

Chicago will take center stage in 2016 with SHAKESPEARE 400 CHICAGO, as more than 1,000 local and international artists create a global celebration of Shakespeare like no other in the world. During this landmark year, Shakespeare will be alive on our stages, in our schools and across our neighborhoods. This international festival will help reaffirm Chicago's role as a global destination for cultural tourism. In 2016, the enterprising spirit of Shakespeare meets the entrepreneurial spirit of Chicago. I want to thank everyone who is working hard to ensure that it will be a great success.

*Rah Emanuel*

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

CITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago Shakespeare is proud to present SHAKESPEARE 400 CHICAGO, a global celebration made possible by an unprecedented collaboration of Chicago institutions. This yearlong festival both showcases the collective impact of our city's world-class cultural community and invites hundreds of artists from across the globe to make Chicago their stage in 2016. Embracing the audacious spirit of our eponymous playwright, the year ahead will feature an astonishing array of artists and thinkers. Shakespeare will come to life across disciplines, through inspirational acts of theater, dance, music, spectacle—even cuisine. It's a celebration 400 years in the making. A bold undertaking, true to the spirit of our global city and the greatest playwright of all time. This is Shakespeare 400 Chicago. Come play your part.

*Barbara Gaines* *Criss Henderson* *Doreen Sayegh*

Barbara Gaines  
Artistic Director

Criss Henderson  
Executive Director

Doreen Sayegh  
Festival Producer

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER



**belarus FREE THEATRE**

With three Artistic leaders at the helm, Belarus Free Theatre is run by its original founders, husband and wife team Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin, together with director Vladimir Shcherban who brought together the original acting company in 2005. BFT was founded in direct response to the absolute censorship of freedom of expression in Belarus. As one of the most outspoken critics of Belarus's repressive regime, its founding members had to be smuggled out of the country and have been in exile as political refugees in the UK since 2011. BFT's performances take place in selected secret venues around Minsk with audiences alerted to their existence by text message or e-mail. Although forced to operate underground within Belarus, the company travels widely – mounting more than 40 new productions in over 40 countries over the past decade. Known for making some of the world's most provocative theatre, BFT's award-winning productions have been performed in leading theatres and festivals and shared online with an international fan-base who include fellow artists such as Jude Law, Kevin Spacey, Ai Weiwei, Mick Jagger, Vivienne Westwood and Kim Cattrall. Belarus Free Theatre is based at the Young Vic in London where they are an associate company. They are also associate artists at Falmouth University's Academy of Music & Theatre Arts (AMATA) where they produce new shows with the permanent ensemble who are still based in Belarus. Further afield, BFT has long-standing partnerships with both the Public Theater and La MaMa in New York. BFT's work has consistently garnered critical praise. The Company is the recipient an OBIE Award, and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award in 2011 for Unique Theatrical Experience.

## Chicago Shakespeare Theater Staff

**BARBARA GAINES**  
Artistic Director

**CRISS HENDERSON**  
Executive Director

### ARTISTIC

**RICK BOYNTON**

Creative Producer

**GARY GRIFFIN**

Associate Artistic Director

**BOB MASON**

Artistic Associate/Casting Director

**HEATHER SCHMUCKER**

Associate Producer

**DOREEN SAYEGH**

Festival Producer,  
Shakespeare 400 Chicago

**DANIEL J. HESS**

Company Manager

**LAURA DURHAM**

Casting Assistant

**JACK EIDSON**

Assistant to the Creative Producer

**SALVADOR F. GARZA**

Assistant Company Manager

**BENJAMIN MAGNUSON**

Casting Intern

**JACK LOWRIE**

Company Management Intern

### STAGE MANAGEMENT

**DOTTIE BRIS-BOIS**

Director of Special Gifts

**HILARY ODOM**

Director of Corporate and  
Foundation Relations

**KRISTEN CARUSO**

Advancement Manager/  
Board Liaison

**LAURA MILKULSKI**

Advancement Manager /  
VIP Concierge

**ERIN STRICK**

Institutional Relations Coordinator

**SAMUEL OSTROWSKI**

Special Projects Coordinator

**DAVE TOPOROV**

Annual Fund Coordinator

**CAITLYN DeROSA**

Donor Relations and Research  
Coordinator

**CAMILLE HOWARD**

Campaign Coordinator

**KATHRYN HABECKER**

Advancement Intern

### MARKETING

**ALIDA SZABO**

Director of Audience Development

**JULIE STANTON**

Marketing Director

**CATHY TAYLOR**

Public Relations Consultant

**HANNAH KENNEDY**

Public Relations Associate

**JUDY McCLOSKEY**

Digital Communications Assistant

**JESSICA CONNOR**

Marketing Assistant—Advertising  
and Publications

**ADELL MEDOVY**

Graphic Designer/Production Artist

**KENNETH KEACHER**

Marketing Assistant/Office  
Administrator

**JENNIFER JONES**

Marketing Coordinator

**BEN HOEKSTRA**

Marketing Interns

**REBECCA BOTT**

Marketing Interns

**CRYSTI TROIA**

Sound Crew Head

**WIGS AND MAKE-UP**

**MELISSA VEAL**

Head of Wigs and Make-up

**JESSIE "JAX" CONTRERAS**

Wig and Make-up Assistant

**MIGUEL PEREZ**

Wig and Make-up Apprentice

**PROPERTIES**

**CASSANDRA WESTOVER**

Properties Supervisor

**ERIN OHLAND**

Assistant Properties Supervisor

### OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

**LISA GRIEBEL**

Properties Carpenter

**DAN NURCZYK**

Properties Crew Head

**CLAIRE RITCHIE**

Properties Intern

**SUSAN KNILL**

Theater/Facility Manager

**JEANNE DEVORE**

Technology Manager

**DANIEL LOPEZ**

Facilities Assistant

**ELLIOTT LACEY**

Custodial Supervisor

**DWAYNE BREWER**

MARIBEL CUEVAS

ISRAEL ESTRADA

OCTAVIOUS MOODY

RICHARD TENNY

Custodial Assistants

### TICKETING, GUEST SERVICES AND EVENTS

**RACHAEL SWANN**

Box Office and Guest Services Manager

**MAKEDA COHRAN**

Events Manager

**PHIL BRANKIN**

BLANCA HERNANDEZ

SCOTT KLOOSTERMAN

Front of House Supervisors

**JOHN KUINIUS**

Concessions Supervisor

**BETSY BEAMS**

KEVIN CUSHING

SHELLY GODEFRIN

Guest Services Team Leaders

**ADAM CIFARELLI**

KYLE CORNELL

WILL CAVEDO

DJ CUMMINGS

ALLISON DIAMOND

MEL GILL

KATHLEEN GULLION

KASSANDRA HAROUN

JOHNATHAN NIEVES

RICCI PRIOLETTI

JACQUELINE POJASEK

JASMINE SAWYER

EMILY STEWARD

AUDREY THOMPSON

SHARAINA TURNAGE

TRISTIEN WINFREE

LAUREN WIMMER

CLAIRE UNGER

VIOLET VARA

Guest Services Associates

**CHRIS SIMEK**

SHARON AND TOM  
McLEAN  
Saints' Volunteer Usher Coordinators



*From Belarus*  
Belarus Free Theatre

# KING LEAR

by William Shakespeare  
directed by Vladimir Shcherban  
adapted by Nicolai Khalezin



SUPPORT FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMMING

THE  
DAVEE  
FOUNDATION

Julius Frankel  
Foundation

SHAKESPEARE  
400 CHICAGO  
LEAD SPONSORS

MacArthur  
Foundation

PRITZKER  
MILITARY  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

MAJOR 2015/16 SEASON SUPPORTERS



BMO



Harris Bank



BOEING



CITADEL



ComEd



DOVER FOUNDATION



Lead individual and foundation support provided by Eric's Tazmanian Angel Fund, Susan and Lew Manilow, Raymond and Judy McCaskey, Burton X. and Sheli Z. Rosenberg, Timothy R. Schwertfeger and Gail Waller, and Donna Van Eekeren Foundation.



# King Lear

FEBRUARY 5–14, 2016

**DIRECTION:** Vladimir Shcherban

**ADAPTATION:** Nicolai Khalezin, with final editing by Vladimir Shcherban

**DESIGN:** Vladimir Shcherban

**COSTUME:** Vladimir Shcherban, Alex Shyrnevich and Natalia Kaliada

**ORIGINAL MUSICAL REPRISE:** Pavel Arakelian

**VOCAL COACH:** Sviatlana Yafimava

**MUSIC PERFORMED BY:** Elias Faingersh

**POETIC TRANSLATION INTO BELARUSIAN:** Yurka Hauruk

**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Marty Moore

**STAGE MANAGER:** Svetlana Sugako

**COMPANY MANAGER & SURTITLES:** Nadia Brodskaya

**ORIGINAL PRODUCER:** Fenella Dawnay

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin

<b>ALEH SIDORCHYK</b>	King Lear
<b>ANDREI URAZAU</b>	Duke of Cornwall
<b>ELIAS FAINGERSH</b>	Fool
<b>DZIANIS TARASENKA</b>	Earl of Kent
<b>KIRYL KANSTANTSINAU</b>	Edmund
<b>MARYNA YUREVICH</b>	Regan
<b>MARYIA SAZONAVA</b>	King of France/ Announcer
<b>PAVEL RADAK-HARADNITSKI</b>	Earl of Gloucester
<b>SIARHEI KVACHONAK</b>	Edgar/Poor Tom/ Duke of Burgundy
<b>VICTORIA BIRAN</b>	Cordelia
<b>YANA RUSAKEVICH</b>	Goneril
<b>YULIYA SHAUCHUK</b>	Oswald
<b>YURIY DALIVELYA</b>	Duke of Albany

## NOTE FROM THE COMPANY:

Banned in Belarus on political grounds and driven underground, Belarus Free Theatre defiantly performs this production of *King Lear* in Belarusian, a language prohibited in Belarus. The production was created in 2012 for the Globe to Globe Festival as part of the London Cultural Olympiad, where the inclusion of BFT representing Belarus was in itself a challenge to the Belarusian government. This irreverent, forceful and often comic production draws on the resonances between Lear’s fractured country and the contemporary states created after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, and draws parallels between Lear and Lukashenko, the self-appointed ‘Daddy’ of Belarus and leader of the last dictatorship in Europe for the last twenty-one years.

*King Lear* is performed in Belarusian with projected English translation and there will be one 15-minute intermission. Please note that peanut butter is a component of certain props used on stage—if you have any concerns regarding allergies, speak with our House Manager. There are scenes containing brief nudity and actors will make entrances and exits throughout the theater. For your safety, we ask that you keep aisles and doorways clear. If we can help accommodate you during your visit, our staff is happy to assist. Please refrain from taking any photography and other video or audio recording of this production. Thank you.

# Profiles

## ALEH SIDORCHYK (*King Lear*)

Mr. Sidorchyk joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2005. He joined the Belarusian Army Theatre in 2004 and was dismissed in 2006 for his cooperation with Belarus Free Theatre. He has been detained for his professional activities. From 1985 to 2004 he worked at the Belarusian Young Spectator Theatre.

## ANDREI URAZAU (*Duke of Cornwall*)

Mr. Urazau was born in Minsk in 1986. In school he performed in the theatrical studio Apelsin. He participated in the establishment of the absurd theater Exes at Belarus State Economic University, and from 2010 to 2011, he performed in the Public Theater My. He has been a student of Belarus Free Theatre’s arts school, Fortinbras, since 2012, and has performed as part of the BFT ensemble since December 2012.

## ELIAS FAINGERSH (*Fool*)

Mr. Faingersh is a virtuoso trombone player whose trademark is a unique synthesis of music and theater. His critically acclaimed solo show *Trombone Magic* has been performed at venues including The Royal Danish Opera, The Berlin Philharmonic and The Congress Hall of Riga. Mr. Faingersh, named “The Golden Trombone of Europe” by the critics, is a participant in, and award-winner at, countless music and theater festivals around the world.

## DZIANIS TARASENKA (*Earl of Kent*)

Mr. Tarasenko joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2005. He was attacked during a peaceful political street rally and detained for his professional activities. He lost his job at the state theater due to his involvement with Belarus Free Theatre. In 2004 Mr. Tarasenko formed the band *RSP*, which tours in Russia, Lithuania, Belarus and other European countries.

## KIRYL KANSTANTSINAU (*Edmund*)

Mr. Kanstantsinau graduated from art school with high honors. He is also a graduate of the

College of Law, part of the Belarusian State University, and is a student at the European Humanities University. He has studied dance at the preparatory school of ballroom dancing. Mr. Kanstantsinau joined BFT’s Fortinbras studio in February 2012, and has since graduated to become a member of the company’s permanent ensemble. In April 2012, he was arrested along with the audience at a screening of a resistance film in Belarus.

## MARYNA YUREVICH (*Regan*)

Ms. Yurevich joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2006. In 2008 she was dismissed from the Belarusian Army Theatre for cooperating with Belarus Free Theatre and ordered to pay \$12,500 to the state for refusing to work in the role dictated to her. The payment was cancelled after Belarus Free Theatre and actresses Diane Quick and Kim Cattrall launched a campaign in her support entitled “Free the Actress from Slavery.”

## MARYIA SAZONAVA (*King of France/Announcer*)

Ms. Sazonava’s creative activities began in 1994 when she joined Gostsitsa Folk Theatre. In 1998 she entered the Belarusian Academy of Arts (BAA), but left before completing the program. During this time she worked as an actress in a theater named after Yanka Kupala. Ms. Sazonava’s career has included work with the musical groups *Yuria* and *Wolf*, and dancing with the ballet troupe *Todes*. She currently works as a teacher at BFT’s Fortinbras studio in Minsk and is the vocalist of the Belarusian band *BYCRY*.

## PAVEL RADAK-HARADNITSKI (*Earl of Gloucester*)

Mr. Radak-Haradnitski joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2005. He is unable to apply for jobs in Belarus because of his association with the company, and has been detained for his professional activities. He is a vocalist and flautist in the band *RSP*.

## SIARHEI KVACHONAK (*Edgar/Poor Tom/Duke of Burgundy*)

Mr. Kvachonak studied at the Belarusian State Technological University. In October 2010 he was accepted as a student of BFT’s Fortinbras studio. In 2012 he was expelled from the University for his cooperation with Belarus Free Theatre.

## VICTORIA BIRAN (*Cordelia*)

Ms. Biran was born in Pinsk, a small Belarusian town, in 1990. She studied in the Belarusian State University as a journalist and literary editor for four years, until she was forced to interrupt her studies. At various times she has worked as a saleswoman, a journalist and a waitress, and engaged in literary work and proofreading. Ms. Biran now lives in Minsk. Since January 2014 she has been the Co-founder and Coordinator of a project about gender and sexuality in Belarus, called MAKEOUT.by.

## YANA RUSAKEVICH (*Goneril*)

Ms. Rusakevich joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2005. She was dismissed from the

Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre for cooperation with Belarus Free Theatre and has been arrested twice for her professional activities and participation in peaceful political street rallies.

## YULIYA SHAUCHUK (*Oswald*)

Ms. Shauchuk studied directing at the Belarusian State University of Arts and Culture, graduating in 2007. From 2008 to June 2011 she worked at the National Theatre of Belarusian Drama, but was fired for participating in an interview in the “free news” called “non-free theater begins with a tower.”

## YURIY DALIVELYA (*Duke of Albany*)

Mr. Dalivelya graduated from the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio Engineering in 1994 with qualification in Radio Technical and Electronic Engineering. In 2012 he was accepted into Belarus Free Theatre’s arts school, Fortinbras.

## VLADIMIR SHCHERBAN (*Director and Designer*)

Mr. Shcherban graduated from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in 1997, specializing in Drama Direction. From 1997 to 1999 he worked at the Regional Dramatic Theatre in Mogilev. From 1999 he worked as a director at the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre until 2006, when he was dismissed for his cooperation with Belarus Free Theatre. Various performances by Mr. Shcherban in Belarus have been cancelled as a result of mass censorship, and he has been detained for his professional activities. Mr. Shcherban is an original partner of Belarus Free Theatre and joined the company shortly after it was founded in 2005, introducing actors who became the foundation for the existing permanent ensemble. In 2008, together with Nicolai Khalezin and Natalia Kaliada, he helped found Fortinbras, the only underground arts school in Belarus. Mr. Shcherban’s productions *Being Harold Pinter*, *Minsk 2011* and *Zone of Silence* introduced audiences in New York and Chicago to Belarus Free Theatre to great acclaim by reviewers and audiences, with *Being Harold Pinter* nominated for a Drama Desk Award. In 2011 Mr. Shcherban received refugee status in the UK.

## NICOLAI KHALEZIN (*Adaptor and Executive Producer*)

From 1987 to 1991 Mr. Khalezin was the Design Director and Co-founder of the Minsk Alternative Theatre. From 1994 to 2000 he worked as Editor-in-chief at *The Name*, *The News* and *Our Freedom* newspapers, all shut down by the Belarusian government for political reasons. In March 2005, together with his wife Natalia Kaliada, he founded Belarus Free Theatre; the company has since performed on five continents. Mr. Khalezin’s many plays include his one-man show *Generation Jeans*, which has gone on to be performed around the world more than 100 times. He is also the author of over 300 publications in both the Belarusian and international press. His shows have received rave reviews from *The New York*

*Times*, *The Guardian*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Le Monde* and *Los Angeles Times*, and have been nominated for a Drama Desk Award and received an OBIE Award. Mr. Khalezin has been arrested many times and was recognized as a “Prisoner of Consciousness” by Amnesty International.

## NATALIA KALIADA (*Executive Producer*)

Ms. Kaliada is founding Co-artistic Director of Belarus Free Theatre, a writer, human rights campaigner, producer and one of the most outspoken critics of Belarus’s repressive regime. She has co-authored many plays with her husband Nicolai Khalezin including *Generation Jeans*, *Discover Love* and *Trash Cuisine*. Ms. Kaliada has also acted as Executive Producer with Nicolai Khalezin on all Belarus Free Theatre productions, including *Being Harold Pinter*, *Generation Jeans*, *Minsk, 2011: A Reply to Kathy Acker*, *Red Forest*, *Price of Money*, *King Lear*, *Discover Love* and *Zone of Silence*. In 2008, together with Nicolai Khalezin and Vladimir Shcherban, she set up Fortinbras, the only underground arts school in Belarus. Under her leading role, BFT has received a series of awards including the French Republic Human Rights Award, the Atlantic Council Award, the European Theatre Prize Special Mention and an OBIE Award. The Belarusian authorities named her and her husband “public enemies.”

## SVIATLANA YAFIMAVA (*Vocal Coach*)

Ms. Yafimava graduated from the Belarusian State Pedagogical University, Department of Folk Culture, specializing in folk art. She has been Belarus Free Theatre’s Vocal Coach since 2010.

## MARTY MOORE (*Production Manager*)

Mr. Moore joined Belarus Free Theatre in March 2015. He studied Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin, and did his theater training on the Rough Magic SEEDS program as Production Manager from 2010 to 2011. He then worked at the National Theatre, London, for three years as Deputy Production Manager, where his credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (winning seven Olivier Awards including Best New Play), *Apollo Theatre/Cottesloe Theatre*; *Collaborators* (winning an Olivier Award for Best New Play) *Cottesloe Theatre*; *King Lear*, Olivier Theatre, directed by Sam Mendes; *The Light Princess*, Lyttelton Theatre, music and lyrics by Tori Amos; and *London Road*, Olivier Theatre, directed by Rufus Norris.

## SVETLANA SUGAKO (*Stage Manager*)

Ms. Sugako joined Belarus Free Theatre in 2005 as an Administrator and Assistant Director, but she also performs with them occasionally. She is a musician and songwriter, formerly in the band *Tarpach*. In 2006 she was jailed for seven days for shouting the anti-state slogan “Long Live Belarus” after the presidential election.

Ms. Sugako is Co-managing Company Director of BFT in Minsk.

## NADIA BRODSKAYA (*Company Manager and Surtitles*)

Ms. Brodskaya graduated from the Belarusian National Technical University in 2009 as a manager/economist. After she graduated she worked as a private tutor in the subject, and in September 2011 joined Belarus Free Theatre as Stage Manager and Administrator. Ms. Brodskaya is Co-managing Company Director of BFT in Minsk.

## CLARE ROBERTSON (*General Manager and Producer*)

Ms. Robertson joined Belarus Free Theatre in January 2015 and manages the company’s activities in the UK and international touring. Previously she spent three years as the Producer for the Dublin-based Rough Magic Theatre Company, where she also managed the company’s artist development programs, SEEDS, ADVANCE and Production Support. From 2008 to 2011 she was the Assistant to the Head of Production at the Gate Theatre, Dublin. Ms. Robertson studied English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin.

# Belarus Free Theatre Staff

*King Lear* was commissioned by Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and first performed on May 17, 2012, at the Globe to Globe Festival, as part of the London Cultural Olympiad, with support from Arts Council England and The Kevin Spacey Foundation. This production was also supported by The Golsoncott Foundation, The Garrick Charitable Trust, The John S Cohen Foundation and The Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK.

## BELARUS FREE THEATRE

Artistic Directors: Natalia Kaliada & Nicolai Khalezin  
Associate Director: Vladimir Shcherban  
Director of Education & Co-executive Director: Larry Lynch  
General Manager/Producer: Clare Robertson  
Development Manager: Paul Finegan  
Campaigns & Events Manager: Julia Farrington  
Head of Press: Jennifer Reynolds

## MINSK HQ

Co-managing Company Directors: Nadia Brodskaya & Svetlana Sugako  
Stage Manager & Company Manager: Victoria Biran

## MINISTRY OF COUNTERCULTURE

www.moc.media  
Editor-in-chief: Nicolai Khalezin  
Managing Editor: Georgie Weedon