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The Shakespeare Project



presents

A "Theatrica / Reading " of

William Shakespeare's

Love's Labor's Lost

Directed by Mary Ringstad

Assistant Director: Jason Eric Hays

Stage Manager: Mara Polster

Directing Support: Jason Eric Hays, Mara Polster, Elena Yuan

Presented: February 13th, 14th, & 15th, 1998



COME OUT AND PLAY
Chicago Public Library

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is graciously supported by the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Center, The Illinois Arts Council and the voluntary contributions of our audiences. All of the actors and stage managers with The Shakespeare Project are members of Actors' Equity Association.



READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!



Director's Notes:

When the Artistic Director offered me a directing position for this season, she gave me a choice of two plays – *Merry Wives of Windsor* or *Love's Labor's Lost*. I leapt at *LLL* for three reasons:

- 1) I had been in a production of *Love's Labor's Lost*,
- 2) I was afraid of tackling *Merry Wives* because it contains Shakespeare's "Larger than life" Falstaff, and
- 3) Most people are unfamiliar with *Love's Labor's Lost*, so if I really made a mess of it, the audience might blame the debacle on Shakespeare instead of me.

In the event that *Love's Labor's Lost* is not part of your nightly bedtime reading regimen, I will provide you with some background. Believed to be Shakespeare's second play --probably composed in the late 1580's--, *LLL* is modeled on the court comedies of John Lyly. In addition to exploring the folly of love's pursuit, the play celebrates the Elizabethans' love for language. Some the word play is thick with topical satire making that text difficult to grasp 400 years later, but much of it is timelessly funny. I sometimes wonder if the current wave of political correctness in our language began with some 20th Century Don Armado.

Many of the characters are based on stock characters found in Italian "comedia dell' arte" but, as always, Shakespeare carves them more distinctly to make them quite real. It is also interesting to see how some of these characters are prototypes for later plays – Rosaline and Berowne later become Beatrice and Benedick, Constable Dull resurfaces as Dogberry, and I think you'll find some Don Armado in Malvolio.

I am not ashamed to say that I have done a good deal of editing with this script. Some of the dense topical satire and word play surrounding obscure vocabulary has been clipped out. Shakespearean purists may be shocked that I have eliminated one pair of lovers from the original script. My apologies (but can you honestly say you miss Dumaine and Katharine?!) Even with all these cuts, I believe I have left the play's spirit in tact.

Sit back, enjoy the play, and remember the times you have made yourself a fool for love. Happy Valentine's Day!

- Mary Ringstad

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.

Since November of 1995, *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* has been performing our trademark "Theatrical Readings" at various Chicago locations. January's presentation of *King Lear* marked the beginning of our 1998 Theatrical Reading Series, which promises three free opportunities each month to see twelve of the greatest plays of Shakespeare's canon. This year, we expand our audience to include the patrons of the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, located at 2045 North Lincoln Park West, while enthusiastically continuing to serve our audiences at The Berger Park Cultural Center and The Chicago Public Library/Harold Washington Center. Next month we present *Antony and Cleopatra*, a passionate story of love, betrayal and transcendence, on March 13th, 14th, and 15th at our three locations. Stay with us as we push toward the completion of the entire canon -with *Hamlet* in December of 1998. All readings are free to the public.

TSP Chicago is a nonprofit organization and may receive tax-deductible contributions. If you wish, you may send contributions to *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*, 2706 North Albany Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. To receive information on performance dates and locations as we push toward the completion of the entire canon, fill out a card as you enter or leave the performance and you will be put on our mailing list. For further information or to book a reading, contact the *TSP Chicago* office at 773/252-5433. (Phone and Fax). Email address TSPchicago@aol.com. Website: <http://members.aol.com/TSPchicago>.



Kevin Theis (Ferdinand) recently appeared as Silvius in the Goodman Theatre's production of *As You Like It* and will portray the title role in *Cardenio* this spring with the Next Theatre. Last season, he worked with Blue Star Performance Company in *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, played Sir Launcelot in City Lit's *The King* and could be seen as Phillip in CT20 Ensemble's production of *Orphans*. Kevin has also worked with the Illegitimate Players, Next Theatre, Bailiwick Repertory, Barto Productions, Buffalo Theatre Company and Peninsula Players. As a director, he was at the helm of Seanachai Theatre Company's *The Clearing*, *Crossing Boundaries* with Strawdog, *Musings and Asides* with Pantheon and *The Fair Maid of the West*, *Welcome to the Moon* and *Make-Up* with CT20 Ensemble, where he serves as Artistic Director.



Kristi VanderKooi (Jaquenetta) is thrilled to be working with *The Shakespeare Project* for the first time. In Chicago, she has been seen as Barbara De Marco in *Shear Madness* and as Valencia Pilgrim in *Slaughterhouse-Five* at the Steppenwolf Theatre. Last summer she traveled to Michigan and was the guest artist at the Barn Theatre, where she played Charlotte Hay in *Moon Over Buffalo*. An MFA graduate of the University of Arizona's Actor Training Program, Kristi has worked in theatre companies across the country. Some of her favorite roles include Prudie Cupp in *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, Princess Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Rizzo in *Grease*, Sissy in *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean*, Katherine in *The Foreigner*, Francis Black in *Light Up The Sky*, and Sorel Bliss in *Hayfever*. Kristi thanks her husband and family for their support.

Mary Ringstad (Director) is thrilled to accept the challenge of directing this "Theatrical Reading" of *Love's Labor's Lost* for *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. *TSP*



audiences may remember her from *Edward II*, *Henry IV part 2*, *Henry VI part 1*, *Richard III*. She also played Margaret in *Much Ado for TSP* at Oakton Community College. Mary has performed in theatres throughout Chicagoland and across the country, particularly when she appeared in the National Tour of *CATS*. Mary has a MFA in Acting from Ohio University. Mary is the Director of Drama Ministry for the Church of the Three Crosses (UMC/UCC) in Lincoln Park. Mary would like to thank Mara Polster for this opportunity and for her endless support. (Hey all you golfers: Ask me about the new book!)



Jason Eric Hays (Assistant Director) is enjoying cracking the whip for *Love's Labours Lost*. Jason directed *Henry VI, part 3* for *TSP Chicago* and looks forward to working on other directing tasks for the Project in the future. As an actor, he has performed in many *TSP* productions--most recently as Cornwall in *King Lear*. Other *TSP* credits include Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Jack Cade and the Earl of Suffolk in *2 Henry VI*, Bullingbroke in *Richard II*, and Macbeth in "the Scottish play." Jason spends most of his free time brushing his Old English Sheepdog, Waldo and "nesting" with his wife, Michele.



Mara Polster (Stage Manager, Artistic Director) is pleased to be assisting Mary Ringstad in her great work on *Love's Labor's Lost*. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* has now begun its third year presenting free public complete works of William Shakespeare. The project began in May of 1993 as a "fire in the belly" and has grown to an object of much pride and promise with little more than a tireless imagination and a love of the words (plus a brilliant Acting Company). Mara has performed on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. With *TSP*, she has played Lady Macbeth, Goneril, Katherine, Isabella, Paulina and Margaret and directed *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry VIII*, *Comedy of Errors* (twice), *Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Julius Caesar*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Othello*, *Loves Labours Lost*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth* (three times), *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Coriolanus*, *Edward II*, *Henry V*, *Richard III* and *King Lear*. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* exists as the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMaccchia (the sower of the seed) and Michael A. Wilson.

PRESENTS The Shakespeare ProjectLove's Labor's Lost

The Players (in order of appearance)

Ferdinand: *King of Navarre*.....Kevin Theis

Longaville.....Jonathyn Rayfield

Berowne.....Stephen Spencer

Dull: *a constable*.....Dennis Sook

Costard: *a clown*.....Robert Eustace

Don Adriano De Armado: *a fantastical Spaniard*....David Skidmore

Moth: *page to Armado*.....Scott Olson

Jaquenetta: *a country wench*.....Kristi Vander Kooi

Boyet: *a lord attending on the Princess of France*.....Matt Penn

The Princess of France.....Kim Ataide

Maria.....Judy Blue

Rosaline.....Adrianne Krstansky

Sir Nathaniel: *a curate*.....Richard Henzel

Holofernes: *a schoolmaster*.....Gary Houston

Mercade: *a French Messenger*.....Dennis Sook

The Scene: Navarre

There will be one 10 minute intermission



Kim Ataide (Princess of France) is very pleased to be working with *The Shakespeare Project*. Other Chicago credits include: Illinois Theatre Center, Drury Lane, Shakespeare Repertory, and The Court Theatre. Regionally, Kim has worked with Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare, The Grove Shakespeare, and Park City Shakespeare Festival. She recently completed shooting the independent film *Hope*: Kim portrayed an alcoholic and drug addicted woman who abuses her husband - quite a stretch for her. She holds an MFA from California Institute of the Arts.



Judy Blue (Maria) for TSP: Regan in *King Lear*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Lady Grey in *Henry VI*, Hero in *Much Ado*, 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 include Desiree 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 premiers of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*. Other theaters include Baltimore Theatre Project, Movement Theatre Intm'l, Henry Street New Federal Theatre in New York.



Robert Eustace (Costard) made his Chicago debut last year 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 a capella, rhythm and blues quintet, The Amazing Larks.



Richard Henzel (Sir Nathaniel) Previously for TSP, Richard has played Falstaff in *Henry IV*, John of Gaunt in *Richard II*, Vernon/Regnier in *Henry VI, part 1* and Snug/Moth in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other credits include Marty in *After-Play* at Organic Touchstone; Tom Edison in *Camping With Henry* and Tom directed by Gary Houston at Illinois Theatre Center; Reagan in *Rap Master Ronnie* at The Theatre Building; Ben Franklin in *1776* and Editor Webb in *Grover's Corners* both at Marriott's Lincolnshire; The Duke in *Huckleberry Finn* at The Goodman; Coles in *Other People's Money* at The Royal George; Mark Twain in *Mark Twain in Person*, now in it's thirtieth year.



Gary Houston (Holofernes) for TSP directed *The Merchant of Venice* and read Gloucester in January's *King Lear*, Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lenox in *Machbeth*, John in *King John*, Lancaster in *Edward II*, Edward in *Edward III*, York in *Richard II*, and Winchester in the first two parts of *Henry VI*, and Warwick in the third. At Oak Park Festival he was Buckingham in *Richard III*. Other roles are Tapperoom in *The Lady's Not for Burning* (Old Town Players), the Brewmaster in Vaclav Havel's *Audience* (Northlight), Dr. Sherman in *E/R* (Organic), persona "A" in *Rough for Theatre II* (Splinter's Buckets o' Beckett Festival), the role ramifyingly designated "Emil Jannings" in Peter Handke's *The Ride Across Lake Constance* (Actors' Co-op), William Blake in *Blake* (Writers' Theatre), Michael in *Fur* (Latino Chicago), and Sam in *Emma's Child* (Victory Gardens).



Adrienne Krstansky (Rosaline) is currently teaching acting at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. Previous credits include *Clockwork Orange* and *Twelfth Night* at Steppenwolf Theater, *Ubu Rock* at American Repertory Theater, and performances at The Atlantic Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse and Balliwick Rep. Actors' Theater of Louisville and The Touchstone Theater. She hold an MFA from the University of California in San Diego. She is very excited to be working for *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*.



Scott Olson (Moth) was last seen with TSP Chicago as The Fool in *King Lear*. Other TSP roles include the title role in *Henry V* and appearances in *Richard II, Henry IV, parts 1 and 2*, and *Henry VI parts 2 and 3*. He appeared for nine months as Tony Whitcomb in *Shear Madness* and as Opie in *As The Beaver at Zebra Crossing*. 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 and Hortensio in *The Taming of the Shrew* for the Commonweal Theatre Company. Last Fall, Scott appeared with Shaw Chicago in *The Millionaire* and *Lute Song*.



Matt Penn (Boyet) Chicago credits include: Northlight Rep, Shakespeare Repertory and The Cypress Group. Regional credits include: Stratford Festival (Canada), Milwaukee Repertory, Boarshead Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare, Macarther Theatre, Hudson Guild, Empire State Theatre, Meadowbrook Theatre. Film and Television credits: *Boxes and Closets* (Sundance entry) and *You're Never Too Old* (when he was very young!) It's fun to be working with Ms. Ringstad and *The Shakespeare Project* again.



Jonathan Rayfield (Longaville) *Love's Labor's Lost* marks Mr. Rayfield's return to Chicago Theatre. In the past several years, he has premiered *Big River* in Pittsburgh; performed the roles of The Stage Manager in *Our Town* and Oberon in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at West Virginia Repertory Theatre; and in Dallas he was featured in the world premiere of *Slim* at the Soul Repertory Theatre. Mr. Rayfield was last seen in the Chicago Theatre Scene at the Touchstone Theatre in their production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. He is very glad to be joining the TSP Chicago company for this production.



David Skidmore (Don Adriano de Armado) was last seen with *The Shakespeare Project* as the King of France and Oswald in *King Lear* and prior to that as Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Clarence in *Richard III*, in the title role of *Henry VI in parts 2& 3*, Hotspur in *Henry IV, part 1* and Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. He recently returned from 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 Malcolm in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. David grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, received a BA from Brandeis University in Boston and an MFA in Acting from Temple University Philadelphia. He thanks his wife Kori for all her support.



Dennis Sook (Dull/Marcade) has appeared in many of TSP's readings 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.



Stephen Spencer (Berowne) most recently played Richard, Duke of Gloucester in *Henry VI, part 3* and prior to that Buckingham in *Henry VI, part 2* and Fluellen in *Henry V*. Other TSP roles include the Black Prince in *Edward III* and Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He appeared in *Season's Greetings* at the Forum Theatre. In Chicago, he originated the title role in *A Fanciful Historie of 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 Theater and New Jersey's Cap May Playhouse. He toured throughout Russia, starting with Moscow's Leninsky