

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

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library
Sunday, November 17, 2024, 2:00PM – Niles-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 – Niles-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 – Niles-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 – Niles-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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT:

By Mail: Send check to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago,
P.O. Box 25126, Chicago, IL 60625

Online: via PayPal at www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT OF CHICAGO

30th
1995-2025
anniversary

the world in words

PRESENTS

Devri Chism, Melanie Keller, Joe Lehman,
Lilian Matsuda, Daniel Patrick Sullivan
in

Songbook Shakespeare

Conceived, arranged and directed by
J.R. Sullivan

Music accompaniment by Shawn Wallace

30th Anniversary Fundraiser
September 22, 2024

The Fairway, Niles, Illinois

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago expresses its gratitude to the
Performer's Unions: ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN
GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS, AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY
ARTISTS, SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their
cooperation in permitting artists to appear in this program.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, Illinois 60625
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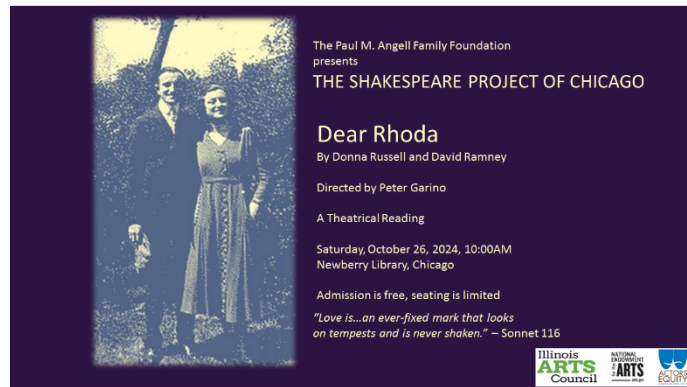
The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges all of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 29 years. With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2024 season: Anonymous, Judith Alexander, Margaret Bjerklie, Joshua C. Carpenter, Caroline Cracraft, Trent Dahlin, Ronald & Gail Denham, John Elson, Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Andrea Gillespie, Gary Houston, Alan Johnson, Therese Kelleghan, Paula Kiefer, Michele Joan Kohn, Michael Lippitz, Rhita Lippitz, Joyce Meggett, Sondra Pfeffer, Douglas Ranney, Catherine Regalado, Sondra Pfeffer, Jay and LouAnn Schachner, Gary Shapiro, Brian & Melissa Sherman (In loving memory of John Field Sherman) J.R. Sullivan, John & Jacqueline Thompson, Melinda Walter, Bronna Wasserman, Karen Zych.

Board of Directors

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Staff

Peter Garino	Artistic Director
Michelle Shupe	Associate Artistic Director



Confined to a tuberculosis sanitarium, Rhoda corresponds with Jerry, a left-wing Jewish bookseller. Their letters reveal that the challenges and hatred they face are countered by their mutual love for each other, their passion for literature, poetry, and music, and the left-wing political causes they fight for. Their struggles come to life in the counterculture of Chicago's Dil Pickle Club, frequented by friends like poet Carl Sandburg, lawyer Clarence Darrow, labor leader Jack Jones, hobo and left-wing debater Lizzee Davis, and feminist "Red," Martha Biegler. The discovery of the letters more than a century later in an abandoned trunk offers a message of hope by linking Rhoda and Jerry's past to the present.

Venues that have hosted/sponsored performances by The Shakespeare Project of Chicago include:

19th Century Organization of Oak Park
The Admiral at the Lake
Arlington Heights Public Library
The Artistic Home
Berger Park Cultural Center
Brookdale Senior Living
Champaign Public Library
Chernin Center for the Arts
Chicago Cultural Center
CJE SeniorLife
Chicago Cultural Mile
Daughters of the British Empire
Deerfield Public Library
DeKalb Public Library
Des Plaines Public Library
Downers Grove Public Library
Elmhurst Public Library
Evergreen Park Public Library
Evanston Public Library
The Fortnightly Club
Fourth Presbyterian Church, Buchanan Chapel
Glencoe Public Library
Highland Park Public Library
Illinois Shakespeare Festival
LaGrange Park Public Library
Lincoln Park Cultural Center
Loyola University, Beane Hall
Mokena Public Library
The Moorings of Arlington Heights
Morraine Valley Community College
Morton Grove Public Library
Mount Prospect Public Library*
The Newberry Library*
Niles-Maine District Library*
North Shore Senior Center
Northwestern University
Oak Lawn Public Library
Oak Park Public Library
Oakton Community College
Park Ridge Public Library
Plymouth Place Senior Living
The Renaissance Society of America
Roosevelt University
St. Charles Public Library
Sandwich Public Library
Skokie Public Library
The Society of Early Americanists
Three Crowns Park
Tinley Park Public Library
Trinity Episcopal Church, Highland Park
University of Chicago

Vernon Area Public Library*
Harold Washington Library
Bernard Weinger JCC
Wilmette Public Library*
*2024-2025 Theatrical Reading
Venue

Artist Biographies



Devri Chism is a Chicago based actor/singer, working both regionally and locally. An MFA grad from Detroit, and trainee of the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia, Devri has enjoyed working with Hope Summer Repertory Theatre of Holland MI, Titan Theatre of NYC, The Missouri Shakespeare Festival, as well as Raven Theatre, The Factory Theatre, Oil Lamp Theatre, and various cabaret nights at Davenport's Piano Bar, here in Chicago!



Melanie Keller is an actor/director who appeared in The Shakespeare Project of Chicago's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Reign of King Edward III* and directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Melanie acted in over twelve productions at First Folio Theatre including *The Turn of the Screw*, *Private Lives*, and *Blithe Spirit*. First Folio directing credits include *Mary's Wedding*, *Silent Sky*, and *The Amish Project*. As a member of Signal Ensemble, she directed *The Drowning Girls* and acted in *East of Berlin* and *The Russian Play* (Jeff Award Best Actress) and *The Weir*. Additional acting work includes Lady Macbeth at Oak Park Festival Theatre, seasons at the Stratford Festival of Canada, Lakeside Shakespeare, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and productions at Goodman, Northlight, Peninsula Players, Chicago Shakespeare, and Waterfront Playhouse of Key West. Additional directing credits include productions at Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Irish Theatre of Chicago, Northern Illinois University and Illinois Wesleyan University.



Joe Lehman is delighted to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago where he has previously been seen in *The Comedy of Errors*, *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 and the wonderful work of The Shakespeare Project! www.joe-lehman.com



Lilian Matsuda Lilian's professional journey and passions have found a home at the intersection of the performing arts, communications, and social justice. She is committed to ending systems of oppression and leading with vulnerability. Most recently, Lilian acted as Interim Managing Director at Chicago storytelling arts organization, 2nd Story, and previously served as Director of Advocacy at Illinois Action for Children where she focused on supporting equitable state policy for early childhood education. She led a diverse statewide coalition that has been able to increase both legislative support for early childhood education as well as critical funding to this field. Prior to her work in advocacy, Lilian

held marketing roles with Viceroy Hotel Group, Svedka Vodka, and had a whole life as a musical theater artist where she met Jim Sullivan. Lilian is a proud nisei (second generation Japanese American) and energetic anti-food-waste advocate. Outside of work, she enjoys singing as a first soprano in the DePaul Community Chorus, snacking, and being the mother of two adorable baby

2014

The Fair Maid of the West (Heywood)

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

All's Well That Ends Well

The Music of Shakespeare (Collaboration with The Lakeview Orchestra)

Reflections from a Shakespeare Garden (A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago)

King Lear

2014 Fall Benefit

2015

50-Minute Hamlet/50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

The Tragedy of Macbeth

Lincoln in Limbo (Bray)

The Revenger's Tragedy (Middleton)

The Contrast/Saving Grace: Anne Hutchinson

The Dark Lady of the Sonnets (Shaw) - A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Darkside by Tom Stoppard, Incorporating The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd

Spooky Shakes

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

2016

The Winter's Tale

50-Minute Hamlet

Cymbeline

Three Interludes (Cervantes)

Cardenio (Greenblatt/Mee based on Shakespeare/Fletcher)

My Name Is Will

50-Minute Hamlet

Henry V

The Food of Love (A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago)

My Name Is Will

The Cricket on the Hearth

2017

50-Minute Hamlet

King John

Seabury vs. Hamilton

The Changeling (Middleton & Rowley)

Paradise Lost, Act 2 (Milton)

Love's Labour's Lost

Seabury vs. Hamilton (A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago)

Shakeshafte (Rowan Williams)

As You Like It

Dream Upon Avon (John Kishline)

2018

The Tragedy of Coriolanus

Seabury vs. Hamilton

My Name Is Will

Women Beware Women (Middleton)

Much Ado About Nothing

Shakeshafte (Rowan Williams)

Jefferson & Adams - Act 2 (Howard Ginsberg) - A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The King's Face (Steven Young) at Illinois Shakespeare Festival

Jefferson & Adams (Howard Ginsberg)
Pericles, Prince of Tyre
Excerpt from "The King's Face" (Steven Young) - Fall Benefit
A Selection of English Christmas Carols/A Baker Street Christmas Caper

2019
Titus Andronicus
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Back of the Yards (Kenneth Sawyer Goodman)
Moby Dick Rehearsed (Orson Welles)
My Name Is Will
The Roaring Girl (Middleton & Dekker)
A Portrait of Shakespeare
For the Love of Shakespeare
The Californian Incident (James Richard Goeser)
Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
Christmas Comes But Once A Year (George Zahora)/A Selection of Holiday Music

2020
Richard III
Romeo and Juliet
Inside the First Folio (Virtual Presentation)
Sonnet Wheel of Fortune (Virtual Presentation)
So You Think You Know Shakespeare (Virtual Presentation)
A Conversation with J.R. Sullivan (Virtual Enrichment Season)

2021
News From Gravesend: The Wonderful Year (Middleton and Dekker) (Virtual Enrichment Season)
Macbeth and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 (Virtual Enrichment Season)
By Help of Devils (film) (Virtual Enrichment Season)
Reimagining Shakespeare (Virtual Enrichment Season)
Trifles (Susan Glaspell) (Virtual Presentation)

2022
Toasting the Revolution
50-Minute Hamlet
Lovers' Debates and Letters of Isabella Andreini

2023
Celebrating the Holidays in Verse and Song

2024
Timon of Athens
The Comedy of Errors
My Name Is Will
Songbook Shakespeare

Songbook Shakespeare

Conceived, arranged and directed by J.R. Sullivan

Music

I Could Write a Book/He Could Write a Play – Shawn, Devri, and Lilian
(Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart)

It Had to be You – Lilian and Devri (Isham Jones/Gus Kahn)

Speak Low – Devri (Kurt Weil/Ogden Nash)

'S Wonderful – Joe and Lilian (George Gershwin)

Stupid Cupid – Shawn, Devri, Lilian and Daniel (Howard Greenfield/Neil Sedaka)

I've Come to Wive It Wealthily in Padua – Joe and Ensemble (Cole Porter)

The Very Thought of You – Lilian (Ray Noble)

Is This Not Love? – Devri (with dialogue with Joe) (Shaina Taub)

Thou Swell – Lilian, Devri and Ensemble (Ella Fitzgerald)

Music Accompaniment – Shawn Wallace

Excerpts from Shakespeare

Sonnet 8
Henry VIII
Twelfth Night
Much Ado About Nothing
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest
As You Like It
Love's Labour's Lost

2008

The Importance of Being Earnest (Wilde)

As You Like It

Pericles, Prince of Tyre

In Medea Res (Euripides)

2009

The Comedy of Errors

Richard III

Henry VIII

2010

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Rivals (Sheridan)

Antony & Cleopatra

Paradise Lost (Milton)

A Celebration of Shakespeare

Measure For Measure

My Name Is Will

50-Minute Hamlet

2011

Mary Stuart (Schiller)

The Merry Wives of Windsor

50-Minute Hamlet

The Tempest

50-Minute Hamlet

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet

Richard II

My Name Is Will

2012

The Duchess of Malfi (Webster)

My Name Is Will

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet (Touring Production)

The Taming of the Shrew

50-Minute Hamlet

Troilus & Cressida

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet (Park Ridge Public Library)

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet/50-Minute Hamlet (Newberry Library, Wilmette Public Library)

The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet (A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago)

50-Minute Hamlet

My Name Is Will

2013

A Woman Killed With Kindness (Heywood)

Twelfth Night

My Name Is Will

The Reign of King Edward III (Shakespeare/Kyd)

The Merchant of Venice

Selections from The Hollow Crown (A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago)

50-Minute Hamlet

boys. Lilian holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Otterbein University) and a Master's in Public Health (University of Illinois at Chicago).



Daniel Patrick Sullivan loves The Shakespeare Project and has been involved in a handful of productions including a favorite Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. A Chicago-based actor Danny has been seen in *Othello*, *As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Also, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *A Whistle in the Dark*, *Prelude To A Kiss* and *Six Degrees Of Separation*. Also in Chicago, television roles on *Crisis*, *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Fire*, *The Chi* and *Chicago Justice*. Most recently at the Irish American Heritage Center in *Parcel From America* and the 25th anniversary of *JR Sullivan's Hometown Holiday*.

Shawn Wallace (accompanist) Shawn Wallace's musical styles range from Gospel to Jazz to Hip-Hop and beyond. As keyboardist, he has worked with luminary artists such as Common, Ice Cube, Bobby Brown, Dwele, Johnny Gill, Jon B., Bilal, Estelle, Julie Dexter, Rene Neufville, Rakim, Eric Roberson, Maggie Brown, Ugochi and Cherisse Scott. He is currently featured as keyboardist in the underground concert television hit, Clubbin' TV, hosted by DJ Fink on NBC-HD. A native of Chicago's far Southwest side, Shawn studied Music Theory and Composition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and currently serves as Musical Director for two New Thought congregations: The Emmaus Center and the Namaste Center for Spiritual Living-Chicago.

J.R. Sullivan (director) is a director and producer, having worked in theaters nationwide as well as heading companies as artistic director. From 2009-2013, Sullivan was the Artistic Director of New York's Pearl Theatre, whose resident acting company was presented with a Drama Desk Award recognition in 2011. For the Pearl, he directed productions of *Hard Times*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Widowers' Houses*, *Biography*, *Richard II*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, and the New York premiere of *Wittenberg*. His 2019 Off-Broadway Mint Theatre revival of Lillian Hellman's *Days to Come* was named one of the best of the season by the Wall Street Journal. More recently Jim directed the world premiere of the musical *Parcel from America* at the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin, Ireland. Jim served as associate artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival from 2002-2009, staging productions ranging from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams, including *Henry IV, Part One*, *Amadeus*, *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.
www.jrsullivan.net

George Zahora (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 Year* -- 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 (producer) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as artistic director since 2010. Originally from Wayne, New Jersey, Peter came to Illinois in 1981 and acted with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for three seasons before moving to Chicago in 1984. In 1995, he co-founded The Shakespeare Project and has acted in, directed or produced over 150 of its productions. Thanks and love to Helene and Glen.

Performance History of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago (most programs available on our website).

1995

Titus Andronicus
The Merchant of Venice
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Comedy of Errors

1996

The Comedy of Errors
Julius Caesar
Romeo and Juliet
Measure For Measure
The Two Gentlemen of Verona
The Taming of the Shrew
The Tragedy of Coriolanus
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Pericles, Prince of Tyre
Measure For Measure
Macbeth
Much Ado About Nothing
The Winter's Tale

1997

King John
Edward II (Marlowe)
Edward III (Shakespeare/Kyd)
Richard II
1 Henry IV
2 Henry IV
Henry V
1 Henry VI
2 Henry VI
3 Henry VI
Richard III
Twelfth Night
My Name Is Will

1998

King Lear
Love's Labour's Lost
Antony & Cleopatra
As You Like It
Cymbeline
Troilus and Cressida
All's Well That Ends Well
Titus Andronicus
The Tempest
Othello
The Merry Wives of Windsor
Hamlet

1999

The Comedy of Errors
Henry VIII

My Name Is Will
The Two Noble Kinsmen
Hamlet (full production)
Macbeth

2000

My Name Is Will (full production)
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Richard III
Timon of Athens

2001

Othello
The Taming of the Shrew
The Rape of Lucrece
Julius Caesar
Twelfth Night

2002

Romeo and Juliet
50-Minute Hamlet

2003

All's Well That Ends Well
King Lear
50-Minute Hamlet (full production)
The Merchant of Venice
The Cricket on the Hearth (Dickens)

2004

The Two Gentlemen of Verona
Ghosts (Ibsen)
Macbeth
The Parvenu (Moliere)

2005

The Winter's Tale
A Woman of No Importance (Wilde)
Henry IV
Faust (Marlowe, Goethe)

2006

Love's Labour's Lost
My Name Is Will
50-Minute Hamlet
Henry V

2007

The Constant Wife (Maugham)
Much Ado About Nothing
50-Minute Macbeth
Henry VI