

## Profiles

**Michael Behrens** (Rosse) is an actor, director, and producer and is currently producing a new play in Chicago called *Offalon's Craft* by Bruce Gooch. In Grand Rapids he recently played the title role in *Macbeth* at Spring Valley Shakespeare Festival. Also, in the fall of 2000 Michael has been invited to direct at the Teper Theatre in Finland. His acting credits include: Horatio in **TSP's** premier production of *Hamlet* at the Chermin's Center for the Arts; Rosencrantz in *Hamlet* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tussenback in *The Three Sisters* and Milo Tindle in *Sleuth* at Idaho Repertory Theatre; Antipholus of Syracuse and Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Gilles Ralston in *Mouse Trap* at Sacramento Theatre Company. Michael appeared in productions of *You Can't Take It With You*, *White Devil*, *Richard III*, *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; as Sun Yang in *Good Person of Seizuan* at Illinois State University as a guest artist; in *Henry IV*, part 2, and as Cloten in *Cymbeline* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. He appeared in the US premier of *Dracula* at the Poway Performing Arts Centre and on television, guest starred on *High Tide* with Rick Springfield, and *Nowhere Man* produced by Walt Disney.

**Judy Blue\*** (Lady Macbeth) most recently appeared at Theater at the Center in *Getting Away With Murder* and with T.H.E.M Theatre Company as Ellen Terry in *By & About GBS*. Prior to that she appeared at the Organic Theatre Company as Lyssa Dent Hughes in *An American Daughter*. She has played many roles with **TSP** including Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Imogen in *Cymbeline*, Phoebe in *As You Like It*, Regan in *King Lear*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Hero in *Much Ado*, Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet* and Portia in *Merchant of Venice*. Judy was Viola in Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Twelfth Night*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* at Stage West and Phoebe in *As You Like It* at the Dallas Theater Center. In Chicago, roles include 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 premiers of Jack Heifner's *Homefires* and Horton Foote's *Valentine's Day*. Other theaters include Baltimore Theatre Project, Movement Theatre Intn'l, Henry Street New Federal Theatre in New York.

**Rick Carter** (Macbeth) was part of the premier cast of the **TSP** original, *My Name Is Will*, and played Warwick and Charles in **TSP's** presentation of the apocryphal *Edward III*, Nym and Orleanse in *Henry V*, York in *Henry VI part I*, Edward in *Henry VI, parts 2 & 3*, Diomedes in *Troilus and Cressida*, and Bassianus in *Titus Andronicus*. Rick has performed locally for many years, appearing in Shakespeare Rep.'s touring *Macbeth* as Macduff, Mr. Darcy in Lifeline's 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 also appeared regionally with the Iowa Shakespeare Project as Don Pedro in *Much Ado*, and the title role of *Macbeth*; and with Actors' Repertory as Danny in *Grease*, Young Joe in *Damn Yankees*, and Action in *West Side Story*. **Marshall Crawford** (Banquo) is happy to return to **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** having done both *Julius Caesar* and *Henry IV, part I*. Marshall's Chicago credits include Equity Library Theatre's *The Roads to Home*; Act Now/Turnaround Production's *A Dickens' Carol*, *Shelley's Monster* and *Lone Star*; *Don't Dress for Dinner* at Illinois Theatre Center; as well as Artistic Director of Turnaround Productions and the highly acclaimed *Faith Healer*. Regional credits include Outback Theatre Company, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Westside Rep and Warner Brothers' records.

**John Kooi** (Malcolm) is happy to be appearing with **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** again, having played Rosencrantz, Barnardo and the Grave Digger in the premier production of *Hamlet* last spring at the Chermin's Center for the Arts, and prior to that, Cassio in last fall's *Othello*. New York credits include *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Butterfingers Angel...*, and *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* (by Czechoslovakian playwright Vaclav Havel). Other regional credits include Napoleon in *A Thousand Kisses*; *The Love Story of Josephine and Napoleon* with the Historyonics Theatre Company, *Romeo and Juliet* (The Cleveland Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin conducting), *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Immigrant* and *I Haie Hamlet* (Shadowland Theatre), *As You Like It* and *Beitrayal* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), *Awake and Sing!* (Rainbow Theatre) and *Cantorial* (The Jewish Theatre of New England). John holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Brandeis U. in Massachusetts and a B.A. from St. John's U. in Minnesota.

**Laura Lamson** (Second Witch) most recently appeared in *The Road to Mecca* (Remy-Bumppo Productions) at Victory Gardens. Other Chicago credits include *The Little Foxes* and *La Bete* at Court Theatre; *Henry V*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Shakespeare Repertory; *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman Theatre; and *Macbeth* at the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival.

**Connie McGrail\*** (Lady Macduff, Fieance) has appeared with **The Shakespeare Project** in *Troilus and Cressida* (Cressida), *As You Like It* (Celia), *King Lear* (Cordelia), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Henry V* (Katherine) and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Diana) to name a few. She has performed locally with Northlight Repertory, Illinois Theatre Center, The Cypress Group, Alternative Shakespeare Co., and the Drury Lanes. Most recently she was seen in Eugene O'Neill's *Strange Interlude* at the North Lakeside Cultural Center and she will soon be seen in Drury Lane Oakbrook's *A Christmas Carol* as Belle. She is happy to be sharing the stage with two of her favorite actresses, Ivy and Willow.

## Profiles

**Scott Olson\*** (Lennox) returns to **TSP** where he most recently appeared as Laertes in last springs' premier production of *Hamlet*. Other notable **TSP** roles include the Fool in *King Lear*, Henry in *Henry V* and too many numerous clowns and princes to go into now. Scott also directed last fall's theatrical reading of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and returns as director of December's *Timon of Athens*. This past summer, Scott appeared with Equity Library Theatre as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and LeBeau in *As You Like It*. Scott has worked with numerous theatres in Chicago, most notably as Tony in *Shear Madness*. He has also done much regional work including Puck with the Denver Center Theatre Company. Scott currently teaches acting at Columbia College and is also an instructor at the UIC School of Medicine. He is eagerly looking forward to directing his first full production in Chicago this spring when he will direct *Hair* for Boxer Rebellion Theatre.

**Malcolm Rothman** (Duncan, Porter, Doctor) returns to **The Shakespeare Project** after last being seen in *Henry IV, part 2*. Malcolm has been seen at many of Chicago's great theatres including the Marriott Lincolnshire, Candlelight Theater, Royal George Theater, Drury Lane, Steppenwolf and the Court Theatre. Regional credits include Tyrone Guthrie Theater, New American Theater, Stages St. Louis, and Arrowroot Lyceum Theatre. Malcolm has extensive credits in commercials, film and television including featured roles on *EZ Streets*, *Early Edition*, *The Untouchables*, *Angel Street* and *Dillinger*.

**Dennis Sook\*** (Angus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Murderer) most recently appeared with **TSP** as the Jailer in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. He has appeared in many of **TSP's** Theatrical 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 soaps, and Off-Broadway in *New Mexican Rainbow Fishing* and the baseball comedy *A Perfect Diamond*. Dennis was 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\*** (Macduff) is a founding member of the Core Acting Company of **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** and last month, directed *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Prior to that he has appeared as Buckingham and Surrey in *Henry VIII*, Berowne in *Love's Labor's Lost*; Richard, Duke of Gloucester in *Henry VI, part 3*; Buckingham in *Henry VI, part 2*; Fluellen in *Henry V*; Edward, the Black Prince in *Edward III*; Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*; Lord Dumaine the younger in *All's Well That Ends Well*; Ross, Salisbury and Exton in *Richard II* and Mcduff in *Macbeth*. He 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 *Judvine*, *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. Steve works commercially doing Corporate Theatre for *The Breakthrough Group* and attempts to eke-out other work doing voiceovers, commercials, industrials and big-time film and television.

**Laura Solliman St. John** (Third Witch) Last seen as the Player Queen in **The Shakespeare Project's** premier production of *Hamlet*, Laura has also performed as an ensemble member of Street Signs – notably as Dedalus in *A Portrait of the Artist* and Taffeta in their hit late night comedy *Night of the Mime*. She has done a number of on-camera spots and voice overs for Bix Pix Entertainment and has toured the country in the one woman show *Through the Cracks*, based on the book she co-wrote, published in 1992. Laura currently serves as Project Coordinator and performer with the Illinois Labor History Society's touring production of *Come Along and Join*. She also works in several Chicago Public Schools as a resident artist.

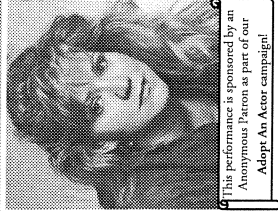
**Mike Vaughn** (Bloody Sergeant, Siward, Mentieth, 1<sup>st</sup> Murderer) is pleased to return to **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** where last month he played Perithous in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Born in Detroit, MI, but raised in Berkeley, CA, Mr. Vaughn has been active as a professional actor since 1975. Some of his favorite roles include Creon in *Antigone*, Parrot in *The Iceman Cometh*, Teasle in *The School for Scandal* and the title roles in *Woyzeck* and *Agamemnon*. He has trained and or worked with The American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The San Francisco Mime Troupe and The California Shakespeare Festival (where he appeared in *As You Like It*, *Coriolanus* and *Pericles*). He taught with The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival where he directed a shortened *Hamlet* with a cast of ten-year-olds. He has also worked in film and television. He is currently a junior at Columbia College Chicago.

**Wendi Weber** (First Witch) last appeared with **The Shakespeare Project of Chicago** in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Other credits include Julia in Titan Productions' *Friday in America* at Victory Gardens, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Court Theatre, *Mere Mortals* at Organic Theatre, Valentina in *Stars in the Morning Sky* at European Repertory Company and Katherine in *Anastasia Krupnik* at Lifeline Theatre. This spring Wendi will be seen in Organic Theatre's production of Nicky Silver's *The Food Chain*.

## This Month's Artists



**Michael Behrens**  
Rosse



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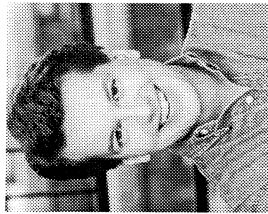
**Judy Blue\***  
Lady Macbeth



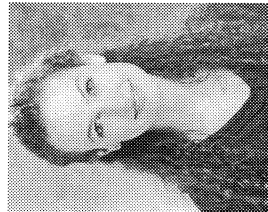
**Rick Carter**  
Macbeth



**Marshall Crawford**  
Banquo



**John Kooi**  
Malcolm

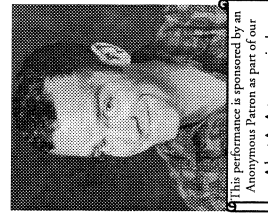


**Laura Lamson**  
Second Witch



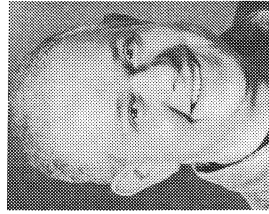
This performance is sponsored by an Anonymous Patron as part of our Adopt An Actor campaign!

**Connie McGrail\***  
Lady Macduff,  
Fleance



This performance is sponsored by an Anonymous Patron as part of our Adopt An Actor campaign!

**Scott Olson\***  
Lennox



**Malcolm Rothman**  
Duncan, Porter,  
Doctor



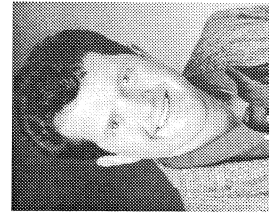
**Dennis Sook\***  
Angus,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Murderer



**Stephen Spencer\***  
Macduff



**Laura Sollman St. John**  
Third Witch



**Mike Vaughn**  
Siward, Bloody Sergeant,  
1<sup>st</sup> Murderer, Mentieth,



**Wendy Weber**  
First Witch



**David Skidmore\***  
Director



**Mary Ringstad\***  
Associate Producer

## Notes from the Director:

*Macbeth* is one of Shakespeare's most modern plays and one of his most old-fashioned. Certainly the issues dealt with in the play are timeless, and its structure, its compactness, its cinematic cutting back and forth between scenes and its wealth of overlapping (shared) verse lines give the play a pace and rhythm which any modern moviegoer would feel comfortable with. But the play also has features which can prove troubling in staging the play for the contemporary audience, most especially in the cases of the witches and their prophecies, and the apparitions and visions which plague Macbeth.

Shakespeare's audience would not have had any trouble accepting the supernatural as real, present and relevant in everyday life, but today's theatergoer is much less likely to be terrified by witches and visions as he or she is to be amused by them. What is a director to do, when money is tight and pointy hats and creaky-voiced cackling are ruled out?

We may not think witches are amongst us, but evil, however one conceives it, certainly is; we are confronted with it every day in choices big and small, obvious and difficult. Do we return the watch we found in the cab? Do we cheat on our taxes? Do we cheat on our spouses? Do we decry genocide, but vote down bond issues for new schools?

This is why I have made the witches a large presence in Macbeth's life in the many small roles they assume to haunt him. The witches give Macbeth choices, they show him scenarios, but they do not *force* Macbeth (or his wife) to do evil. It is the ambition, hubris, and disregard for human life of the Macbeths in the *choices they make* which sets off the bloodbath and civil war in the play.

Heraclitus said that a man's character is his fate. In our own modern and complex lives we may think ourselves able to fudge on the seemingly quaint black-and-whiteness of character and avoid fate in our ability to see shades of gray, but in *Macbeth* Shakespeare shows us that our vision may not be as sharp as we think.

Enjoy the ride, and have a Happy Halloween!

*-David Skidmore*

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COME OUT AND PLAY



Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs



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# The Shakespeare Project of Chicago



presents

A Theatrical Reading

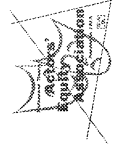
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# MACBETH

Directed by David Skidmore

Stage Manager: Christine Thom

Performances: October 28, 29, 30, 1999



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

*The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is partially supported by the Chicago Park District; by a Program Grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; by CAAP and CityArts 1 grants from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; by Employee Matching Contributions from the Lucent Technologies Foundation; by the Chicago Public Library/ Harold Washington Center; and the generous voluntary contributions of our program audiences.

**Willow Rook** (Boy Macduff) is happy to be making her debut with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* in this production of *Macbeth*. Past theatrical credits include *The Wizard of Oz* at LaSalle Language Academy and future projects include Edgar Allen Poe's *The Black Cat*. Willow is in fifth grade at LaSalle Language Academy and her interests include gymnastics, swimming, drawing, and running cross country.

**Ivy Rook** (Boy Macduff) is happy to be making her debut with *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* in this production of *Macbeth*. Past theatrical credits include *The Wizard of Oz* at LaSalle Language Academy and future projects include Edgar Allen Poe's *The Black Cat*. Ivy is in fifth grade at LaSalle Language Academy and her interests include gymnastics, swimming, drawing, and running cross country.

**David Skidmore\*** (Director) grew up in Madison, Wisconsin; received his BA from Brandeis University in Boston and MFA in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, and studied acting and improvisation for five years at the Piven Theatre Workshop. Most recently seen in Chicago as The Hunchback in NOWtheatre's *Signal to Noise* at Victory Gardens, he has appeared professionally in such diverse roles as Hally in *MASTER HAROLD...and the boys*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, and Jesus in *The Medieval Mystery Cycle*. He recently played two leads in three shows at The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre: Philoctetes in Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* and Sidney in *Smash*; an adaptation of one of G.B. Shaw's novels in MCT's annual Shaw Festival. A *Shakespeare Project* veteran, the many roles he has played include Iago, Troilus, Dogberry, Hotspur, Henry VI, Romeo and Hamlet, which he recreated for *TSP*'s premier production last March/April. David has recorded drama for Wisconsin Public Radio, has been hired to read testimony in trials, and in addition, has a business running focus groups for market research. He also speaks Spanish and currently reads a Spanish language weekly, *El Extra*, on CRIS Radio in Chicago. He thanks his wife Kori for her support.

**Christine Thom** (Stage Manager) has stage managed the theatrical readings of *Hamlet*, *Henry V* and *Comedy of Errors* for *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago*. She recently was the SM for Remy Bumppo's *The Road to Mecca* and ASM for *Morning Star* at Steppenwolf. Other credits include *Tavern Story* - The Garage at Steppenwolf; *The Idiot* and *George* - Lookingglass Theatre Company; and *An Enchanted Land: The Life of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings* - The Hippodrome in Gainesville, Florida.

**Mary Ringstad** (Associate Producer) has been a member of the *TSP* Core Acting Company since 1997 and became a member of the Board of Directors this year. Other *TSP* roles include Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Margaret in *1-Henry VI*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Prince Edward in *Edward II* and Falstaff's page in *2-Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and she is part of the premier cast of the *TSP* original *My Name Is Will*. Also for *TSP*, Mary directed *Love's Labor's Lost* and served as assistant director for *King Lear*. Mary has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University.

**Mara Polster** (Artistic Director) and her husband Chris have recently been blessed with the birth of their beautiful son, Michael Aaron Wilson. Since May of 1995 she has led *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* through the entirety of William Shakespeare's dramatic works. Mara has acted on many of the stages here in Chicago and many others across the country. She played Agnes in *I Do, I Do*, *I Do* at the Evergreen Theatre, Vonnegut in *The Roads To Home* at the Eclipse, and Edna/Ma'am White in *Freedom Bound* at the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Other favorite roles include Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, Amiens in *As You Like It*, Emily in *Our Town* and many musicals including *Candide*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita*, *A Little Night Music*, *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *Best Little Whorehouse*, *The King and I*, *Zorba*, and so on. With *TSP*, Mara has played many of the great Shakespearean women including Emilia in *Othello*, Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*, Margaret in *3-Henry VI*, Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Lady Macbeth and has provided similar opportunities to other actors in Chicago. She has 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*, *Coriolanus*, *Edward II*, *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It* and *Hamlet*, which was mounted as *TSP*'s premier production last March/April. *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* is the grateful commemoration of two fiercely strong souls, Samuel E. LaMacchia and Michael Alan Wilson.

# The Shakespeare Project Presents MACBETH The Players (in order of appearance)

First Witch	Wendi Weber
Second Witch	Laura Lamson
Third Witch	Laura Sollman St. John
Duncan, King of Scotland	Malcolm Rothman
Malcolm	John Kooi
Donalbain } his sons	David Skidmore*
A Bloody Sergeant	Mike Vaughn
Lennox, a nobleman of Scotland	Scott Olson*
Rosse, a nobleman of Scotland	Michael Behrens
Macbeth	Rick Carter
Banquo } Generals of the King's Army	Marshall Crawford
Angus, a nobleman of Scotland	Dennis Sook*
Lady Macbeth	Judy Blue*
Gentlewoman, attending on Lady Macbeth	Second Witch
Fleance, son of Banquo	Connie McGrail*
Macbeth's Servant	First Witch
A Porter	Malcolm Rothman
Macduff, a nobleman of Scotland	Stephen Spencer*
An Old Woman	Second Witch
First Murderer	Mike Vaughn
Second Murderer	Dennis Sook*
Third Murderer	First Witch
First Apparition, an armed head	First Witch
Second Apparition, a bloody child	Second Witch
Third Apparition, a Child crowned, with a tree in his hand	Third Witch
Lady Macduff	Connie McGrail*
Boy, son to Macduff	Willow Rook
Boy, son to Macduff	Ivy Rook
Doctor	Malcolm Rothman
Menteith, a nobleman of Scotland	Mike Vaughn
"Cream Face" Servant	Third Witch
Seyton, an officer attending on Macbeth	First Witch
Siward, Earl of Northumberland, General of the English forces	Mike Vaughn
Young Siward, his son	David Skidmore*

Scene: Scotland; England

There will be one 10 minute intermission

\* Denotes Core Company Members.

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