

chicago shakespeare on navypier theater

# "Experience is a jewel, and it had need be so, for it is often purchased at an infinite rate." —The Merry Wives of Windsor

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Chicago Shakespeare Theate 800 E. Grand on Navy Pier Chicago, Illinois 60611

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PICTURED, COVER AND ABOVE: Scott Jaeck, Heidi Kettenring and Kelli Fox, photos by Bill Burlingham On the Boards 8

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#### A MESSAGE FROM







Criss Henderson Executive Director



**Sheli Z. Rosenberg**Chair, Board of Directors

#### DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to Chicago Shakespeare Theater. The Merry Wives of Windsor is a joyous comedy, and we are humbled by the astounding actors featured in today's production—truly some of the finest classical comedians in North America. Their artistry is further revealed by the selected timeframe of post-war England featuring ebullient music and dance—the perfect pairing for this charming tale. We hope this journey to Windsor brings a smile to your face!

As Chicago's home for Shakespeare, we are not only dedicated to bringing work from the canon to life in extraordinary productions. We also have an unwavering commitment to serving as a partner in literacy for Chicago schools and as a cultural ambassador for the world-class city we call home. To this end, during the run of *Merry Wives*, two other exciting projects will be under way. Preparations will begin for our spring abridgment of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will play to nearly 40,000 students here on Navy Pier and on tour across the Midwest. Across vast oceans, CST's collaboration with the Q Brothers, *Othello: The Remix*, will mark our debut at the esteemed Sydney Festival in Australia.

This trifecta of Shakespeare's work, brought to life in startling clarity for audiences on Navy Pier, in Chicago schools and across the world, is only made possible by your patronage. Thank you for helping us realize our potential as a world-class theater reflective of our global city!



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# **About CST**

Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) believes that Shakespeare speaks to everyone. A global theatrical force, CST is known for vibrant productions that reflect Shakespeare's genius for storytelling, language, and empathy for the human condition. The Theater has evolved into a dynamic company, producing award-winning plays at its home on Navy Pier, throughout Chicago's schools and neighborhoods, and on stages around the world. CST serves as a partner in literacy to Chicago Public Schools, working alongside English teachers to help struggling readers connect with Shakespeare in the classroom, and bringing his text to life on stage for 40,000 students every year. And each summer, 17,000 families and audience members of all ages welcome CST's free Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks into their neighborhoods across the far north, west and south sides of the city. Reflecting the global city we call home, CST is the leading producer of international work in Chicago and has toured its plays abroad to Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe.

The Theater's tradition of excellence and civic leadership has been honored with numerous national and international awards, including the Regional Theatre Tony Award, three Laurence Olivier Awards, and seventy-seven total Joseph Jefferson Awards. CST was the 2012 recipient of the Folger Shakespeare Library's national Shakespeare Steward Award for its innovative teaching of Shakespeare in American classrooms. Among its many international engagements, CST participated in the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2006 Complete Works Festival and was selected to represent North America at the Globe to Globe festival as part of London's 2012 Cultural Olympiad. ■

### Sheli Z. Rosenberg\*

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\*denotes Executive Committee members

# On the Boards









On November 4, at the 45th Annual Joseph Jefferson Awards. CST's artists took home the top number of honors: seven Jeff Awards for Artistic Excellence. The awards recognized Artistic Director Barbara Gaines' The School for Lies. Associate Artistic Director Garv Griffin's Sunday in the Park with George, and Othello: The Remix by The Q Brothers, developed with CST Creative Producer Rick Boynton. Each award celebrates the Theater's unparalleled commitment to bringing complex stories to life with great clarity and heightened theatricality. This public celebration of the past season follows a year in which CST launched 650 performances of eighteen productions, playing on forty-five stages at home and around the world.

During the month of October, the CPS Shakespeare! ensemble of twenty-one students and nine teachers from eleven Chicago Public Schools turned CST's rehearsal hall into a learning lab. Working with a full team of professional artists, they devised a unique sixty-minute production of Shakespeare's Othello, performed in CST's Courtvard Theater on November 1 and 2. The students recruited for CPS Shakespeare! are selected for their potential, personally and academically, to benefit from this immersive six-week experience. Supported by their teachers alongside a cadre of theater professionals, students from neighborhoods across the city work together, providing mutual support for risk-taking, creative expression, personal exploration and academic development.

January marks CST's debut at one of the world's most respected and sought-after arts festivals, the Sydney Festival. The Theater's internationally heralded collaboration with Chicago artists the Q Brothers. Othello: The Remix. continues its worldwide tour with a one-week engagement in Australia. Following tours to London, Germany, Edinburgh and South Korea. the Sydney Festival will offer the artistic team behind this fusion theater/hip-hop piece the opportunity to be in creative conversation with a broad spectrum of international artists. Ranging from burlesque circus to contemporary dance and indigenous arts practice, the Sydney Festival presents an invigorating program of artistic innovators. CST is proud to represent a production indicative of the innovation inherent to the stages of our global city at this esteemed festival.

On October 30. Chicago's most innovative businesses were honored at the 12th annual Chicago Innovation Awards. Several special awards were given that night, including the Cultural Innovation Award presented to Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Artistic and Executive Directors. Barbara Gaines and Criss Henderson, CST was in the company of other special award recipients Stephanie Izard (Executive Chef at Girl and the Goat). Million Dollar Quartet, Chicago Public Library and Ingenuity, Inc. The awards are open to businesses of any size in any industry, and the winners represent a broad spectrum reflecting Chicago's diverse industry landscape. CST is proud to be counted among those organizations continuing Chicago's tradition of innovation and excellence.

photo credits: CST leadership and artists at the Jeff Awards (2013); CPS Shakespeare! in rehearsal (2013); photos by Liz Lauren and Johnny Knight.

# A Conversation with the Director

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Visit chicagoshakes.com to explore more ideas and stories behind the art on CST's stages.

## THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARI

- DIRECTED BY BARBARA GAINES
- COURTYARD THEATER
- DECEMBER 3, 2013-JANUARY 19, 2014
- **3**12.595.5600
- WWW.CHICAGOSHAKES.COM



Director of
The Merry Wives of Windsor
Barbara Gaines

# A rtistic Director Barbara Gaines met with Director of Education Marilyn Halperin to discuss her production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Let's begin with your decision to stage this *Merry Wives* in post-World War II England.

I wanted to find a time and place where life was returning to some kind of normalcy following a long war. Windsor in the late 1940s in postwar England was still a small town. You have Falstaff and his followers as British soldiers who have returned from battle, out of work—and needing cash. And you have a society that is trying to separate itself from the horrors of war and rebuild itself. Hope and optimism are in the air—and the music of the period reflects that. The women are dressed in those beautiful prints from that period. I love the music of this time; the songs that will fill our production are mostly from America, which is what they were listening to in England after the war. It's turning into this beautiful swing musical romp through Windsor.

#### Americans after the war in England were their heroes.

Yes, but I've decided to make Fenton, who Anne Page falls in love with against her parents' wishes, an American 'fly boy'—so he's not part of the Windsor community and, like the other outsiders, he'll speak in his own dialect that distinguishes him from the other characters.



In Windsor, Shakespeare makes the various dialects of his characters a topic of discussion—and humor.

We are dealing with a lot of people here who mangle the "pure," beautiful, British spoken word. They make fun of the Welsh Parson's accent, and Dr. Caius's accent—and they'll probably make fun of Fenton's American accent, too. Mocking others is all part of the fun. In Windsor, they may make fun of you, they

### Perhaps this Windsor is the Stratford-upon-Avon where Shakespeare grew up.

can mock you in a witty—and occasionally hurtful—way. But in the end, they're going to say, 'Enough of this. Come over for dinner and we'll laugh at our faults.' That's one of the reasons that I would love to live in my fantasy Windsor, because I could feel very

comfortable and feel forgiven. Perhaps this Windsor is the Stratford-upon-Avon where Shakespeare grew up. He knew how small towns worked. He knew the inside bickering. He knew the pettiness. He knew how people could make fun of anyone who is remotely different. But he also knew that forgiveness is probably the only thing that would allow mankind to survive—and it's a theme he returns to time and time again throughout the canon.

#### Certainly the wives are having a really good time, but poor Mr. Ford...

He's got 'crotchets' in his head, as Mrs. Ford declares. Meaning that there are some people who just go to the dark side before they go anywhere—and he's one of them. His wife can always cheer him out of it, but he doesn't have the inner stability that Mr. Page does. He loves his wife so much that the mere thought of somebody trying to seduce her is agony—as it would be for many of us. He makes these assumptions without first going to her—much like Othello does in a very different story. Neither Ford nor Othello trusts his wife the way Mr. Page does because neither one of these men trusts himself.



#### Do we end up identifying with the jealous husband of comedy in a different way?

Comedy has to come from the most intimate, true place. It's essential that we feel the pain in comedy, that we identify with Ford's jealousy, and we'll be able to laugh not only at him, but at ourselves.

## We've met Falstaff, of course, in the *Henry IV* plays already. Is this the same Falstaff, or is he notably altered as many critics contend?

I know what all of the critics say, and it's true: two wives do get the better of him this time. But that says a great deal, too, about the strength and intelligence of these two

Comedy has to come from the most intimate, true place. It's essential that we feel the pain in comedy.

women—and the strong bond of friendship that ties the two of them together in this 'conquest'! And what's wrong with women pulling a fast one over men? But I do feel like he's the same character. He is still greedy to live every moment to the fullest. His lust for living is as immense as he is. Yes, you can argue that his wit and psyche don't have the same depth, but

this comedy doesn't require that of him. I think that instead of being disappointed in Falstaff, people have to let their heads give way to their hearts.

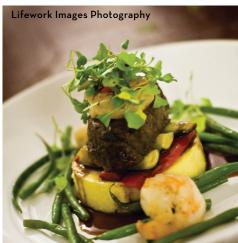
# Based on what you've said about the wives, is Shakespeare doing something just a bit subversive as he gives the women the upper hand in Windsor?

There's no doubt about Windsor being a male-dominated society. But as married women, they're ruling their own homes. They decide to make the best of a bad situation—and they do. These are not two women who are going to run for Parliament or start a riot for women's rights. They're going to manipulate in the subtle ways that women have for thousands of years.

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# NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 22, 2013 A Q BROTHERS'

written by GQ, JQ, Jackson Doran, and Postell Pringle developed with Rick Boynton Upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare



# **DECEMBER 3, 2013- JANUARY 19, 2014**

by William Shakespeare directed by Barbara Gaines in CST's Courtyard Theater



CST CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY THROUGH THE SONDHEIM CANON ON BOTH STAGES

FEBRUARY 6-MARCH 23, 2014

A Musical Fable • book by Arthur Laurents music by Jule Styne lyrics by Stephen Sondheim directed by Gary Griffin in CST's Courtyard Theater



#### MARCH 13-MAY 4, 2014

music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim book by John Weidman directed by Gary Griffin Upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare

# SATURDAYS AT 11:00 A.M FEBRUARY 22-MARCH 22, 2014

by William Shakespeare adapted and directed by David H. Bell in CST's Courtyard Theater





#### **MARCH 30-APRIL 13, 2014** FROM CORNWALL, ENGLAND Kneehigh's

written by Carl Grose and Anna Maria Murphy adapted and directed by Emma Rice in CST's Courtyard Theater



# **APRIL 29-JUNE 15, 2014**

by William Shakespeare directed by Christopher Luscombe in CST's Courtyard Theater



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written, directed and music by GQ and JQ developed with Rick Boynton

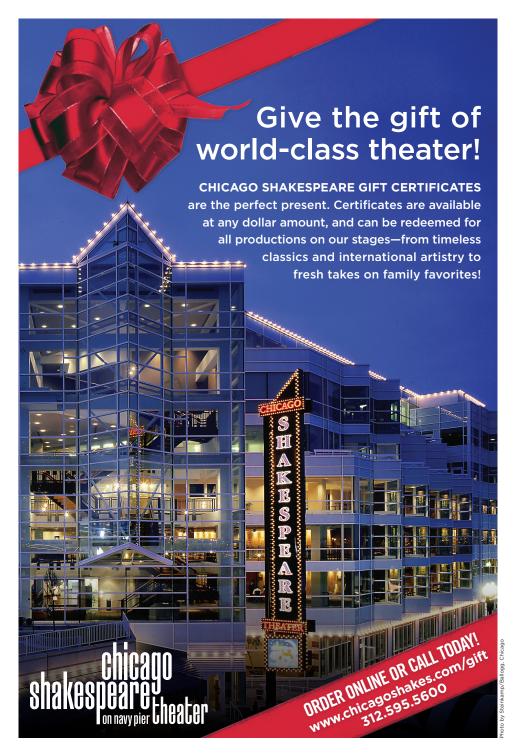


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written by Omphile Molusi directed by Omphile Molusi in collaboration with Rick Boynton

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**BARBARA GAINES** Artistic Director

**CRISS HENDERSON Executive Director** 

RICK BOYNTON, Creative Producer GARY GRIFFIN, Associate Artistic Director

presents

# THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

written by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

December 3, 2013-January 19, 2014

Scenic Design JAMES NOONE

Costume Design SUSAN E. MICKEY

Lighting Design JOHN CULBERT

Original Music and Sound Design LINDSAY JONES

Wig and Make-up Design **MELISSA VEAL** 

Choreography HARRISON McELDOWNEY

Music Director/Vocal Arranger

**DOUG PECK** 

Dialect Coach **EVA BRENEMAN** 

Casting **BOB MASON**  **Production Stage Manager** DEBORAH ACKER

Animal training provided by Call of the Wild

directed by BARBARA GAINES

This is for Bernie and Jane Sahlins. - BG

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There will be one 15-minute intermission.















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#### in order of appearance

Sir Hugh Evans

Justice Robert Shallow

Slender, cousin to Shallow

Master Page

Sir John Falstaff

Bardolph

Pistol

Nym

Anne Page

Simple, servant to Slender

Host of the Garter Inn

Mistress Quickly

John Rugby, servant to Dr. Caius

Dr. Caius Fenton

Mistress Page

Mistress Ford

Master Ford

Robin, page to Falstaff

Dolores, barmaid at the Garter Inn

John, servant to the Fords

Robert, servant to the Fords

Cricket, Lego, Gunther

WILLIAM DICK\* JAMES HARMS\*

STEVEN SUTCLIFFE\*

**KEVIN GUDAHL\*** 

SCOTT JAECK\*

MATT DeCARO\*

JOE BIANCO

**TIM GITTINGS** 

TIFFANY YVONNE COX

CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK

DON FORSTON\*

ANGELA INGERSOLL\*

PAVI PROCZKO

**GREG VINKLER\*** 

MATT MUELLER\*

**KELLI FOX\*** 

**HEIDI KETTENRING\*** 

**ROSS LEHMAN\*** 

MICHAEL SEMANIC

AMY MONTGOMERY\* JONATHON REICHART<sup>†</sup>

MICHAEL ERMEL<sup>†</sup>

PLAY THEMSELVES

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless an announcement is made at the time of the performance; Joe Bianco for Dr. Caius; Erica Bittner for Anne Page; Christopher Chmelik for Fenton; Matt DeCaro\* for Justice Robert Shallow, Master Page, Host of the Garter Inn; Sean Gallagher for Bardolph, John Rugby, John, Robert; Tim Gittings for Sir Hugh Evans, Slender; Ryan Imhoff for Pistol, Nym, Simple; Angela Ingersoll\* for Mistress Ford; Amy Montgomery\* for Mistress Quickly, Mistress Page; Daniel Pass for Robin; Julie Schroll for Dolores; David Turrentine\* for Sir John Falstaff, Master Ford; Tilly for dogs.

\*denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

†Chicago Shakespeare Theater gratefully acknowledges Carin Silkaitis and Sean Kelley along with the faculty and students of North Central College and Roosevelt University for their participation in this production's intern program.

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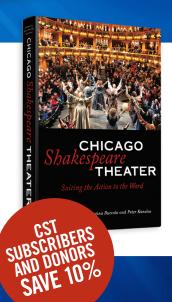
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# Playgoer's Guide

#### THE STORY

The citizens of Windsor lead decidedly provincial lives. The men go to work, the children go to school—and the women? They take care of everything else. Masters Page and Ford are two well-to-do citizens whose daily lives convivially converge in this country town.

Then Sir John Falstaff bursts onto the scene, and schemes to seduce two Windsor wives in a last-ditch effort to buttress his sagging finances—Mistresses Page and Ford, as it happens. While the wives step forward to take matters into their own capable hands, Master Ford falls hook, line and sinker for the rumors spread by Pistol and Nym who, after being dismissed from Falstaff's service, have an agenda of their own.

Sir John is not the only one with amorous ambitions in Windsor. As the wives deflect Falstaff's advances, the Pages' daughter is pursued by several bachelors of varying desirability: Slender, the dimwitted cousin of a local justice; Dr. Caius, a Frenchman whose reason is subordinated by his emotions; and Master Fenton, a young American whose life is changed by falling in love. Enter Mistress Quickly, who serves as a go-between for any soul in need of assistance.

Scandal, suspicion and sweet revenge reign in Windsor—until order can be restored and life continue on in merry fashion.

#### A BRIEF PERFORMANCE HISTORY

According to an early—and entirely unsubstantiated—eighteenth-century tradition, Shakespeare was said to have composed The Merry Wives of Windsor at the command of Queen Elizabeth I, who so appreciated Falstaff in Shakespeare's Henry IV that she longed to see the character back on stage—and this time in love. Though little is known about the play's early production history, it is documented to have been presented by Shakespeare's acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, sometime between 1597 and 1601, and was revived at court for King James I in 1604. Its final audience prior to the English Civil War included the soon-to-be-beheaded Charles I at London's Cockpit Theatre in 1638. The play was staged in the American colonies, in Philadelphia in 1770 and New York in 1773. Eventually, Victorian sensibilities found Falstaff too gross for its tastes, and the successful Merry Wives productions were refined, operatic ones. Both Nicolai's 1849 The Merry Wives of Windsor and Verdi's 1893 Falstaff center on the Fenton-Anne love interest, while distilling the remainder of the story. Chicago Shakespeare Theater has previously staged the play twice, both times directed by Barbara Gaines: first in 1997 at the Ruth Page Theatre, and again in 2004 here at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

# Profiles



#### **JOE BIANCO**

(Pistol) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in Timon of Athens and as an understudy in Othello: The Remix and Funk It Up About Nothin'. Other Chicago credits include:

Amadeus, Richard III, Henry V (Oak Park Festival Theatre); The Comedy of Errors, Space Wars (Piccolo Theatre): Art. Mv Kinda Town, Nightmares in Paradise 4, Fight Night: The Killing (Nothing Lieutenant of Inishmore, Dinah Was, Talley's Productions): and Fish Story (winning radio play with a BFA in acting at Millikin University. www.actorjoebianco.com



#### CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK

Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors. Other Chicago cred-Hollow Lands (Steep The-

Heights (Lifeline Theatre); and The Earl (The many others. Inconvenience). Television credits include Sirens (FX) and Double Cross (ID). Mr. Chmelik received his BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University.



#### TIFFANY YVONNE COX

(Anne Page) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include two summers with Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks and Short Shake-

Shrew. Other Chicago credits include Godspell (Provision Theatre) and Letters Home The Tempest (American Players Theatre); Crumbs from the Table of Joy (UPROOTED/ Renaissance Theatreworks); Jackie and Me (First Stage Children's Theatre); Avenue Q (Skylight Music Theatre); Romeo and Juliet Chicago Fire (NBC) and Betrayal (ABC). Ms. Cox received a BFA in musical theatre, with minors in Spanish and dance from Catawba Theatre Center. Television credits include Le-

College, and acting internships at Milwaukee Rep and PCPA Theaterfest.



#### MATT DECARO

(Bardolph) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Edward IV and Ratcliff in Richard III and Duke Frederick in As You Like It. Other Chicago credits include: The

Special Productions); Cold, Cold Feet (Diamante Folly (Northlight Theatre); Perfect Mendacity, Glengarry Glen Ross, Men of Tortuga, Slaughof Deathscribe 2012). Regional credits include The terhouse V (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); Front Steps (Alley Stage). Mr. Bianco graduated Romance, Heartbreak House, The Play about the Baby (Goodman Theatre): A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Mystery Cycle, The House of Blue Leaves (Court Theatre); Driving Miss Daisy, Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Briar Street The-(Simple) returns to Chicago atre); and the world premieres of Spinning Into Shakespeare Theater, where Butter and Boy Gets Girl (Goodman Theatre. Linhis credits include Short coln Center Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club). Regional credits include: American Buffalo, A Streetcar Named Desire, Machinal (American its include: Motortown, The Conservatory Theater); and most recently he appeared as Andrew Carnes in Oklahoma! (Lyric atre Company); Reverb (Redtwist Theatre); Opera of Chicago) and White Snake (McCart-Coriolanus (The Hypocrites); Letters Home, On er Theatre). Film and television credits include: the Shore of the Wide World, The Hostage (Grif- Prison Break, Mr. 3000, Eagle Eye, U.S. Marshalls. fin Theatre); The Sea (Theatre Mir); Wuthering Curb Your Enthusiasm, House, The Office, among



#### WILLIAM DICK

(Sir Hugh Evans) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Cyrano de Bergerac, Henry VIII, Timon of Athens. The Madness of George III, The Taming of the Shrew,

Macbeth, The Comedy of Errors, Cymbeline, Troilus and Cressida. The Two Noble Kinsmen. A Flea in Her Ear, Much Ado About Nothing and The speare! The Taming of the Merchant of Venice. Other Chicago credits include: The Odd Couple (Northlight Theatre); The Pitmen Painters (TimeLine Theatre Compa-(Griffin Theatre). Regional credits include: ny); End Days, Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Next Theatre Company); A Christmas Carol (Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook); Moonlight and Magnolias, House and Garden, The Goat or Who is Sylvia? (Goodman Theatre): and We All Went Down to Amsterdam (Steppenwolf Theand The Two Gentleman of Verona (Nebraska atre Company). Regional credits include the Shakespeare Festival). Television credits include Father in Eurydice (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and work at Michigan Public Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre and the Los Angeles

verage and Chicago Fire. Film credits include: The Company, Ice Harvest, Stranger Than Fiction, The Break Up, The Promotion, The Merry Gentleman. Fred Claus and Oz The Great and Powerful.



#### DON FORSTON

(Host of the Garter Inn) returns to Chicago Shakespeare The-

Nothing, Papa and Biff Kabibble in The Princess (Stage Left Theatre). Regional credits include: and the Pea, Hugh Evans in The Merry Wives of four seasons at American Players Theatre, two Windsor, Smee in Peter Pan and the Cowardly Li-seasons at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on in The Wizard of Oz. Other Chicago credits and seven seasons with Door Shakespeare. include: Al in the world premiere of Hero (Marriott Theatre); J.P. Morgan in Ragtime (Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook); and the Chicagoland premiere of Another Night Before Christmas (Theatre at the Center). Regional credits include Dad in Leaving Iowa (Fox Valley Repertory) and The Guy in the world premiere of Another Night Before Christmas (American Heartland Theatre). Mr. Forston is a five-time Jeff Award nominee and an After Dark Award recipient.



#### KELLI FOX

tival. three seasons with the Stratford Festival, nadian Stage (Toronto); Donmar Warehouse The Penelopiad (Dora Award-Best Ensemble, (London); and Royal Shakespeare Company (CST Nightwood Theatre); Mrs. Bennet in Pride and tour). Television credits include: Crisis (NBC); Boss Prejudice (Globe Theatre); Slavs!, Scorched, The (Starz); The Chicago Code (FOX); and Early Edi-Children's Republic (Tarragon Theatre); Top Girls tion (CBS). Film credits include: While You Were (Dora Award nomination, Soulpepper Theatre); Sleeping, Home Alone III and The Poker House. Love's Labour's Lost, A Winter's Tale, All's Well Mr. Gudahl is a multiple Jeff Award recipient. that Ends Well (National Arts Centre, Ottawa); Frozen, August: Osage County (Citadel Theatre); The Blonde. The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead (Manitoba Theatre Centre); and Blithe Spirit (Segal Centre). Ms. Fox's recent directing credits include a developmental project inspired by poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Chloe Moss's This Wide Night (Toronto's Summerworks Festival). She received a Jessie Award for Keeley and Du, and has also been recognized by the Critics Circles in both Toronto for *Penelopiad* and Ottawa for A Room of One's Own.



#### TIM GITTINGS

(Nym) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream. The Taming of the Shrew and Short Shakespeare! The Tam-

ater, where his credits include: ing of the Shrew. Other Chicago credits include: Geppetto in The Adventures Awake and Sing! (Northlight Theatre); A Christof Pinocchio, The Emperor in mas Carol (Goodman Theatre); As You Like It, The Emperor's New Clothes, Heartbreak Hotel (Writers Theatre); When You Tom and Gaoler in The Come- Comin' Back, Red Ryder (Circle Theatre); and dy of Errors, George Seacole in Much Ado About Mrs. Mackenzie's Beginner's Guide to the Blues



#### KEVIN GUDAHL

(Master Page) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry VIII, The School for Lies, the title roles in Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra and Troilus and Cressida; William

Shakespeare in Elizabeth Rex, Brutus in Julius Caesar, Fredrik in A Little Night Music, Hal in Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, and Kayama in Pacific (Mistress Page) returns to Overtures. Recent credits include Proof (Court Chicago Shakespeare The- Theatre) and A Kiss for Two (Black Hills Playater, where she appeared as house). Other Chicago credits include work with: Beatrice in Much Ado About Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Marriott The-Nothing. Regional credits atre, Northlight Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, include the title role in Ham- Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook and Victory Garlet (Geva Theatre). Canadian dens Theater. International credits include: five credits include: twelve seasons with the Shaw Fesseasons with Stratford Festival (Canada): The Ca-



#### JAMES HARMS

(Justice Robert Shallow) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Troilus and Cressida, Hamlet, Hecuba, Much Ado About Nothing, The Taming of the Shrew, Julius Caesar,

The Tempest, As You Like It, Richard II, The Two Gentlemen of Verona and All's Well That Ends Well. Other Chicago credits include: The Visit, The Iceman Cometh, The Happiest Song Plays Last

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(Candlelight Dinner Playhouse); and Quixote in and Juliet (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). Film Man of La Mancha (Light Opera Works). He is the credits include The Lucky Ones and Washington recipient of eight Jeff Awards. Touring credits in- Square. Television credits include: Person of Interclude: Evita, The Fantasticks (including Japan tour est, Elementary, Boardwalk Empire, Prison Break, recording) and Joseph and the Amazing Tech- ER, NYPD Blue, Seinfeld and Star Trek: Voyager and nicolor Dreamcoat. Directing credits include: Me Next Generation. and My Girl (Theatre at the Center); Some Enchanted Evening (Drury Lane Evergreen Park); and The Fantasticks (Pegasus Players).



#### ANGELA INGERSOLL

(Mistress Quickly) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include The Comedy of Errors, Rich-

Theatre, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre): The Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook, Northlight The-39 Steps (Drury Lane Theatre); The Mistress Cycle atre, Writers Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Court (Apple Tree Theatre, Auditorium Theatre); South Theatre, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Theatre Pacific (Light Opera Works): and The Secret Garathe Center and American Theater Compaden (Porchlight Music Theatre). Recent Los Angeles ny. Regional credits include: Disney's Beauty and credits include work with Second City Hollywood, the Beast on tour; and productions with: Maine Comedy Central Stage, Improv Olympic and Up- State Music Theatre, Theatre Works, Peninsula right Citizens Brigade, Regional credits include: Players and Bar Harbor Theatre, Concert credits Carousel (Madison Repertory Theatre); Beauty include productions with: Ravinia Festival, The and the Beast, Jekyll and Hyde, Man of La Man- Three Divas, Kevin Cole, Chicago Symphony Orcha. The Wizard of Oz. Ragtime. Nine. Macbeth chestra and Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. (Playhouse on the Square); Arcadia, Twelfth Film credits include Man of Steel. Ms. Kettenring Night, As You Like It and A Midsummer Night's is a six-time Jeff Award nominee and the recip-Dream (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company). Ms. In- ient of the Richard Kneeland Award, the Sarah gersoll is a two-time Jeff Award nominee and the Siddon's Chicago Leading Lady Award and an recipient of four Ostrander Awards. She is a grad- After Dark Award. She is a graduate of Northuate of Ithaca College.



#### SCOTT JAECK

(Sir John Falstaff) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry VIII. Twelfth Night. Troilus and Cressida, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (CST and on tour to Royal Shakespeare

Learned to Drive (Alliance Theatre); Dinner with Award nomination).

(Goodman Theatre): Albin in La Cage Aux Folles Friends (Indiana Repertory Theatre): and Romeo



#### HEIDI KETTENRING

(Mistress Ford) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include: The School for Lies, Sunday in the Park with George, Cat in The Adventures of Pinocchio and Helena in Short

ard III, Macbeth and How Can Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream. Oth-You Run with a Shell on Your er Chicago credits include Wicked (Broadway in Back? Other Chicago credits Chicago); and productions with: Chicago Cominclude: My Baby Just Cares for Me (Northlight mercial Collective/TimeLine Theatre Company, western University.



#### **ROSS LEHMAN**

(Master Ford) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater. where his credits include: Cyrano de Bergerac, As You Like It, Feste in Twelfth Night, Dudley Marsh/ Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy of

Company), Much Ado About Nothing, The Mer- Errors, Troilus and Cressida, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 chant of Venice, The Merry Wives of Windsor, (at CST and on tour to the Royal Shakespeare Julius Caesar, Love's Labor's Lost and Richard Company, Stratford-upon-Avon), King Lear and II. Other Chicago credits include: Three Sisters, Cymbeline. Other Chicago credits include: Fiddler Time Stands Still, Penelope (Steppenwolf The- on the Roof, The Producers (Marriott Theatre): atre Company); Stage Kiss, Mary, The Seagull, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Waiting for Godot, Dinner with Friends (Goodman Theatre); Inherit A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Fothe Wind, Red Herring, How I Learned to Drive rum (Jeff Award), Stage Kiss (Goodman Theatre); (Northlight Theatre); Someone Who'll Watch A Man of No Importance (Jeff Award), The Dress-Over Me (Victory Gardens Theater); Benefactors er (After Dark Award). As You Like It and Hamlet and Our Town (Writers Theatre). Broadway cred- (Writers Theatre). Broadway credits include A its include August: Osage County and The Night Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, of the Iguana. Regional credits include: Tambur- The Tempest and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's laine, Edward II (Shakespeare Theatre Company); Nest, International credits include Koko in the Lon-Inherit the Wind (Cleveland Playhouse); How I don production of Hot Mikado (Laurence Olivier



#### AMY MONTGOMERY

(Dolores) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include: Troilus and Cressida, As You Like It, Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet, The School for Scandal, All's Well That End's Well and

Henry IV Parts 1 and 2. Regional credits include: She Stoops to Conquer, Twelfth Night, King John, Richard III. Love's Labor's Lost. Pyamalion (Michigan Shakespeare Festival): A Christmas Carol (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); The Hadeyburg Project (Metropolitan Playhouse, New York); er in Oliver!, the Mayor of Munchkinland in Bump in the Road (New York Musical Theatre Fes- The Wizard of Oz (Music on Stage); Winthrop tival), as well as several Ziegfeld Societies Midnight Paroo in The Music Man (Footlighters The-Frolics in NYC. Television credits include Boss. Ms. atre); and Louis Leonowens in The King and I Montgomery holds an MFA in acting from The (LZP Productions). He recently performed the Theatre School at DePaul University, a BFA in muroles of Gherardino and the child in Puccini's sical theatre from The College of Santa Fe, and she Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica (Main Street completed the one-year classical acting program Opera), and was a featured soloist with the at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Wheaton Symphony. Film credits include the Arts.



#### MATT MUELLER

Taming of the Shrew and The www.MichaelSemanic.com Taming of the Shrew (Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks).

Other Chicago credits include Assassins (Chicago Humanities Festival). Regional credits include: Peter and the Starcatcher, Love's Labour's Lost, Romeo and Juliet. A Midsummer Night's Dream. Richard III. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (Utah Shakespeare Festival); The Seagull, Boeing-Boeing (Theatreworks, Colorado Springs); Woody Guthrie's American Ideal Husband, On the Rocks, Serious Money, Song (Marin Theatre Company); American Buffa- Play, Orchestra, Play and Sunday in the Park with Io (Palm Beach Dramaworks); A Christmas Carol George, among others. His Stratford Festival the Musical! (Arvada Center); Morisot Reclining, credits include: Caesar and Cleopatra, Love's The Glass Menagerie, Savage in Limbo (Boul- Labour's Lost, The Glass Menagerie, Noises Off der Ensemble Theatre Company): Living History and Pride and Prejudice, among others. Oth-(Denver Center for the Performing Arts); and nu- er Canadian production credits include work merous productions at the Colorado Shakespeare with: Arts Club Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Cit-Festival.



#### PAVI PROCZKO

(John Rugby) makes his Chicago Shakespeare Theater Piazza (Theo Ubique); Meet City Center and Broadway. John Doe (Porchlight Music Theatre): The Suitcase Op-

era Project (Chicago Opera Vanguard); Much Ado About Nothing (First Folio Shakespeare); Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Paramount Theatre); and Godspell (Brown Paper Box Co.). Regional credits include work with Acorn

Theater and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Mr. Proczko received his BFA in musical theatre from Roosevelt University and studied improvisation and writing at Second City Training Center.



#### MICHAEL SEMANIC

(Robin) makes his Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Other Chicago credits include Oliver Twist in Oliver! (Light Opera Works). Community production credits include: the Artful Dodg-

lead role of Timmy in The Focus Group. Commercial credits include the Museum of Science and Industry. He sings with the Elgin Children's (Fenton) returns to Chicago Chorus (Soprano I) and at various churches Shakespeare Theater, where around Chicagoland. Michael is in 7th grade, he appeared in Julius Cae- plays violin in his middle school orchestra sar, Short Shakespeare! The and enjoys writing original stories on his blog.



#### STEVEN SUTCLIFFE

(Slender) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared as Ned Lowenscroft in Elizabeth Rex (Jeff Award nomination). Mr. Sutcliffe's Shaw Festival credits include: An

adel Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Center, Grand Theatre, Canadian Stage, Soulpepper Theatre, National Arts Centre and Neptune Theatre. United States production credits include work with: Goodman Theatre, A Contemporary Thedebut. Other Chicago cred- atre, Long Wharf Theatre, Eugene O'Neill its include: The Light in the Theater Center, L.A. Theatre Works, New York

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#### **GREG VINKLER**

(Dr. Caius) returns to Chicago his credits include: Oronte in The School for Lies, the title role in King Lear (Jeff Award). Falstaff in Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2 (CST and on tour to the Roy-

al Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon), and twenty-six other productions. Other Chica-Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Steppenwolf The-scenic design department at Boston University. atre Company and the Barbican Theatre, London): The Rose Tattoo, The Beard of Avon (Goodman Theatre): and Jest a Second (Victory Gardens (Costume Designer) returns to Chicago Shakeers Theatre in Door County, Wisconsin.



#### BARBARA GAINES

(Director/Artistic Director) is the founder of Chicago Shakedirected more than thirty of Shakespeare's plays. Honors include: the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional The-

atre; the prestigious Honorary OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) credits include costume design for Miss Evers' in recognition of her contributions strengthening Boys (HBO) and Mama Flora's Family miniseries British-American cultural relations; and Joseph Jefferson Awards for Best Production (Hamlet, and head of design and production at University Cymbeline, King Lear and The Comedy of Errors), and for Best Director (Cymbeline, King Lear and The Comedy of Errors). She received the Pub-Opera.

#### JAMES NOONE

(Scenic Designer) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry VIII, Julius Caesar, Richard II, Antony and Cleopatra. Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 and Hamlet. Broadway credits include: Jekyll and Hyde, A Class Act, A Bronx Tale, and multiple productions with Tony Randall's National Actors Theatre, among others. Off Broadway credits include: Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune (Manhattan Theatre Club); Three Tall Women (Vineyard Theatre); Full Gallop

(Westside Theatre): Fully Committed (Cherry Lane Theatre); Cowgirls (Minetta Lane Theatre); Break-Shakespeare Theater, where ing Legs (Promenade Theatre); Boys in the Band (revival, Lucille Lortel Theatre); and Ruthless! The Musical (Players Theatre), as well as productions with Playwrights Horizons, Lincoln Center Theater and Roundabout Theatre Company, among others. Mr. Noone has designed numerous national tours, regional theater productions and operas Jaques in As You Like It, Malvolio in Twelfth Night throughout the US. Awards include: Drama Desk (Jeff Award), Polonius in Hamlet (Jeff Award) Awards, American Theatre Wing Design Award. two Helen Hayes Awards and an LA Stage Alligo credits include: Oliver! (Marriott Theatre); One ance Ovation Award. Mr. Noone is the head of the

#### SUSAN E. MICKEY

Theater). Most recently, credits include: Doc in the speare Theater, where her credits include: Cvrano long-running Broadway revival of West Side Sto- de Bergerac, The School for Lies (Jeff Award), ry; Senex in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way Timon of Athens, The Madness of George III (Jeff to the Forum (Paper Mill Playhouse); and Char- Award), Richard III, Cymbeline, The Comedy of Erlie in August: Osage County (Fulton Theatre). Mr. rors and The Taming of the Shrew. Other Chicago Vinkler is the artistic director of the Peninsula Play- credits include costume design for Jitney and Miss Evers' Bovs (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include designs for: Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage, Arena Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Center Stage, Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Goodspeed Musicals, Portspeare Theater, where she has land Center Stage, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Studio Arena Theatre, Geva Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and over fifty productions with the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta. Television and film (CBS). Ms. Mickey serves as senior associate chair of Texas at Austin.

#### JOHN CULBERT

lic Humanities Award from the Illinois Humanities (Lighting Designer) returns to Chicago Shake-Council, and is the recipient of the Spirit of Loyola speare Theater, where he previously designed Award. Ms. Gaines has received an Honorary Doc- Romeo and Juliet. Other Chicago credits include: torate of Letters from University of Birmingham Tartuffe, The Misanthrope, Angels in America, Car-(UK). She serves on the Shakespearean Council oline, or Change, Man of La Mancha (Jeff Award), of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and Carousel (Court Theatre); The Farnsworth Invenis a Life Trustee of Northwestern University. She tion (Scenic Design, TimeLine Theatre Company): directed Giuseppe Verdi's Macbeth at the Lyric Grey Gardens (Northlight Theatre); Regina (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Argonautika (Lookingglass Theatre Company): Rock 'n' Roll and Mirror of the Invisible World (Goodman Theatre), among others. Regional credits include productions with: Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Long Wharf Theatre. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, McCarter Theatre and Shakespeare Theatre Company, International credits include productions with Singapore Repertory and Opera National du Rhin. Other projects include lighting design for the Chicago Park District's Buckingham Fountain. Mr. Culbert serves as Dean of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

#### LINDSAY JONES

(Original Music and Sound Designer) has created music for and designed over twenty productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, including: Henry VIII, Julius Caesar and Henry IV Parts 1 and 2. Other Chicago credits include productions with: Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre and Lookingglass Theatre choreography is featured in Dance for Life: The Company. Broadway credits include: A Time to Kill and Bronx Bombers. Off Broadway credits include: Wild with Happy, The Brother/Sister Plays, Top Secret. Rx. 1001 and Beautiful Thing. Regional credits include productions with: Guthrie to Marriott Theatre's Andrew Lloyd Weber review Theater, South Coast Repertory, McCarter Theatre, Arena Stage, The Old Globe and Hartford rector for Wilson Dow Group and Under the Radar. Stage. International credits include productions with the Royal Shakespeare Company (UK) and DOUG PECK Stratford Festival (Canada), as well as shows in (Music Director/Vocal Arranger) returns to Chi-Austria, Zimbabwe, Scotland and South Africa. cago Shakespeare Theater, where he served as Recent film and television scoring credits include: music director for Beauty and the Beast and Se-The Brass Teapot for Magnolia Pictures; and A ussical! The Musical, and musical supervisor for Note of Triumph (2006 Academy Award for Best Willy Wonka. Winner of six Joseph Jefferson Documentary, Short Subject) for HBO Films. He Awards and two After Dark Awards, Mr. Peck's is the recipient of six Jeff Awards (with nineteen other Chicago credits include work with: Court nominations), two Ovation Awards, three Drama Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre. Desk Award nominations and the Michael Maggio Marriott Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, Emerging Designer Award.

#### MELISSA VEAL

(Wig and Make-up Designer) has designed wigs and make-up for over seventy productions at CST, including: Cvrano de Bergerac. Henry VIII. Julius Caesar. The School for Lies (Jeff Award), Sunday in the Park with George, Othello: The Remix (London, Germany, Edinburgh), Timon of Athens, Elizabeth Rex (Jeff go Humanities Festival. He can be heard on the Award nomination), Follies, The Madness of recordings Bright Young People: The Songs of George III (Jeff Award), As You Like It, Twelfth Noël Coward, Foiled Again: Live, and Loving Re-Night, Macbeth, Amadeus, Funk It Up About peating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein. Mr. Peck Nothin', Othello, Passion, Troilus and Cressi- studied at Northwestern University and Interloda, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (at CST and Roval chen Center for the Arts. Shakespeare Company), Rose Rage: Henry VI Parts 1, 2 and 3 (at CST and The Duke on 42nd EVA BRENEMAN Street). She worked for ten seasons with the (Dialect Coach) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Stratford Festival, where she received four Tvrone Guthrie Awards, including the Jack Hutt Humanitarian Award. Other Canadian credits credits include productions with: Writers Theatre. include work with: Shaw Festival, Mirvish Productions and The Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, Ms. Veal received the 2007 Hurckes Lookingglass Theatre Company (production Award for Artisans and Technicians.

#### HARRISON McELDOWNEY

(Choreographer) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry VIII, Julius Caesar, Sunday in the Park with George, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Merchant of Venice, Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet, Antony and Cleopatra, All's Well That Ends Well and The Tempest. Mr. McEldownev made his Chicago Lyric Opera debut with Barbara Gaines' critically acclaimed Macbeth. Mr. McEldownev's numerous

credits include television. Broadway, off Broadway, West End, Carnegie Hall and the Barcelona Olympics Closing Ceremonies. Film credits include: Sam Mendes' Road to Perdition and Mark Medoff's Children on Their Birthdays. He starred in Ruth Page's Billy Sunday for stage and the televised documentary (Emmy nomination), and his Documentary. He is the inaugural recipient of the Prince Prize and received the Ruth Page. After Dark, and Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography. Most recently, he contributed choreography Now and Forever. Mr. McEldowney is a creative di-

Paramount Theatre. Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook. Porchlight Music Theatre and Ravinia Festival. Regional credits include productions with: Huntington Theatre, DC's Shakespeare Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre and Peninsula Players. His concert collaborations with his husband Rob Lindley include galas for many of the theaters listed above, as well as an annual concert evening for the Chica-

Theater, where her credits include Elizabeth Rex and The Madness of George III. Other Chicago Steppenwolf Theatre Company, TimeLine Theatre Company (associate artist), Northlight Theatre, affiliate). Court Theatre and Remy Bumppo Theatre. Off Broadway credits include Mamma Mia! (national tour and Las Vegas). Regional credits include Around the World in 80 Days (Centerstage Baltimore, Kansas City Repertory). Television credits include Betraval (ABC): The Chicago Code (Fox); and The Beast (A&E Television). Ms. Breneman received a BFA from NYU/Tisch School of the Arts and an MA from The Central School of Speech and Drama.

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#### DEBORAH ACKER

aged the past twenty-four seasons at Chicago fourteenth season as CST's casting director. Shakespeare Theater. Other stage management where his credits include over eighty produccredits include: Puttin' on the Ritz (National Jew- tions and twenty-nine plays of Shakespeare's ish Theater); Six Degrees of Separation, Driving canon. In addition to eighteen productions with Miss Daisy, I'm Not Rappaport (Briar Street The- Artistic Director Barbara Gaines, other CST proatre); The Nerd (Royal George Theatre); and A... ductions of note include: a quintet of Stephen My Name Is Alice (Ivanhoe Theatre). She has Sondheim musicals (Pacific Overtures, Sunday production managed extensively throughout Chi- in the Park with George, A Little Night Music, cago, and has also provided lighting designs for: Passion and Follies) directed by Gary Griffin; the Apollo Theatre, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, as well as Rose Rage: Henry VI Parts 1, 2 and Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Team Shake- 3 directed by Edward Hall; and The Molière speare, the Museum of Science and Industry, Comedies directed by Brian Bedford. Additional Some Like It Cole (tour), and Pump Boys and Di- Chicago casting credits include: the Sondheim/ nettes in Branson, Missouri.

#### CALYN P. SWAIN

Shakespeare Theater, where her stage management credits include: production stage manager for Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors and Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream; assistant stage manager for Henry VIII, The School for Lies, Timon of Athens, Elizabeth Rex, As You Chicago and Northwestern University. Like It, Aladdin and Amadeus and stage manager for Romeo y Julieta. Other Chicago credits RICK BOYNTON include: August: Osage County, The Pillowman, Harriet Jacobs (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); Richard III, Cymbeline, The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival); and numerous productions including M. Proust and Eleven Rooms of Proust with About Face Theatre. Additional stage management credits include productions with: Lookingglass Theatre Company, Grand Rapids Ballet and Anchorage Opera. She holds a BFA from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM).

#### AMANDA J. DAVIS

Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include: production stage manager for A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol, assistant stage manager for Murder for Two and Short Shakespeare! Macbeth; and stage coordinator for CPS Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet and The Taming of the Shrew. Other Chicago credits include: production stage and Interpretation Center of Northwestern University); and The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs (ETOPiA). Ms. Davis is a graduate of Northwestern University.

#### **BOB MASON**

(Production Stage Manager) has stage man- (Artistic Associate/Casting Director) is in his Hal Prince premiere of Bounce (Goodman Theatre and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts) and productions for Northlight Theatre (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Chicago and Northwestern University's American Music Theatre Project. Prior to casting, Mr. Mason enjoyed a fifteen-year career as a Jeff Awardwinning Chicago actor and singer, and has been a visiting educator for School at Steppenwolf, Acting Studio Chicago, University of Illinois at

(Creative Producer) focuses on current and future artistic planning and production, as well as the development of all new plays, musicals and adaptations for CST. Recent projects include: A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol, Cadre (co-director) (CST, Johannesburg, Grahamstown, Edinburgh), Othello: The Remix (CST, London, Germany, Edinburgh, South Korea), Funk It Up About Nothin' (CST, Edinburgh, Australian tour, London), A Flea in Her Ear (CST, Williamstown Theatre Festival), The Three Musketeers (CST, Boston, London), The Emperor's New Clothes, (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Chicago The Adventures of Pinocchio, Murder for Two (CST. New York 2013) and The Feast: an intimate Tempest (in collaboration with Redmoon). Former artistic director of the Marriott Theatre and multiple Jeff Award-winning actor, he has starred in productions nationally, including CST's production of A Flea in Her Ear as Camille (Jeff Award, After Dark Award). As casting dimanager for 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (Theatre at the Center); rector/associate at Jane Alderman Casting, Fugitive Songs (The Music Theatre Company); projects included: the television series Early Edi-The Exonerated (Next Theatre Company, Theatre tion. Missing Persons, Untouchables and ER; the films While You Were Sleeping and Hoodlum. among others; and numerous national tours. Mr. Boynton has lectured at his alma mater Northwestern University, and is president of the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

#### CRISS HENDERSON



(Executive Director) has produced CST's past twenty-four seasons. Under his leadership the Theater has become one of the city's major cultural attractions. Honors include the Tony Award for Outstand-

ing Regional Theatre, as well as multiple Laurence Olivier and Joseph Jefferson Awards. Mr. Henderson was named Arts Administrator of the Year by Arts Management Magazine at The Kennedy Center; was recognized among the top 40 business people under the age of 40 in Crain's Chicago Business; and was named Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Minister of Culture of France. He serves as president of the Producers' Association of Chicago-area Theatres, and on the board of the League of Chicago Theatres. Mr. Henderson is director of the MFA/Arts Leadership Program, a two-year, graduate-level curriculum in arts management training created through a joint partnership between Chicago Shakespeare Theater and The Theatre School at DePaul University.

#### **Music Credits**

AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE: By Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer; Courtesy of Harwin Music Group

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The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers of this production are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

# Staff

#### BARBARA GAINES Artistic Director

#### ARTISTIC

RICK BOYNTON Creative Producer

GARY GRIFFIN Associate Artistic Director

BOR MASON

Artistic Associate/ Casting Director

HEATHER SCHMUCKER Associate Producer

MARISSA SCHWARTZ Producing Associate

FLIZABETH MARGOLIUS Assistant Director of The Merry Wives of Windsor

LAURA DURHAM Casting Assistant

KAITLIN CARVER Casting Intern

#### **EDUCATION**

MARILYN J. HALPERIN Director of Education

**Events Coordinator** and Communications Rav and Judy McCaskey Education Chair

JASON HARRINGTON Education Outreach Manager

MOLLY TOPPER Learning Programs Manager

REBECCA DUMAIN ROSE MANEY Education Interns

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DANIEL J. HESS Company Manager

JEANNE DEVORE Technology Manager

ANDREA CRAIN Database Administrator

**DOTTIE BRIS-BOIS** BRETT ELLIOTT

MELISSA FAGAN **DOREEN SAYEGH** Arts Leadership Fellows

ALANA RYBAK Assistant Director of Finance

DAN GRYCZA KATHRYN PAYNE Accounting Associates

#### CRISS HENDERSON Executive Director

ALYSSE HUNTER Accounts Pavable Manager

JILL FENSTERMAKER Executive Assistant

#### ADVANCEMENT

BROOKE FLANAGAN Director of Institutional Advancement

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# A Local Habitation and a Name

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#### THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- DIRECTED BY BARBARA GAINES
- COURTYARD THEATER
- DECEMBER 3, 2013-JANUARY 19, 2014
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Stuart Sherman, Associate Professor of English at Fordham University, is a specialist in eighteenth-century literature and the author of Telling Time: Clocks, Diaries and English Diurnal Form. 1660-1785.

## The poet's pen," says Duke Theseus late in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, ... gives to airy nothing / A local habitation and a name. Such tricks hath strong imagination ..."

A few years after the *Dream*, Shakespeare's strong imagination would perform this trick with unusual specificity. In a play first touted as Sir John Falstaff and the Merry Wives of Windsor, he combined an emphatically local habitation—Windsor, a prosperous suburb thirty miles from his own playhouse—with the name of the most celebrated and resilient character he had yet created. Though he may at first have intended Falstaff for a comic turn in a single play (Henry IV, Part 1), he ended up featuring him in four, of which the Merry Wives may well (or may not) have been the last. According to legend, appealing but unreliable, Queen Elizabeth, enamored of Falstaff in the earlier plays. commanded Shakespeare to write "one play more." in which he was to show Sir John "in love." And that's what we get to see in this one play more: Sir John in love, or lust, or greed (neither he nor we can be quite sure which) with those merry wives.

But the play itself's in love with Windsor. Geographically, the Merry Wives is unique in Shakespeare's canon. Apart from the history plays, necessarily centered in London, no other Shakespeare play transpires in England, and even the histories travel far afield (France, Wales). Here then is Shakespeare's most local play of all; no other cleaves so assiduously close to home. Part of this play's point is that there's no place like it.

Windsor differs from other Shakespearean settings in what might be called its social tessitura, the pitch



and spectrum of its characters. There's a lower proportion of higher-ups—no kings, gueens, princes, dukes—and a wide diversity within the middle register: two prosperous bourgeois households, a genial innkeeper, a Welsh priest, a French doctor, and more small children running about than anywhere else in Shakespeare.

The variety makes itself manifest in language too. In this emphatically English play, the English tongue is twisted in ways innumerable, at the hands of an English

### They're clearly crazy about each other. an Elizabethan Lucy **Ricardo and Ethel Mertz**

playwright utterly intoxicated with it and infinitely capable of putting it through new permutations. Out of mangled oaths, preposterously protracted small talk, impenetrable foreign accents, crosslingual double entendres, and a Latin tutorial gone horribly awry, Shakespeare constructs a deliriously comic tower of babble. (In a fine finishing touch, he names his luckless Latin pupil William.) One character

remarks of Falstaff, "He loves the gallimaufry"—a stew made up of any and all ingredients at hand. Windsor itself proves such a melting pot, and in its capacious laughing way, the Merry Wives loves a gallimaufry too.

But what it may love best is the merry wives themselves: Mistress Page and Mistress Ford, witty, collusive, and indomitable. Appalled by Falstaff's adulterous advances, they giddily conspire in his punishment. Our pleasure in their company arises partly from their pleasure in one another's, partly from the ingenuity of their tricks and traps. They're clearly crazy about each other, an Elizabethan Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz, but without the end-of-show subordination to their menfolk, whom they best at almost every turn. And their inventiveness aligns strikingly with Shakespeare's: in their three attempts to foil Falstaff, they end up scripting, directing, and starring in their own remarkably subtle play, via performances of ardor and alarm faked for the fat knight's benefit.

Their climactic stunt, involving a midnight rendezvous in a nearby forest, mingles the domestic and the fantastic with strong echoes from an earlier comedy. "I do

perceive," Falstaff shouts as his distress peaks, "that I am made an ass"; in that last word audiences may well recall such another figure of fun. Like Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Falstaff (wearing buck's horns as his prototype wore ass's ears) believes himself improbably beloved, and finds himself in the woods

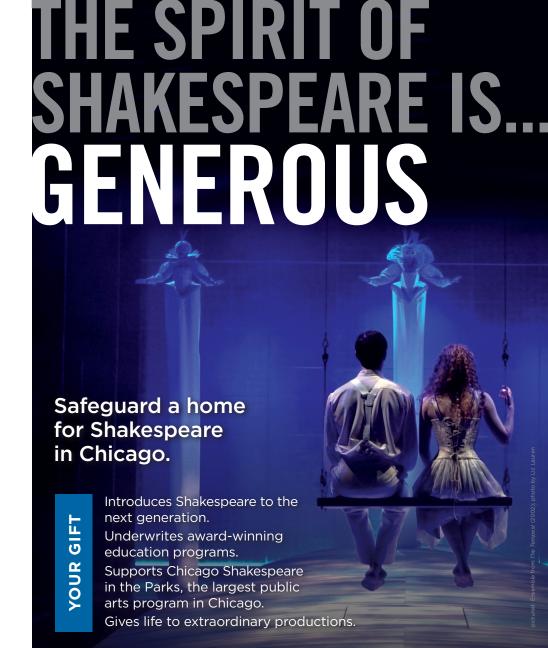
...the local habitation and its inhabitants can provide magic and mirth enough on their own, without supernatural intervention. at night surrounded by what he thinks are fairies acting on the dictates of a formidable Fairy Queen. Unlike Bottom, though, Falstaff experiences pain, not passion—and in a markedly different, more down-to-earth context: the Fairy Queen is in ordinary life the doctor's housekeeper, the puckish chief sprite is in truth the Welsh priest; and the fairies themselves are Windsor children in masquerade. Shakespeare writes as though,

this time round, the local habitation and its inhabitants can provide magic and mirth enough on their own, without supernatural intervention.

What then of the big name whom Shakespeare has transposed into this new milieu out of the history plays that first gave him birth, berth, and girth? Falstaff fares badly, and Falstaff fares well. "I['ve] suffered the pangs of three several deaths," he exclaims at one point, exasperated and exhausted by the punitive ordeals the merry wives have conjured up. (Hyperbole has always been his strong suit.) And during that final forest punishment, he appears to suffer rejection at the hands of the tight-knit community the play so deeply prizes.

But in Shakespeare's hands, the punishment readily enough transmutes into something more generous. When Falstaff complains of having suffered "three separate deaths," he may, from the vantage of Shakespeare's audience, be telling a subtle truth. In his three history plays, Falstaff "dies" three different ways. In the first, he cunningly (and comically) counterfeits death on the battlefield long enough for the audience to believe him actually dead, up to the hilarious moment of his reanimation. In the second he suffers a rejection so painful that his friends fear he will shortly die of it—though the playwright, in an epilogue, promptly reassures his audience that their favorite will return in the sequel. In that sequel, though, the playwright potently breaks his promise: Falstaff never reappears; instead, he dies offstage.

For Shakespeare's first audiences, subjected in the histories to this piquantly orchestrated sequence of delight, death, and disappointment, the *Merry Wives* may well have figured as an all unlooked-for resurrection. Here Falstaff remains alive, self-admiring, and reasonably cheerful (despite the occasional sputtering complaint) from start to finish. And perhaps beyond. Some of the final scene's homespun enchantment rubs off on him. Dressed, at the merry wives' instructions, as a horned figure out of folklore, he may attain a measure of that immortality befitting what Shakespeare's strongest imagination had already made of him: a mighty and anarchic English myth.



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