

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 – 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

**THE
SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT** OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

Dear Rhoda

by

Donna Russell and David Ranney

Directed by Peter Garino

Stage Manager: Christopher Prentice*

Music Accompaniment: Shawn Wallace

2024 Season

October 26, 2024

Newberry Library

This program is generously supported by the Paul M. Angell
Family Foundation



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

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, Illinois 60625

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, David 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

David Skidmore, President
Allen Arnett, Vice President
Mary Ringstad, Treasurer

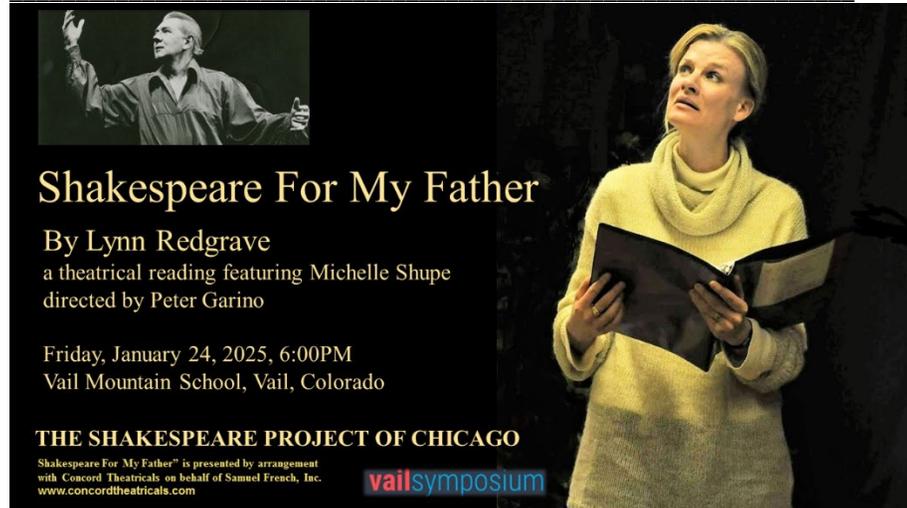
Regina M. Schwartz,
Member at Large
Razz Jenkins, Secretary

Senior Brand Strategist, Moveo Integrated Branding
Principal (Retired), PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Associate Professor of Speech & Theatre,
Oakton Community College
Professor of English Literature and Law,
Northwestern University
HR Professional (Retired)

Staff

Peter Garino
Michelle Shupe

Artistic Director
Associate Artistic Director



Shakespeare For My Father
By Lynn Redgrave
a theatrical reading featuring Michelle Shupe
directed by Peter Garino

Friday, January 24, 2025, 6:00PM
Vail Mountain School, Vail, Colorado

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
Shakespeare For My Father™ is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

vailsymposium



TIMON OF ATHENS, by William Shakespeare.
Presented March 9, 2024.

Front Row (L to R): Kendal Romero, Erin Sloan, Dina Monk, Esther Williamson, Rena Ahmed, Isabella Crider.

Back Row (L to R): Tim Kough, Aaron Spencer, Josh Bernaski, Peter Garino, Richard Shavzin, Joe Fernandez, Christopher Prentice. Not pictured: Michelle Shupe



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, by William Shakespeare.
Presented June 15, 17, 2024.

Front Row (L to R): Lorelei Sturm, Erin Sloan, Rena Ahmed, Kendal Romero, Dina Monk.
Back Row (L to R): RJ Cecott, Tim Kough, Joe Fernandez, Josh Bernaski, Aaron Spencer, Joe Lehman, Christopher Prentice, Mike Rogalski, Peter Garino, Daniel Millhouse.

Artist Biographies



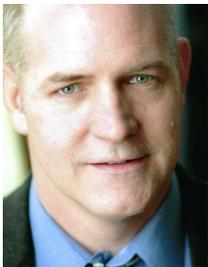
Josh Carpenter (Carl Sandburg) is delighted to return to Shakespeare Project of Chicago, having previously appeared in *Moby Dick-Rehearsed* and *Titus Andronicus* and in the title roles of *Pericles* and *Hamlet*. Chicago area credits include *Romeo and Juliet* at Oak Park Festival Theatre and *The Winter's Tale* directed by Robert Falls at Goodman Theatre. Regional: Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Arden Theatre Company, American Shakespeare Center, Delaware Theatre Company, Theater at Monmouth, Miami Theatre Center, Montgomery Theatre, The Growing Stage, Gretna Theatre, Cherry Lane Theatre Studio, and Quintessence Theatre Group in Philadelphia, where he also directed his adaptation of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and teaches at Pritzker College Prep. Love to Mattie and Ruby. joshcarpenter.net



Joe Fernandez (Jack Jones) was most recently seen with The Project in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Timon of Athens*. 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.



Jenny Hoppes ("Red" Martha Biegler) is ecstatic to make her debut with Shakespeare Project of Chicago. She is a graduate of Point Park University's BFA Acting Program, and Milwaukee Rep's EPR Acting Internship. In her free time, she is usually watching old mysteries or chilling with her adorable cat. Notable theatrical credits: Ursula/Sexton in *Much Ado* and Vanessa U/S in *Nativity Variations* (Milwaukee Rep), Anne De Bourgh U/S and Elizabeth Darcy U/S in the *Christmas at Pemberley* series (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble), Lina U/S in *Cry it Out* (Oil Lamp Theater), Hedy in *Garters* (Otherworld Theatre). Overwhelming gratitude to the cast and crew. Thanks to family, friends, and Kenny for their undying support! Jennyhoppes.com



Dev Kennedy (Clarence Darrow) is appearing with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago for the first time. A long time participant in the Chicago Theatre scene, Dev has had the privilege of appearing in *Measure for Measure*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Hamlet* for The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Body Politic, and Center Theatre, along with many other musicals, comedies, and dramas here and in other parts of the country. Also active in front of the camera, Dev appears in the soon to be released feature film *The Rhythm and the Blues*. Dev was the Regional Vice President for Actors Equity for over twenty years, lives in The 'Burbs with Phyllis, his incredibly patient wife of 39 years, and is the proud father of their daughter, Claire.

**DONATE TODAY TO
THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO**
(scan the QR code to donate via PayPal)



or mail a check to:

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
P.O. Box 25126
Chicago, IL 60625

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

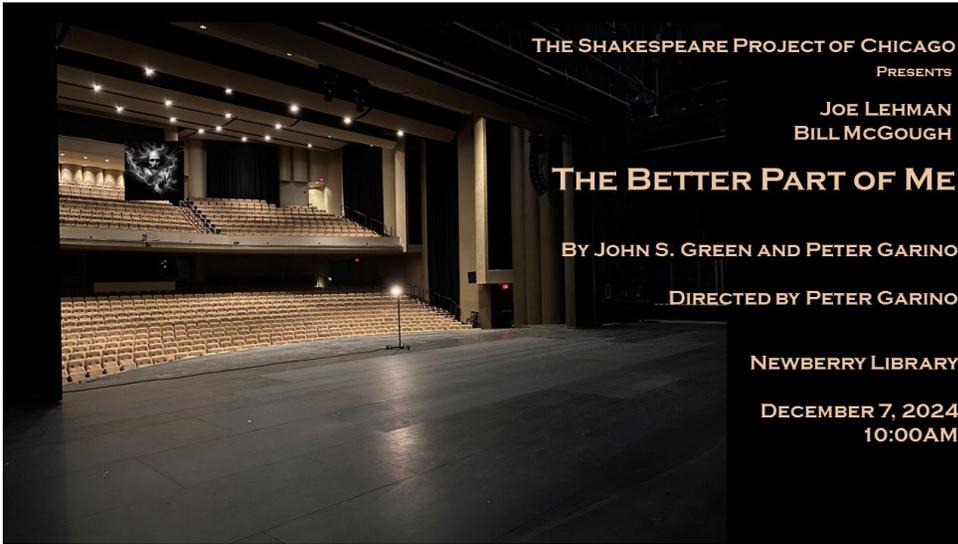
THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
presents

The Winter's Tale

by William Shakespeare
directed by Peter Garino

February 21-25, 2025

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



Newberry Library Holiday Show
 December 7, 2024
 10:00AM

Performers from the Shakespeare Project of Chicago will present the world premiere of a new short play, *The Better Part of Me*, by John S. Green and Peter Garino.

After an intermission featuring hot chocolate and treats, the program will wrap up with holiday music, featuring solo and choral performances by the Frozen Robins.



Dear Rhoda

By Donna Russell and David Ranney
 Music Accompanist Shawn Wallace
 Stage Manager Christopher Prentice*
 Directed by Peter Garino

Cast

BERT Tim Kough
 JACK JONES, labor leader.....Joe Fernandez
 JERRY NEDWICK, bookstore owner..... Tom Morin*
 LIZZIE DAVIS, left-wing debater Dina Monk
 “RED” MARTHA BIEGLER..... Jenny Hoppes
 RHODA KATZ.....J.G. Smith*
 FANNY BRICE Allison Sokolowski
 CARL SANDBURG.....Josh Carpenter*
 CLARENCE DARROW..... Dev Kennedy*
 NURSE Dina Monk

Scene: Chicago and later Denver

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

* Members of Actors' Equity Association



DEAR RHODA By Donna Russell and David Ranney
Presented October 26, 2024
Music Accompaniment by Shawn Wallace
Stage Manager Christopher Prentice
Directed by Peter Garino

L to R seated: Allison Sokolowski, J.G. Smith, Jenny Hoppes, Dina Monk, Donna Russell
L to R standing: Shawn Wallace, David Ranney, Tim Kough, Tom Morin, Josh Carpenter,
Joe Fernandez, Dev Kennedy, Peter Garino, Christopher Prentice



Tim Kough (Bert) is honored to work with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago again, after appearing in *Timon of Athens* and *The Comedy of Errors* earlier this year. 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 Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* 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* opens in March 2025.



Dina Monk (Lizzie Davis/Nurse) is thrilled to return to The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, after performing in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Timon of Athens* this year. Theatrical credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), *Love Song* (Remy Bumpo 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* (Oak Park Festival Theatre), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *Coriolanus* (Commission Theatre), *Groundswell* (Prop Thtr) *As You Like It* (Montana Shakes!), *The Winter's Tale*; *Love's Labour's Lost* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Company). She studied at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and BADA Midsummer in Oxford. Visit dinamonk.com for more info about her past work.



Tom Morin (Jerry Nedwick) is delighted to make his Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut! His credits include Off Broadway/NYC: *Vilna* (Theatre at St. Clement's), *Measure for Measure* (NY Classical Theatre), *The Rivals* (Pearl Theatre Company), *Twelfth Night*, *A Christmas Carol* (Titan Theatre Company), *That Lady from Maxim's* (Robert Moss Theater); Regional: *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Walnut Street Theatre), *The Liar*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Centenary Stage Company), *The Winter's Tale*, *Marriage of Figaro* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); Podcast Series: *Murder*, *We Spoke*. Co-founder of Polish Your Passion. Tom holds an MFA in Acting from Ohio University and a BA in Theatre & Political Science from The College of the Holy Cross. @tommorin.actor, www.tom-morin.com.



Allison Sokolowski (Fanny Brice) is thrilled to make her Shakespeare Project of Chicago debut! Recent roles include Leading Player in *Pippin* (Towle Theatre) and Christopher Robin and Rabbit in *Winnie the Pooh: A New Musical* (AlphaBet Soup Productions). Others include Eliza in *My Fair Lady* and Mrs. Daldry from *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, and she's performed at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble, and Annoyance Theatre. Allison is represented by Lori Lins Ltd with a BS in Acting and English Studies from Illinois State University. She loves performing young writers' creative stories with Playmaker's Laboratory! She's also the founder and artistic director of the Chicago Playback Theatre Ensemble where she and her actors perform true audience stories on the spot! allisonsokolowski.wixsite.com/allisonsokolowski



J.G. Smith (Rhoda) is thrilled to return to The Project, where she's performed in *News from Gravesend: The Wonderful Year*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Baker Street Christmas Caper*, *Shakeshafte*, *Pericles*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. As an ensemble member with American Blues Theater, she is currently performing in the acclaimed Chicago premiere of *The Last Wide Open*. Other stages: TheTankNYC, Judson Gym, Goodman, Theater Wit, Peninsula Players, Lookingglass, Vision Productions, Prop Thtr, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, City Equity Theatre, Maine's Theatre Project, and Chicago's Back Room Shakespeare. Film and TV: *Argus* (WarnerMedia), *Knives and Skin* (Hulu, IFCMidnight), *Short Comings* (MTV), the award-winning indie films *The Dancing Monkey*, and numerous national commercials. J.G. studied at NYU Tisch and London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She is a proud AEA member and repped by Paonessa Talent. jgsmithactor.com.

Peter Garino (Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. Recent directing credits for The Project include *Celebrating the Holidays in Verse and Song*, *Shakespeare For My Father*, *Isabella Andreini: Portrait of a Diva*, *Toasting the Revolution*, *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell, and *News From Gravesend: The Wonderful Year*, adapted from the plague pamphlets of Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker. 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 the title role in *Timon of Athens*, Polonius in *Hamlet*, *Prince of Denmark*, the Prince/Peter in *Romeo and Juliet*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Helicanus in *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*, 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 and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). 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.

Donna Russell (co-author) has managed a number of small businesses including a hair salon and several restaurants. She has been a resident of Washington Island for the past 40 years. In addition to her paid work, she spends her time writing, producing and funding various Island productions. *Dear Rhoda* is her first play. Many of her productions raise funds for Island organizations and people in need. Caring for her community has always been a top priority. She and her husband of 57 years have two children and three grandchildren.

David Ranney (co-author) is Professor Emeritus at University of Illinois Chicago. He spends much of his time on Washington Island, Wisconsin where he writes books and essays on many different subjects. He is active in community theatre on the Island and has directed and acted in numerous productions there, often collaborating with Donna Russell. *Dear Rhoda* is the first play they have written. Dave and his wife have a son and two granddaughters. They enjoy the company of their granddaughters each Summer on the Island.

Christopher Prentice (Stage Manager) For The Project: creative/technical: stage manager (*Timon of Athens*), text coach and dramaturg (*Midsummer*) and assistant director and stage manager (*Darkside*); as an actor, he was recently seen as Anthiopholus of Ephesus: favorite roles include Richard III, Thomas Heywood (*Christmas Comes But Once a Year*), Sherlock Holmes (*A Baker Street Christmas Caper*), Starbuck, Touchstone, Edmund Campion (*Shakeshafte*), Berowne,

Alsemero (*The Changeling*), Philip the Bastard, Leontes, Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*), and Vindici (*The Revenger's Tragedy*), among others. Other theater: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Stratford Festival (five seasons), Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, and Signal Ensemble Theatre (co-founder). christopher-prentice.com. Member AEA.

Shawn Wallace (Accompanist) is widely acclaimed as a composer and performer. He has written and arranged musical works for Chicago theatre companies as well as educational touring productions. He was a featured performer in J.R. Sullivan's annual holiday show *Hometown Holiday* presented in Rockford, IL since 2002. He has also done sound design for many Chicago theatres including the Greenhouse Theatre. Most recently, he was accompanist for The Shakespeare Project's production of *Songbook Shakespeare*.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO
presents
a theatrical reading of
A Christmas Memory
by Truman Capote
directed by Peter Garino
with Diane Dorsey and Tom Morin
Highland Park Public Library
Monday, December 16, 2024
7:00PM
Produced with permission of the Truman Capote Literary Trust



The Shakespeare Project of Chicago is proud to present a theatrical reading of Truman Capote's classic short story, *A Christmas Memory*. One performance only: Monday, December 16, 2024, 7:00PM at the Highland Park Public Library. Featuring Diane Dorsey and Tom Morin, directed by Peter Garino. Admission is free, seating is limited. No pre-registration required.

Produced with permission of the Truman Capote Literary Trust.