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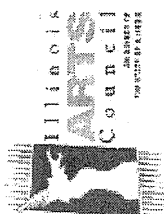
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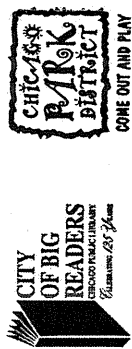
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Masters of the Revels

(continued)

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Kristan Schmidt
Herbert S. Siegel
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Richard Sullivan Lee
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Julian & Lou Ann Schachner
Dr. & Mrs. Harry L. Sheehy
Joan C. Spatafora
Harriet A. Swanson
Anne Ttee
Marion H. Weber

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(\$10 - \$49)

Franklyn & Judith Alexander
Scott & Charlotte Alexander

Beloved Groundlings

(continued)

Art Nordenberg
Joan and Charles Plock
Norm & Sandy Robins
Joyce Saxon
Dr. & Mrs. Harry L. Sheehy
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Stephen Spencer

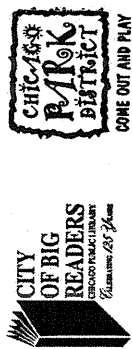
Michelle Sterling

Christopher Walz

Christopher Wilson

James P. Wilson

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The Shakespeare Project of Chicago



presents

A Theatrical Reading of

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Directed by

PETER GARINO

Stage Manager

Tom Hagglund

Performances: June 24th and 25th, 2000



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

This Month's Artists



Dawn Bach
Snug Cobweb



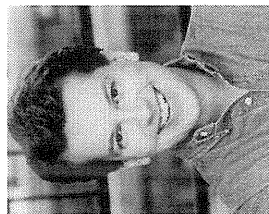
Rick Carter*
Oberon



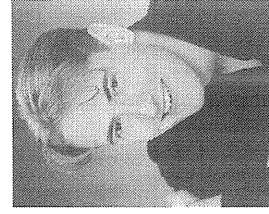
Julie Ganey
Hippolyta, Mustardseed



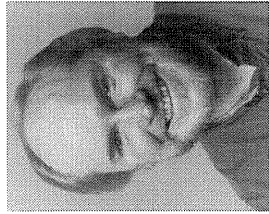
Beth Jacoby
Titania



John Kooli*
Egeus,
Robin Starveling



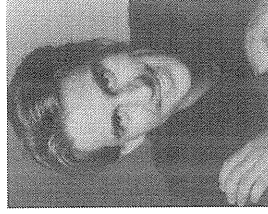
Dan Kuhlman
Demetrius



Richard Sullivan Lee
Theseus



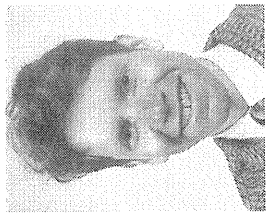
Katherine Marie Loague
Helena



Ian Novak
Lysander



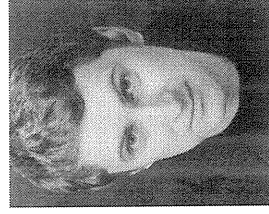
Cristen Paige
Hermia



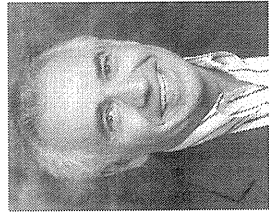
Daniel Scott
Peter Quince



Justine Serino
Peaseblossom, Tom Shout



David Skidmore*
Robin Goodfellow (Puck)



Dennis Sook*
Francis Flute



Stephen Spencer*
Nick Bottom



Peter Garino
Director

Notes from the Director:

Dr. Phil was on Oprah the other day exhorting young couples to beware of getting married before they're ready. "You need to do your homework first," he said. "People love planning a wedding, but nobody prepares for marriage." I guess the divorce rate in this country supports his conclusions. I believe the second most recognized piece of music in this country (after "Happy Birthday to You") is Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. So, to one degree or another, Shakespeare has played a contributory role in America's love affair with weddings.

I don't believe Dr. Phil would be too impressed with *Midsummer*. After all, the youngsters are too young and inexperienced to get married. Hippolyta (a trophy wife) is literally a conquest of Theseus. One could expect a pragmatic realist like Dr. Phil would not believe in fairies, but, he would still dismiss any hope for Titania and Oberon because of their long-standing history of bitter debate and their current custody dispute over the Changeling Boy. What future could possibly be in store for such dysfunctional couples?

Fortunately, *Midsummer* is a play for all of us who are romantic at heart. A play where dreams can come true; where happy endings are possible. It was my first Shakespearean production as a freshman at Hofstra University in March 1974. I recall watching the final scene from the wings each night as Oberon, Titania and her fairies cast their marriage blessings over the three couples. "So shall all the couples three, ever true in loving be." It was a spectacle that moved me by its simplicity and message of hope. It was also a stunningly beautiful scene to watch as tiny, firefly lights illuminated the aquamarine costumes of the fairies and the stage light dimmed to semi-darkness. All was now well: Titania and Oberon were reconciled, the young lovers finally united, Theseus and Hippolyta were finally celebrating their much-anticipated day.

Francis Ford Coppola (a Hofstra alum) had attended our opening night performance and post-show celebration. It was the 25th anniversary of Hofstra's Shakespeare Festival. He had arrived in Oberon-like fashion in his own helicopter on the lawn outside the theatre. He must have been as impressed as I had been with Titania and her fairies. He requested their presence the next morning at another wedding he was presiding over: that of Michael and Kay Corleone.

So whenever I watch *The Godfather, Part II*, I always look for Titania, Cobweb, Peaseblossom, Mote and Mustardseed at the wedding reception. They're in there somewhere -- drinking wine, eating wedding cake, playing with children and silently invoking their *Midsummer* blessings on the handsome young couple. Unfortunately, even with all of their mystical powers, Titania and her fairies were no match for the mob. Dr. Phil probably wouldn't have approved of that marriage either, and he was right -- this time.

Peter Garino

*PERFORMANCES SPONSORED BY OUR "ADOPT AN ACTOR" CAMPAIGN: JOHN KOOL AND DENNIS SOOK BY PATRON, ANN JOHNSON; RICK CARTER, DAVID SKIDMORE, AND STEPHEN SPENCER BY AN ANONYMOUS PATRON.

Profiles

Peter Garino (Director) has worked since 1995 with *TSP* and has appeared as an actor in over 20 theatrical readings. Additionally, he has directed readings of *The Taming of the Shrew* (1996), *Pericles* (1996), and *2 Henry IV* (1997). His original adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name is Will*, was staged as a theatrical reading by *TSP* in March 1999 and received a full professional production at Oakton Community College this past April. He has worked with the Oak Park Festival Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Organic Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, Body Politic Ensemble and Pegasus Players. Peter trained with the National Shakespeare Company Conservatory and received his M.F.A. in Acting from Illinois State University. He is currently working with Chicago playwright Leigh Johnson on production plans for *The Khe Sanh Bagman*, a trilogy of one-act plays that focus on the influence of the Viet Nam conflict on Chicago.

Tom Hagglund (Stage Manager) is pleased to stage manage *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's* production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Tom has previously stage managed *My Name Is Will*, *Othello*, *The Tempest* and *As You Like It* for *The Shakespeare Project*. Tom recently appeared in *Carmen* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Mara Polster (Artistic Director) Since May of 1995 Mara has led *The Shakespeare Project of Chicago* through the entirety of William Shakespeare's dramatic works (now on their second pass). 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* at the Evergreen Theatre, Vonnies 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 Night's 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

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Players

(in order of appearance)

Theseus, Duke of Athens	Richard Sullivan Lee
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons	Julie Ganey
Egeus, father to Hermia	John Kooi
Hermia	Cristen Paige
Lysander	Ian Novak
Demetrius	Dan Kuhlman
Helena	Katherine Marie Loague
Oberon, king of the Fairies	Rick Carter
Titania, queen of the Fairies	Beth Jacoby
Robin Goodfellow (Puck), a hobgoblin serving Oberon	David Skidmore
Peaseblossom	Justine Serino
Cobweb	Dawn Bach
Mustardseed	Julie Ganey
Peter Quince, a carpenter	Daniel Scott
Nick Bottom, a weaver	Stephen Spencer
Francis Flute, a bellows-mender	Dennis Sook
Tom Snout, a tinker	Justine Serino
Snug, a joiner	Dawn Bach
Robin Starveling, a tailor	John Kooi

Scene: Athens and a wood near it

There will be one 10 minute intermission

All Actors working with *TSP Chicago* are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

Profiles

Dawn Bach (Snug, Cobweb) is pleased to be making her *Shakespeare Project* debut with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In Chicago, she has been seen by audiences at Touchstone, Victory Gardens, Next, Bailiwick, Lifeline, Northlight, American Theater Company and The Goodman, where she recently appeared in *A Christmas Carol*. Dawn is a company member of ATC, where she also recently wrote and directed the original music for *Medea*. Thanks and love to her husband, Ravi.

Rick Carter (Oberon) 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 1*, 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*.

Julie Ganey (Hippolyta, Mustardseed) was most recently seen in Irish Repertory's *The Mai*, and has also appeared in productions at theatres including Shattered Globe, Steppenwolf, Lifeline, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Drury Lane Evergreen Park and Chicago Dramatists. She has also written and performed for educators and corporations literally all over the country with the comedy troupe Wavelength, and leads improvisation based workshops on manners for American Girl Place. Julie lives with her husband, Brad Harbaugh, who is also a writer and actor.

Beth Jacoby (Titania) is excited to be making her first appearance with *The Shakespeare Project* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Chicago audiences last saw Beth as Jocasta in the Women's Theatre Alliance production of *Bloodlust and Vanity*. Favorite local and regional roles include: Barbara De Marco in *Shear Madness*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, and Google Gomez in *The Ritz*. A frequent voice on radio and television commercials, Beth is also well-known as an impressionist, having appeared in hundreds of live and filmed industrials as everyone from Joan Rovers and "Ernestine" the telephone operator, to Good Witch Glinda and Bart Simpson.

John Kooji (Egeus, Robin Starveling) is happy to be appearing with *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago* again, having played Malcolm in *Macbeth* last fall and prior to that Rosencrantz, Barnardo and the Grave Digger in the premier production of *Hamlet* last spring at the Chermin's Center for the Arts; Antipholus of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors*, multiple roles in *Henry VIII* and Cassio in *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 Hate Hamlet* (Shadowland Theatre), *As You Like It* and *Beetragal* (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. **Dan Kuhlman** (Demetrius) is a recent graduate of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in Pittsburgh and a relative newcomer to the Chicago Theater scene. His favorite credits include Lord Alfred Douglas in *Gross Indecency*, Jerry in *Zoo Story*, Claudio in *Measure for Measure*, The King in *Love's Labors Lost*, and the Stage Manager in *Our Town*. This is his first production with *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago*, and he is very excited to be working with the company.

Richard Sullivan Lee (Theseus) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. This is his seventh reading with *The Shakespeare Project*, having last appeared at Pandanus in *Troilus and Cressida*. Richard's stage credits include countless productions as an Artist in Residence at Purdue, as well as work at A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, The Riverside Shakespeare Company in New York City and The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival

Katherine Marie Loague (Helena) prior to moving to Chicago lived in NYC enjoying a diverse body of work (Greeks to Chekhov – as well as originating roles in plays by Constance Congdon and Edwin Sanchez) at various theatres there. Directed by Christopher Martin, she performed at Classic Stage Company (CSC) in rotating rep. And had the good fortune to be directed by Marshall Mason in *Hot L Baltimore* and *Summer and Smoke*. Last season, Kate played Mistress Quickly in *The Shakespeare Project's* theatrical reading of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and performed Gertrude (as understudy) in their premier production of *Hamlet* last spring at the Chermin's Center for the Arts. With Equity Library Theatre, she was delighted to play Peter Quince in the hiking version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She toured with ELT to NYC playing Mary (aka Adam) in *As You Like It*.

Profiles

Ian Novak (Lysander) is delighted to make his debut with *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago*. Other Chicago credits include *Shakespeare's R & J* at Apple Tree Theatre, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, the title role in Live Bait's *Cheri*, *A Wrinkle In Time* at Lifeline Theatre, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Pygmalion* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the St. Louis Repertory Theatre. Ian is a proud company member of the Griffin Theatre where credits include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Shakespeare's Dog*.

Cristen Paige (Hermia) is very happy to be working for the first time with *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago*. A northeast native, she grew up in New Jersey, received a BFA in Acting at Boston University and lived in NYC for 4 years. She has worked with Theatreworks/USA, StageOne in Louisville and Indiana Repertory Theater where she played Anne Frank in *And Then They Came For Me*, and Hermia (for the first time) in *Misummer*. Cristen loves Chicago.

Daniel Scott (Peter Quince) is delighted to make his first appearance with *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago*. Dan is a member of Bog Theatre in Des Plaines, where he is Associate Artistic Director and Director-in-residence. Recent directing credits include *Steel Magnolias*, *Little Women*, *Our Town*, *The Diviners*, and *The Crucible*. He has appeared in several productions, including *Oleanna* and *Born Yesterday*. Dan would like to thank Fred Stone for his encouragement and friendship.

Justine Serino (Peaseblossom, Tom Snout) is very pleased to be participating in her first *TSP Chicago* theatrical reading. Other credits include *The Irish and How They Got That Way* at the Mercury Theatre, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at Circle Theatre, *Fefu and Her Friends* with Cantadora Productions and *Twelfth Night*, *Deeper Shade of Blue* and *The Ballad of the Sad Café* with Footsteps Theatre where she was proud to be a company member.

David Skidmore (Robin Goodfellow) 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 Rob in *Dreams of Baby* at Breadline Theatre and The Hunchback in NOWtheatre's *Signal to Noise* at Victory Gardens, he has also 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.

Dennis Sook (Francis Flute) 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 (Nick Bottom) is a founding member of the Core Acting Company of *The Shakespeare Project* of *Chicago* and last September, 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*; Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*; Lord Dumaine the younger in *All's Well That Ends Well*; Ross, Salisbury and Exton in *Richard II* and Macduff 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 *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. 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.