to other talented artists in Chicago. *The Shakespeare Project* began as a "fire in the belly" and has grown to an object of much pride and promise with little more than a hungry imagination, a tireless love of the words and a brilliant group of actors. As always, *The Shakespeare Project* exists as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMaccchia (the sower of the seed) and Michael A. Wilson.