

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS
30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

→ **MEASURE FOR MEASURE**
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTED BY ERIN SLOAN
NOVEMBER 16-20, 2024

→ **THE WINTER'S TALE**
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTED BY PETER GARINO
FEBRUARY 21-25, 2025

→ **THE TEMPEST**
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTED BY J.R. SULLIVAN
APRIL 4-12, 2025

→ **KING LEAR**
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTED BY MICHELLE SHUPE
JUNE 13-21, 2025

2024-2025 Theatrical Reading Season

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library
Sunday, November 17, 2024, 2:00PM – Nilis-Maine District Library
Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 7:00PM – Mount Prospect Public Library
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 6:30PM – Vernon Area Public Library

THE WINTER'S TALE

Friday, February 21, 2025, 7:00PM – Nilis-Maine District Library
Saturday, February 22, 2025, 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library
Monday, February 24, 2025, 6:30PM – Vernon Area Public Library
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:00PM – Mount Prospect Public Library

THE TEMPEST

Friday, April 4, 2025, 7:00PM – Nilis-Maine District Library
Saturday, April 5, 2025, 10:00AM – Newberry Library
Sunday, April 6, 2025, 2:00PM – Mount Prospect Public Library
Monday, April 7, 2025, 6:30PM – Vernon Area Public Library
Saturday, April 12, 2025, 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library

KING LEAR

Friday, June 13, 2025, 7:00PM – Nilis-Maine District Library
Saturday, June 14, 2025, 10:00AM – Newberry Library
Sunday, June 15, 2025, 2:00PM – Mount Prospect Public Library
Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 6:30PM – Vernon Area Public Library
Saturday, June 21, 2025, 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library

**THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by

William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Garino

Stage Manager: Daniel Millhouse*

Original Music and Sound Design: George Zahora

2024 Season

June 15, 17, 2024

Newberry Library
Nilis-Maine District Library



* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, Illinois 60625
(708) 446-9835

The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges all of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 29 years. With heartfelt thanks, we acknowledge contributors to our 2024 season.

Anonymous, Judith Alexander, Margaret Bjerklie, Joshua C. Carpenter, Caroline Cracraft, Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Gary Houston, Alan Johnson, Therese Kelleghan, Michele Joan Kohn, Joyce Meggett, Sondra Pfeffer, J.R. Sullivan, Melinda Walter, Bronna Wasserman.



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Michelle Shupe

Artistic Director
Associate Artistic Director

MY NAME IS WILL

a dramatic adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs

Adapted and Directed by Peter Garino

Music by Christopher Walz

Featuring

Judy Blue

Joe Lehman

Christopher Prentice

Mary Ringstad



NewberryFest

Saturday, July 20, 2024

10:00AM – 4:00PM

My Name Is Will at Noon in Ruggles Hall

Artist Biographies



Rena Ahmed (Luce, Lady Abbess) Ahmed is a versatile performer who has been featured in numerous productions of opera, operetta, musical theater, theater, cabaret and concert works throughout the Chicago area. She was the founder and Artistic Director of Third Eye Theatre Ensemble, an award-winning opera company that produced new and seldom performed works that inspired conversation while advocating for human rights and social justice. She was recently seen in *Timon of Athens* with The Shakespeare Project, and is delighted to be working with them once again.



Josh Bernaski (Dromio of Syracuse) is thrilled to be working again with The Shakespeare Project, last appearing in *Timon of Athens* and previously *Richard III*. Over the past year, Josh has been bouncing around the country as Tigger in *Disney's Winnie the Pooh*, performing with the Off-Broadway, Chicago, LA, and National Tour companies. Throughout Chicago, Josh has also worked with Manual Cinema, First Folio, Lifeline Theatre, Drury Lane and others, and is currently understudying *Silent Sky* at Citadel Theatre. Josh often works at regional theaters across the country, and previously toured five years throughout South America and the Middle East with Artspot Educational Theatre.

Proud graduate of Temple University, represented by BMG Talent, founder of The Connecting Routes Project.



RJ Cecott (Officer) is thrilled to make his Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut. An award-winning actor, RJ received his Bachelor of Science in Acting at Illinois State University. Notable roles: *columbinus* (Eric Harris), *The 25th ... Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear), *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Satan), *Angels in America* (Prior), *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Ash), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Nick), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Stanley), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello [u/s Seymour]), *This is Our Youth* (Dennis), *Spring Awakening* (Moritz), and most recently understudied Laertes with Red Theater's *Hamlet*. Film: *Parallels* (2023), and is currently filming *The Girl*

in the Mask (as Red Robin, with Kevin Porter [Dodgeball] as Batman). You can see more at rjcecott.com/



Joe Fernandez (Angelo) is excited to be returning to Shakespeare after a decade long hiatus since he appeared in *Shakespeare's Women* at Marquette University where he was awarded the Chris Farley Scholarship. Joe has performed in productions with Northlight Theater, Goodman Theater, Milwaukee Repertory and American Theater Company but has primarily been doing standup comedy over the past ten years. He currently has two full-length specials out, *Ugly* on Tubi and *Demented*. *Live at the Chicago Laugh Factory* out now on YouTube. Has he also beat Hannibal Buress in consecutive games of NBA Jam and improvised yelling at Oliver Platt in an episode of *Chicago Med*. Yes he has and

they're the credits he's most proud of.

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THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO**
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THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
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Contributions to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission. Make your donation go even further: Does your company support a matching program for your donation? We will be happy to assist. Email: outreach@shakespeareprojectchicago.org

Dear Rhoda

By **Donna Russell and David Ranney**
Directed by Peter Garino

October 26, 2024
10:00AM
Newberry Library

Pre-registration required
Seating is limited



COMING SOON

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's 30th Anniversary Gala

A special evening of entertainment
to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Dramatis Personae

EGEON, a merchant from Syracuse	Peter Garino*+
SOLINUS, Duke of Ephesus	Tim Kough
ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE	Joe Lehman*
DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.....	Josh Bernaski
FIRST MERCHANT	Mike Rogalski
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS.....	Christopher Prentice*
DROMIO OF EPHEBUS	Aaron Spencer
ADRIANA, Antipholus of Ephesus's wife	Erin Sloan*
LUCIANA, Adriana's sister.....	Lorelei Sturm
LUCE, kitchen maid betrothed to Dromio of Ephesus.....	Rena Ahmed
MESSENGER.....	Mike Rogalski
ANGELEO, an Ephesian goldsmith	Joe Fernandez
SECOND MERCHANT, owed money by Angelo	Dina Monk
BALTHASAR, an Ephesian merchant.....	Tim Kough
COURTESAN.....	Kendal Romero
DR. PINCH, a schoolmaster engaged as an exorcist.....	Mike Rogalski
OFFICER.....	RJ Cecott
LADY ABBESS.....	Rena Ahmed

Scene: Ephesus

Running Time: Approximately two hours and fifteen minutes including intermission
A discussion of the play will follow this performance

* Members of Actors' Equity Association

+ Founding Member, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Daniel Millhouse (Stage Manager) is grateful and thrilled to be returning to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago for his fifteenth production! Chicago Theatre: Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, ShawChicago, A Crew of Patches, Remy Bumppo, and The Second City Training Center. Regional Theatre: Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theatre, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Film/TV: *Chicago Fire*. Motion Capture: *Call of Duty* Video Game Franchise. Podcasts: *The Vanishing Act* and The Onion's: *The Topical*. Education: MFA in Acting/Directing - University of Wisconsin-Madison; BS - Eastern Michigan University. Daniel is an Assistant Professor at the College of DuPage, a proud member of AEA, and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Check out more information on his website at www.danielmillhouse.com.

George Zahora (Original Music/Sound Design) is very happy to be back composing music and designing sound for The Project, a role he's filled on almost every Shakespeare Project production since 2011. He was also the author of our 2019 Holiday show *Christmas Comes But Once a Yea* -- was that really almost five years ago? Where does the time go? During the COVID-19 hiatus he worked on *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale* at Oak Park Festival Theatre and *Pride and Prejudice* for the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. And now here he is again. As always, he hopes his work enhances your understanding and enjoyment of today's performance.



Peter Garino (Egeon/Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. In March, he played the title role in The Project's *Timon of Athens*. Recent directing credits for The Project include *Celebrating the Holidays in Verse and Song*, and *Isabella Andreini: Portrait of a Diva*. 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*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Helicanus in *Pericles*, 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, the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. 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. Love to Helene and Glen.



Tim Kough (Duke, Balthasar) Tim is honored to work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago again, after appearing in *Timon of Athens* in March. He is an actor, musician, songwriter, audiobook narrator and playwright. Favorite roles include Harry Truman in *Truman and the Birth of Israel*, Snelgrave in *One Flea Spare* and Zhdanov in *Master Class*. His albums *Blurr* and *Dreams and Demons* have sold across the globe. Tim is a founding member of Authentic Chicago Ensemble and his play, *Safe Landing: How the Owls Saved Me* is slated for production in the Winter of 2025.



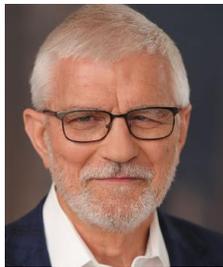
Joe Lehman (Antipholus of Syracuse) is delighted to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where he has previously been seen in *A Woman Killed with Kindness*, *Cardenio*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *My Name Is Will*. He is a longtime Chicago based actor and director whose work has been seen locally with Oak Park Shakespeare Festival, First Folio, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Citadel Theatre, Williams Street Rep, Metropolis, Shaw Chicago, Theatre at the Center, Marriott Theatre, and Illinois Theatre Center among others. Regionally, he has worked with Michigan Shakespeare Festival, New American Theatre, Creede Rep, Springer Opera House, Fireside Theatre, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Classical Kids Live, and Little Theatre on the Square among others. Thank you for your support of live theatre! www.joe-lehman.com



Dina Monk (Second Merchant) is thrilled to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago after performing in *Timon of Athens* last March. Chicago credits include: *Love Song* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company), *Romeo and Juliet* (Back Room Shakespeare Project), *Private Lives* (Raven Theatre), *Jane Austen's Emma*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (First Folio Theatre), *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story* (Oak Park Festival Theatre), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *Coriolanus* (Commission Theatre), *Groundswell* (Prop Thtr). Regional credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), *As You Like It: Books in Brooks* (Montana Shakes!), *The Winter's Tale*; *Love's Labour's Lost* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Company). She has a BFA in Acting from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and studied at BADA in the Midsummer in Oxford program. She is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent. Visit dinamonk.com for more info about her past work.



Christopher Prentice (Antipholus of Ephesus) is exhilarated to be back onstage with The Project after stage-managing *Timon of Athens*. He last appeared with The Project as Richard in *Richard III*. Other Shakespeare Project favorites include Sherlock Holmes (*A Baker Street Christmas Caper*), Starbuck, Touchstone, Berowne, Philip the Bastard, Leontes, Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*), Thomas Heywood (*Christmas Comes But Once a Year*), Edmund Campion (*Shakeshafte*), and appearances in *My Name Is Will*, *50-Minute Hamlet*, *The Changeling*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, and *The Californian Incident*, among others. Other theater: Stratford Festival (five seasons), Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Signal Ensemble Theatre (co-founder). christopher-prentice.com



Mike Rogalski (First Merchant, Dr. Pinch) has worked at Timeline Theatre, the Artistic Home, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He directed and performed a staged rendering of T. S. Eliot's masterwork *Four Quartets* at the Athenaeum Center in Chicago last year. [A recording of the performance is available at the Athenaeum Center's website.] His play *Alpha Zulu* was on stage at the Artistic Home. Educated in mathematics and statistics, Rogalski has researched the work of the Lvov-Warsaw school. He lives in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago.



Kendal Romero (Courtesan) is so excited to get to play with The Shakespeare Project again after performing in *Timon of Athens*! Other Chicago credits include: *Rot!* (The Artistic Home), *Night of the Hunter* (City Lit), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre Above the Law), *Failure: A Love Story* (Oil Lamp Theater), and *Darkling* (Third Eye Theatre + Theater Wit). She has worked on multiple local and national commercials along with a variety of independent films. Kendal is proudly represented by Lily's Talent and if you'd like to say "howdy", is on IG: [@romero.kendal](https://www.instagram.com/romero.kendal). A massive thank you to her friends who show up to love, play, and watch her daughter so she can show her kid that you can still play and have fun with life as a grown-up.



Erin Sloan (Adriana) Sloan is a member of Actor's Equity and was an Affiliated Teaching Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. She holds an MFA in Classical Acting from The Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. She has several regional theatrical credits including Baltimore Shakespeare Festival, Ford's Theatre, and Taffety Punk Theatre Company in Washington D.C. Erin is originally from Oklahoma and was a company member with Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park for 10 years. In Chicago, Erin has appeared with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago in *Women Beware Women*, *Jefferson and Adams*, *The California Incident*, and *Timon of Athens*.



Aaron Spencer (Dromio of Ephesus) a Utah native and graduate of the University of Utah's acting program, has showcased his talent on several Chicago stages including Interobang Theatre and Drinking and Writing Theatre. He was recently seen in The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's reading of *Timon of Athens*. When not acting, Aaron is also an accomplished oil painter.



Lorelei Sturm (Luciana) is thrilled to be making her Shakespeare Project debut in *The Comedy of Errors*. She holds a Master's Degree in Acting from Wayne State University in Detroit. She has worked with numerous regional and Chicago based theatres including Timeline Theatre, Metropolis Theatre, The Artistic Home, Fox Valley Rep, New American Theatre, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, and Maples Repertory Theatre. It's been some time since Lorelei has worked with Shakespeare's text as she has spent the past several years launching her career as a Registered Dietitian. You can find her sharing healthy home cooking tips on her YouTube channel, Nutrition with Lorelei.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. In March, he played the title role in The Project's *Timon of Athens*. Recent directing credits for The Project include *Celebrating the Holidays in Verse and Song*, and *Isabella Andreini: Portrait of a Diva*. 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*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Helicanus in *Pericles*, 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, the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. 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. Love to Helene and Glen.