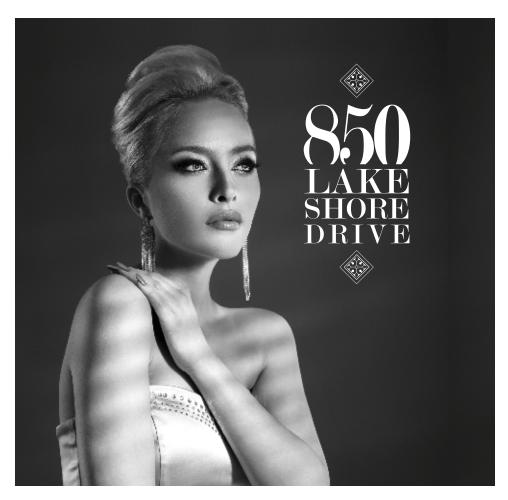


shakespeares theater



Elegance Returns

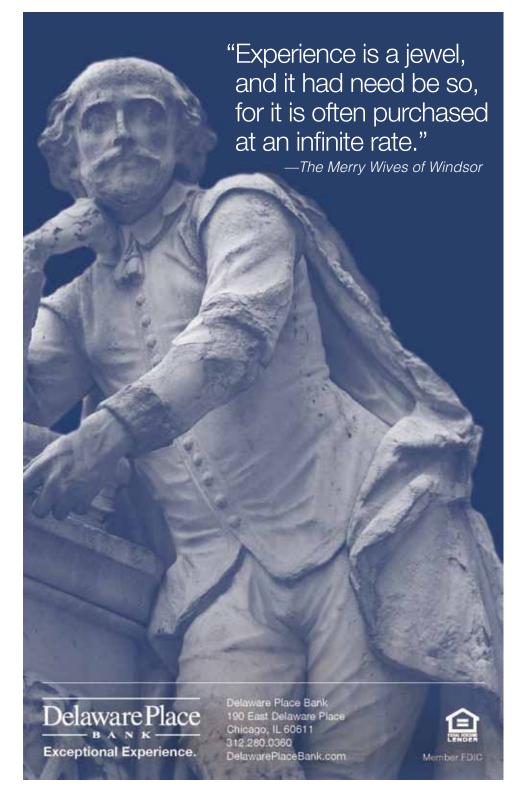


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There are striking differences between this early and amazingly beautiful Wright house and many later works. The *Isidor Heller House* has high ceilings, a huge kitchen with four pantries and an elevator that services all three floors and the basement. This architectural masterpiece is a spectacular family home, elegantly updated and maintained, with seven bedrooms, a 22' x 35' dining room, magnificent woodwork and floors, enormous closets, exquisite Art Glass windows, four fireplaces and two-zoned heating and cooling. Five rooms on the third floor, including a 28' x 15' family room, can function perfectly as a two bedroom apartment. On a 75' x 165' lot in the prestigious Hyde Park/Kenwood neighborhood that surrounds the University of Chicago, the property has a two-car garage.

"I've owned the house for nine years, and I still simply stare, trying to understand why it works so well, how it can provide a sense of calm in the storm as well as the bounce of stimulation and wonder amid the ordinary. Like any true sanctuary, it rises to the demands of the moment."

 Owner of the Heller House, who has lived there with her husband and three children for almost a decade





For a private appointment call: Diane Silverman | 312.337.2400 dsilverman@urbansearchrealty.com



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

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Chicago Shakespeare Theater

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COVER: Larry Yando as King Lear, photo by Jeff Sciortino ABOVE: Lobby photo by Kyle Flubacker

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Welcome



DEAR FRIENDS,

A Twitter post by National Public Radio personality Ira Glass sparked a national dialog on the cultural relevance of Shakespeare in modern America. His comment "Shakespeare: not good. no stakes. not relatable" is the antithesis of what audiences discover through the bold, visceral productions at Chicago Shakespeare. Reflective of the Ed Paschke painting that hangs in our lobby, we believe that Shakespeare has many faces. You have only to connect into the humanity inherent in his work and ride the wave of emotion and complexity of language to discover that his stories mirror our own paths—amplifying our greatest accomplishments and laying bare our most tragic follies.

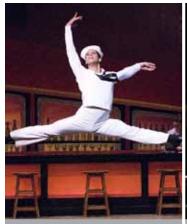
Today, you will see a relevant, painfully relatable *King Lear*. Featuring the singular talent of Chicago actor Larry Yando in the title role, the production cuts to the bone of the emotional volatility of an aging man while mining the family dysfunction that so often plagues the process of death and dying. This contemporary exploration of love and loss is a harrowing tale, and contains great lessons for us all. It is a play that demands retelling—and this is, in fact, the third production of *Lear* in CST's history.

You are at a home for Shakespeare that, similar to the city we call home, brings an entrepreneurial spirit and inventiveness to our explorations of his work. This fall alone, CST will produce a technology-fueled, pedestrian journey through the streets of Chicago, inspired by Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*; we will tour the "ad-raptation" *Othello: The Remix* to Gdansk, Poland; and we will be creating an abridged production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with an ensemble of students and teachers representing the diversity and potential inherent in our city and its schools.

At Chicago Shakespeare, Shakespeare is "good"; Shakespeare does have "stakes"; and Shakespeare is "relatable." Thank you for journeying through his canon at our side. It's a wild ride—and we wouldn't have it any other way. ■

Barbara Gaines
Artistic Director

Criss Henderson Executive Director **Sheli Z. Rosenberg**Chair, Board of Directors



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(From top left): Photo of American Ballet Theatre's Marcelo Gomes in Fancy Free by Gene

Schiavone. | Photo of Orbert Davis of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic by Michael Jackson. | Photo























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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. 25,000 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. 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 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. ■

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On the Boards









The development of the world premiere musical Sense and Sensibility came one step closer to production in an intensive summer workshop. A group of music theater artists from across the country joined the new musical's director, Artistic Director Barbara Gaines, Tony-nominated composer/lyricist Paul Gordon and CST Creative Producer Rick Boynton, guiding the development of CST's new work. With Brad Haak at the piano they continued to explore and shape this exciting new work. Speaking on his experience working with them. Mr. Gordon said. "It's wonderful to have both Barbara and Rick quiding me. It's a tremendous privilege and it enhances the work." Sense and Sensibility, debuting at CST in April, is a greatly anticipated reimagining of Jane Austen's classic tale of two sisters navigating through society following their loss of fortune to find love.

This past summer, the third annual tour of Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks drew record-breaking crowds at twenty-six performances across the city, from Englewood to Garfield Park, South Shore and Little Village. Over the course of four weeks, more than 25.000 Chicagoans attended free performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream in eighteen parks located in communities that have historically found access to the cultural institutions of our city prohibitive. Mayor Rahm Emanuel champions this community arts engagement initiative as the catalyst for and centerpiece of the city's Night Out in the Parks program. Free for All—Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks is made possible by a unique partnership between the Theater, the Chicago Park District and The Boeing Company.

Recently featured in *Crain's Chicago* Business, CST's World's Stage Series "has broadened Chicagoans' notions of what theater can be by showing them how innovative artists in other parts of the world do it." Continuing this tradition, CST is proud to kick off its fifteenth season of international programming in September, when South Africa's Isango Ensemble transforms Navy Pier's Skyline Stage with their stunning adaptation of The Magic Flute. An Olivier Award-winning production that took London's West End by storm, this piece effortlessly relocates Mozart's magical, mysterious kingdom to a contemporary township, encompassing various African languages. With a score faithfully transposed for an orchestra of marimbas, drums and percussion, thirty actors and musicians fill the stage with sheer exuberance, celebrating the spirit of contemporary Africa.

In August, CST welcomed scholars from the UK's Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and University of Warwick on their "Shakespeare on the Road" initiative, documenting Shakespeare in North America today on the occasion of Shakespeare's Quadricentennial by visiting fourteen Shakespeare companies over sixty days. Here, the team observed King Lear in rehearsal with Artistic Director Barbara Gaines, attended a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream alongside 2.000 audience members at Welles Park in Lincoln Square, and conducted interviews with CST artists and leadership. In recognition of the unique relationship between CST and Stratfordupon-Avon, a plaque carved from a cedar in Shakespeare's own garden was presented to Executive Director Criss Henderson and Chicago's Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Michelle Boone at a private luncheon.

photo credits: Barbara Gaines, Paul Gordon, Brad Haak and Rick Boynton at Sense and Sensibility workshop; audience members of Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks A Midsummer Night's Dream; company of The Magic Flute; Marilyn Halperin, Paul Prescott, Michelle Boone, Criss Henderson and Paul Edmondson at "Shakespeare on the Road" luncheon; photos by Liz Lauren, Chuck Osgood, Daniel Ribar and courtesy of Isango Ensemble.

A Conversation with the Director

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

KING LEAR

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- DIRECTED BY BARBARA GAINES
- COURTYARD THEATER
- SEPTEMBER 9-NOVEMBER 9, 2014
- **3**12.595.5600
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Director of King Lear Barbara Gaines

A s she began the rehearsal process, Artistic Director Barbara Gaines shared her thoughts with CST's staff about her production of King Lear.

You have directed King Lear twice before—first in 1993, and again in 2001 at the Theater's new home on Navy Pier.

Yes, and I remember on Opening Night back in 2001 thinking, I've missed something. One idea kept gnawing at me: that no one in his right mind would give everything away and assume that you'd be treated exactly as you were when you were rich and powerful.

Then, in 2005 my mother had a massive heart attack, and moved here to live with me. Most of us know what the experience is of seeing someone you love being diminished by age. It's the natural order of things, and it hurts like hell. And though my mother didn't suffer from dementia, I watched someone, so witty and brilliant, be so changed by old age. I remember coming home from the theater, putting my key in the door and simply being unable to turn it in the lock, just trying to calm myself.

About a year before she died, Mom was watching TV in one room and I was in another when I hear a song on the radio I'd never heard before. It's Sinatra, and all I can think about is Lear, out on that heath. It haunted me. Fast-forward to 2012 when dear friends, Bernie and Jane Sahlins, invited me out to dinner, and along that night was Bill Zehme, who wrote the brilliant biography on Sinatra, The Way You Wear Your Hat. Did he know this song? He couldn't recall the name, but he was the first person I'd asked in four years who knew it. The next morning, there it was in my email, from the album No One Cares, called "Where Do You Go."



Where do you go/When it starts to rain/What do you do/When the nighttime comes/Where do you go/When your heart's in pain/These are the things/That I want to know...

-Sung by Frank Sinatra / Lyrics by Arnold Sundgaard

Most of us know what the experience is of seeing someone you love being diminished by age.

In one of Lear's first scenes he demands, Someone tell me who I am. I've always played those lines rhetorically: Will someone tell me who I am, dammit. I'm the king. Bow down to me. But what if his question is real and, from the very beginning of the story, he is struggling with his dementia? That's when it exploded in my brain,

and now I know that I'm directing Lear again—with Sinatra. I emailed Bill Zehme, asking if he would introduce me via email to someone at the Sinatra estate. He writes a beautiful letter to them, and within days he hears back: Tell Barbara not to worry. She should do it.

And how will you incorporate Sinatra's music into this production?

Obviously this is a contemporary version, a modern-dress production with several songs interlaced because this King Lear is in love with Sinatra.

Does the music serve as a spark to Lear's memory?

A spark to memory, or a spark to forgetting. Or a spark of insight or a spark of sheer depression and guilt. Or a spark of love. It is definitely ignition.

Can you talk more about your decision to make this a contemporary Lear?

Quite honestly, they could be wearing costumes from 700 A.D. or 700 B.C. Everything would be the same because human beings haven't changed a whole hell of a lot. As theater artists, we search or we wait for ideas that will connect us with the themes of a play. I do hope that most people will connect with this production because so many of us have witnessed the tragedy of a mind giving way to dementia.

Is that what for you resides at the heart of this play?

This is a play at its core about how blind we all can be; the onset of dementia is one reason, one cause among many. In King Lear, we witness the horror of Gloucester's savage blinding, but also the emotional blindness of characters who not only don't know themselves, but do not see the people right before their eyes. Insight,



so different from sight, is a wisdom that comes from a profound sense of empathy. This is a tyrant, a man who has paid no attention to anybody in his country—not to his noblemen, to his military advisors, nor to his family—and certainly not to the

'I have ta'en too little care of this.' To me. that revelation makes this no longer a tragedy. Lear sees.

countless homeless people who also populate his kingdom. Then, he becomes homeless, and he sees them, truly sees them, for the first time. And he acknowledges that 'I have ta'en too little care of this.' To me, that revelation makes this no longer a tragedy. Lear sees: My God, look what I could have done when I had the power. That's a transcendent moment.

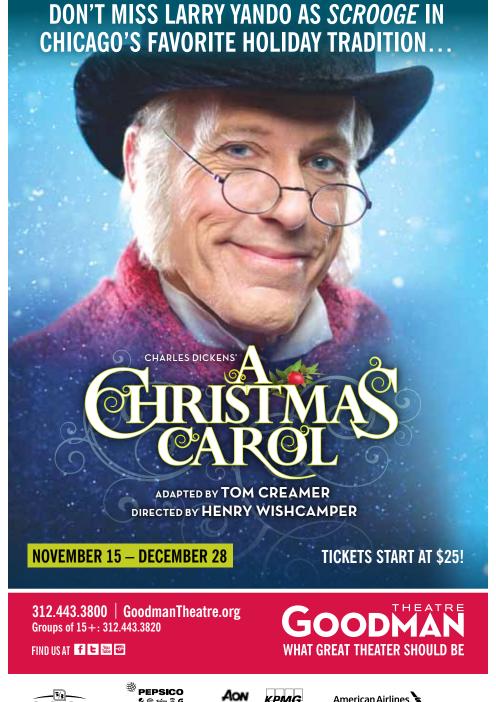
Did you begin your exploration of the play this time with the same playscript that you used in your last production from 2001?

No, I never go back because I'm different now, and thus Shakespeare's text will be brand new to me. Both life and I have changed. And as I return to Shakespeare, there will be different words and phrases that will be completely new to me this time, and I want them there as I devise the script for a new production.

And why did Larry Yando immediately become so central to your vision for this production?

Because he's one of the greatest actors that I've ever worked with. Larry has done so much extraordinary work with us and throughout this city, and he has earned this opportunity to do Lear. His ability to play darkness and light, his immediacy as an actor, and his facility with language, are unparalleled. And paired with Robby (Ross Lehman) as the Fool, all that I wanted to communicate about this story fell into place. Robby was in our very first production of Lear in 1993, and until Robby's audition back then, I didn't understand the Fool. And so, though he had to leave that production early for a Broadway role, I cast him. But last fall I told him, You owe me a run. The wonderful thing about casting Robby with Larry is that the two are very, very good friends. They take care of each other, and that's the relationship that we're looking for between the Fool and Lear. And with Kevin (Gudahl) as Kent back in the room as well, we have three great minds and artists, sharing years of experience working together with Shakespeare, sharing knowledge, friendship—and love.

This page: Costume and scenic renderings by Mark Bailey, 2014.













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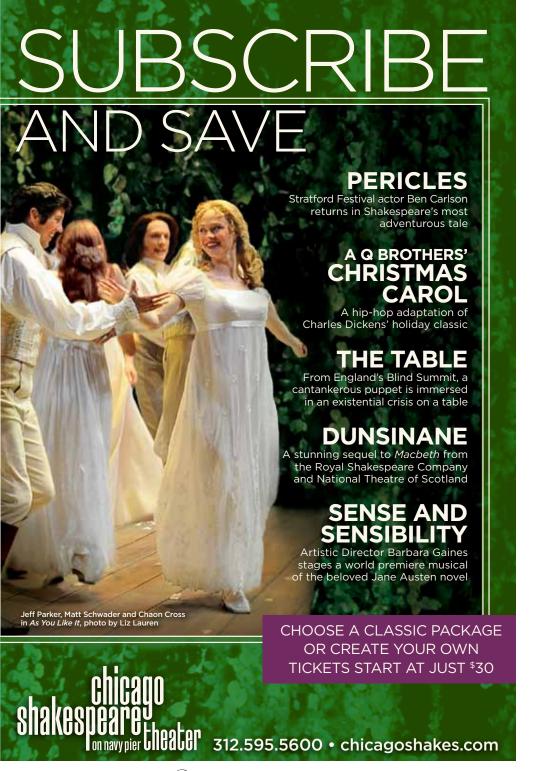


SENSE AND SENSIBILITY APRIL 18-JUNE 7, 2015

based on the novel by Jane Austen book, music and lyrics by Paul Gordon directed by Barbara Gaines









BARBARA GAINES

CRISS HENDERSON

Executive Director Artistic Director

RICK BOYNTON. Creative Producer GARY GRIFFIN, Associate Artistic Director

presents

KING LEAR

written by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

September 9-November 9, 2014

Scenic and Costume Design MARK BAILEY

Lighting Design MICHAEL GEND

Original Music and Sound Design LINDSAY JONES

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

Fight Choreography MATT HAWKINS

Verse Coach **KEVIN GUDAHL**

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This production of King Lear would not have been born were it not for the generosity of spirit and profound kindness of Chicago author Bill Zehme. Special thanks to the Sinatra Estate who gave us permission to have the genius of Frank Sinatra share our stage with Shakespeare and David Hockney.















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iast

(In order of appearance)

LARRY YANDO* King Lear Old Man **DAVID LIVELY*** Duke of Kent **KEVIN GUDAHL***

Earl of Gloucester MICHAEL AARON LINDNER*

Fdmund JESSE LUKEN*

Goneril **BIANCA LAVERNE JONES*** Cordelia **NEHASSAIU DEGANNES***

JESSIEE DATINO* Regan

Duke of Albany NATHAN M. HOSNER*

Duke of Burgundy JOHN BYRNES

King of France CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK

Edgar STEVE HAGGARD*

Oswald FRED GEYER

Fool **ROSS LEHMAN***

Duke of Cornwall LANCE BAKER* Soldiers

JOHN BYRNES, CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK, EVAN MICHALIC. ALEX MOERER[†]. RICHARD PIZARRO†, WESLEY SCOTT

Ensemble EVE BOWMAN+, MADDIE BURKE+,

JOHN BYRNES, ANGELA CARAVAGLIA[†],

CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK, ETHAN EICHENBAUM[†], HALEIGH HUTCHINSON[†], EVAN MICHALIC,

ALEX MOERER[†], SEAN MICHAEL MOHLER[†], MEGHAN O'NEILL+, RICHARD PIZARRO+, WESLEY SCOTT, BECCA SHEEHAN[†], ALISON SMITH[†],

ELENA TUBRIDY[†], ABRAM VENCES[†], MARK YACULLO[†],

ILSE YAFTE ZACHARIAS†

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance: Emily Berman for Cordelia; Sara Bues for Goneril, Regan; John Byrnes for Duke of Cornwall, Oswald; Christopher Chmelik for Edgar; Sean Gallagher for Soldier/Ensemble; Terry Hamilton for Earl of Gloucester, Duke of Albany, Old Man; Timothy Edward Kane* for Duke of Kent, Fool; David Lively* for King Lear; Wesley Scott for King of France, Duke of Burgundy: Michael Silberblatt for Edmund.

*denotes member of Actors' Equity Association.

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

WFI COMF

If we can help accommodate you during your visit, please speak with our House Manager. Please note that haze, fog and flashing lights may be used during this performance. Also, actors will make entrances and exits throughout the theater. For your safety, we ask that you keep aisles and doorways clear. We request that you refrain from taking any photography and other video or audio recordings of the production.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Playgoer's Guide

THE STORY

The aging king of England chooses to abdicate his power and divide the kingdom between his three daughters—their shares to be determined by the depth of devotion each professes. Lear's elder daughters, Goneril and Regan, lavish their father with empty words; his youngest, Cordelia, remains silent. Enraged, Lear disinherits Cordelia, splitting the kingdom between her sisters—then banishing his loyal advisor, the Earl of Kent, when he speaks out against a king's impulsivity. Cordelia, without title, land or family, is embraced by the King of France as his wife, and together they leave her country behind.

Lear's counselor Gloucester cannot see into the hearts of his children any more than can his king. Deceived by Edmund, his illegitimate younger son, into believing that his elder son now plots his murder, Gloucester disowns the elder Edgar. Usurped by his brother, Edgar takes refuge in the countryside, disguised as a homeless madman called "Poor Tom."

Goneril and Regan prove unworthy stewards of their father and kingdom, and Lear, with his Fool and entourage of knights, makes an unwelcome guest in their homes. Dispossessed and fearing insanity, Lear rages out into the night. His Fool and Kent, disguised as "Caius," follow Lear. Vying both for power and for Edmund, the sisters soon turn upon each other. Betrayed by his son and mutilated at the hands of Regan and her husband Cornwall, Gloucester seeks out death, asking for help on the heath from a madman named Poor Tom.

France declares war upon a divided England, and Cordelia returns with troops to restore Lear's throne. Reunited, father and daughter are thrown into prison, and there sentenced to death by Edmund. An unknown knight appears to challenge Edmund in combat, and the future of family, king and kingdom hang in the balance.

ORIGINS

Believed to have its roots in Celtic legend, the story of a king named Lear is considered a legacy of ancient Britain's mythology. In the British imagination, the story's importance does not rest with provable facts: it is significant because it helps establish a national identity extending beyond recorded history. The earliest known written record of a King Lear appears in Geoffrey of Monmouth's medieval text *Historia regium Britanniae* (ca.1136), a narrative spanning 2,000 years of British kings. Another likely historical source was Holinshed's two-volume work, *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland* (published 1577–1587). Shakespeare's most immediate theatrical influence was likely an anonymously written play, entitled *The True Chronicle History of King Leir*, written ca. 1594.

Folk narrative, too, contributes to Shakespeare's blended storytelling. Motifs of fathers and ungrateful daughters, and cruel sisters covetous of younger sisters are found in the ancient folk-stories of Europe and Asia, like those of the Goosegirl-Princess and Cinderella. The subplot of Edmund, Edgar and Gloucester is thought to have been inspired by another poetic source—Sidney's poem, *Arcadia* (1590), in which an outcast son and his blinded father meet while seeking shelter from a violent storm.

THE PLAY'S TWO TEXTS

Shakespeare's King Lear exists in two distinct printings—the First Quarto and the First Folio, published in 1608 and 1623, respectively. Which version best manifests "authorial final intent"? Editors and directors are tasked with choosing how each will inform their work. The differences are attributed to the suggestion that the earlier and later editions were based upon two different "copy-texts": the First Quarto on Shakespeare's "foul papers" (handwritten manuscripts), and the First Folio upon the King's Men's performance prompt-book (a working copy of the play, which included the actors' entrances and exits, script cuts. and music cues.) One theory asserts that the First Quarto was illegally printed from a stolen copy of the playwright's foul papers; another, that one or more of Shakespeare's actors constructed the text from memory. The First Quarto contains approximately 300 lines not present in the First Folio, but lacks another 100 lines. Editors—and directors—have most commonly opted to conflate the two texts, incorporating from each features that support their creative vision or academic theoretical commitments. In this production, director Barbara Gaines created a playscript based on the 1623 First Folio, with the addition of a few sections from the First Quarto.

KING LEAR IN EARLY PERFORMANCE

The play's first recorded performance was in 1606 at the court of King James I, and starred the famous actor Richard Burbage. The scarcity of contemporary commentary on early productions has led scholars to believe that the play was not popular in Shakespeare's time. Following the Interregnum and the closing of the English theaters, only two performances were recorded before Shakespeare's play was replaced in 1681 by Nahum Tate's adaptation—which held the stage in lieu of Shakespeare's version for the next 150 years. Tate's adaptation famously excised Gloucester's blinding and the character of the Fool, then forged a romance between Cordelia and Edgar, who lived happily ever after.

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Profiles



LANCE BAKER

(Duke of Cornwall) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in Henry VIII and Amadeus. Other Chicago credits include: The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve

Jobs (16th Street Theatre); Doubt, Speedthe-Plow (American Theater Company): Ten Chimneys, Mauritius (Northlight Theatre); Invisible Man, Travesties, The Importance of Being Earnest, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Court Theatre); Becky Shaw, Hunger and Thirst. The Grev Zone (A Red Orchid Theatre); Spin, Thom Pain [based on nothing] (Jeff Award-Solo Performance), Santaland Diaries (Theater Wit): A Steady Rain (Royal George Theatre); I Sailed with Magellan, ...A Young Lady from Rwanda (Victory Gardens Theater): Dollhouse. Lobby Hero (Goodman Theatre); No Place Like Home (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); Nocturne (Naked Eye Theatre); Up Against It (Lookingglass Theatre Company); This Is Our Youth (After Dark Award-Best Actor), Dealer's Choice and Betty's Summer Vacation (Roadworks). Regional credits include: The Fox on the Fairway, Sleuth (Theatre at the Center); The Real Funny Girl (Asolo Repertory Theatre. Maltz Jupiter Theatre); Around the World in 80 Days (Kansas City Repertory Theatre); and Ecstasy (Odyssey Theatre).



JOHN BYRNES

(Duke of Burgundy/ Ensemble) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry V, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Henry VIII and Timon

of Athens. Recent Chicago credits include: Strangers, Babies (Steep Theatre Company); Compulsion (Next Theatre Company); Richard III (Wayward Productions); Sweet Bird of Youth (Goodman Theatre); Assisted Living (Profiles Theater); Season's Greetings (Northlight Theatre); Waiting for Lefty (American Blues Theater); Thieves Like Us (House Theatre of Chicago); The Hairy Ape and Our Town (The Hypocrites). Regional credits include productions with: Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Minnesota Fringe Festival, Huntington Theatre, New Repertory Theater,

Boston Playwrights' Theatre and the Vineyard Playhouse. On-camera credits include: *The Onion News Network, Scent, 'Twas the Night, The Gravity Well* and numerous television commercials. He received his BFA from Boston University.



CHRISTOPHER CHMELIK

(King of France/ Ensemble) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include The Merry Wives of Windsor and Short Shakespeare! The

Comedy of Errors. Other Chicago credits include: Motortown, The Hollow Lands (Steep Theatre Company); Reverb (Redtwist Theatre); Coriolanus (The Hypocrites); Letters Home, On the Shore of the Wide World, The Hostage (Griffin Theatre); The Sea (Theatre Mir); Wuthering Heights (Lifeline Theatre); Love Tapes and The Earl (The Inconvenience). Television credits include Sirens (FX) and Double Cross (ID). Mr. Chmelik received his BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University.



JESSIEE DATINO

(Regan) makes her Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Off Broadway credits include The Late Christopher Bean (The Actors Company Theatre) and SIN (Baruch

Performing Arts Center). Regional credits include: TAPE (Duel Theatre Company); Hay Fever, The Dining Room, Lend Me a Tenor (Penn State Centre Stage); Romeo and Juliet (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); Moon Over Buffalo (Cape Playhouse); Talley's Folly, Talley and Son (Kansas City Actors Theatre); Don't Dress for Dinner (Arts Center of Costal Carolina); and A Christmas Carol (Kansas City Repertory Theatre). Ms. Datino received her MFA from Pennsylvania State University.



NEHASSAIU deGANNES

(Cordelia) makes her Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Off off Broadway credits include Celia and Three Gifts for Lenny Bruce (Target Margin Theatre). Regional credits include: Doubt (Oldcastle Theatre); Marisol, The Tallest Building in the World (Luna Stage); Good People (Hampton Theatre Company); Equus (Guild Hall); Door of No Return (her original solo-show), Top Girls (GAMM Theatre); Proof, The Skin of Our Teeth, The Cider House Rules (Trinity Rep); and Coriolanus (Shakespeare & Co.). Canadian credits include: Romeo and Juliet, The Three Musketeers and The Merchant of Venice (Stratford Festival). Ms. deGannes received her MFA from Brown University and trained at Trinity Rep Conservatory.



FRED GEYER (Oswald/ Ensemble) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream and was an

understudy in *Henry V*. Other Chicago credits include: The Pitchfork Disney (Jeff Award nomination-Actor in a Principal Role, Interrobang Theatre Project); Northanger Abbey (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company): The Merry Wives of Windsor, Twelfth Night (First Folio Theatre); and The Mistakes Madeline Made (LiveWire Chicago), Mr. Gever is also a co-founder of Buzz22 Chicago, where he most recently appeared in the hit production She Kills Monsters, produced at the 2013 Steppenwolf Garage Rep. Regional credits include work with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and Riverside Theatre, Iowa. Mr. Geyer received his BA in theatre at Northwestern University.



KEVIN GUDAHL

(Duke of Kent/Verse Coach) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: The Merry Wives of Windsor, 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 Overtures. Recent credits include Proof (Court Theatre) and A Kiss for Two (Black Hills Playhouse). Other Chicago credits include work with:

Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook and Victory Gardens Theater. International credits include: five seasons with Stratford Festival (Canada); The Canadian Stage (Toronto); Donmar Warehouse (London); and Royal Shakespeare Company (CST tour). Television credits include: Crisis (NBC); Boss (Starz); The Chicago Code (FOX); and Early Edition (CBS). Film credits include: While You Were Sleeping, Home Alone III and The Poker House. Mr. Gudahl is a multiple Jeff Award recipient.



STEVE HAGGARD

(Edgar) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared as Silvius in As You Like It and Benvolio in Romeo and Juliet. Other Chicago credits include:

Tribes (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); The Aliens (A Red Orchid Theatre); Wasteland (TimeLine Theatre Company); Season's Greetings, She Stoops to Conquer (Northlight Theatre); Old Glory and The Subject Was Roses (Writers Theatre). Regional credits include productions with: American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Indiana Repertory Theatre. Mr. Haggard is an ensemble member with A Red Orchid Theatre and a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.



NATHAN M. HOSNER (Duke of Albany) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks A Midsummer Night's

Dream. Henry VIII. The

Madness of George III and As You Like It. Other Chicago credits include: Hesperia (Writers Theatre); A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre); Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady (Paramount Theatre); and the title role in Macbeth (First Folio Theatre). Other credits include Peter and the Starcatcher (first national tour) and productions with: American Players Theatre, The New Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, BoarsHead Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Door Shakespeare and

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the Madison Repertory New Play Festival. Mr. Hosner is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London.



BIANCA Laverne Jones

(Goneril) makes her Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Off Broadway credits include: Ruby Place Nest on the Ground (Signature Theatre Company);

McReele (Roundabout Theatre Company); Macbeth (The Classical Theatre of Harlem); Trojan Women (AUDELCO nomination, The Classical Theatre of Harlem) and Virgin of the Vieux Carre (Primary Stages). Regional credits include: The Mountaintop (City Theatre Company): Iced Out Shackled and Chained (AUDELCO nomination, National Black Theatre); Marcus or the Secret of Sweet (Studio Theatre); Jacob's House (Access Theatre); Iken's Perversion (Loft 21/21); A Civil War Christmas (Long Wharf Theatre); Macbeth (Lillian Theater); Threepenny Opera (Williamstown Theatre Festival); Breath Boom, Madea, Macbeth and Cinderella (Yale Repertory Theatre): Blues, Runaways (National Black Theatre Festival); Relativity (original cast), Othello, King Headlev II and Radio Golf (The Black Rep). Television credits include: BURNED (BET, Centric); NYC 22 (CBS) and Men in Love (ABC). Web Series credits include: Hard Times (Issa Rae entertainment); Shitty Fab Life and 12 Steps to Recovery. Ms. Jones received her training from University of North Carolina at the School of the Arts, SUNY Purchase Acting Conservatory and Yale School of Drama.



MICHAEL AARON LINDNER

(Earl of Gloucester)
returns to Chicago
Shakespeare Theater,
where his credits include:
Road Show, Shrek the
Musical, Sunday in the
Park with George, A

Midsummer Night's Dream and The Little Mermaid. Other Chicago credits include: Edna in Hairspray, Oliver, Ragtime (Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook); Brigadoon, Fezziwig in A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre); Hero, White Christmas, Seussical The Musical, For the Boys, The Producers, Into the Woods, The Wizard of Oz, Cats, 1776

(Marriott Theatre); Bach at Leipzig (Writers Theatre); The Full Monty (Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower); The Secret Garden, Sweeney Todd (Jeff Award, Porchlight Music Theatre); and Dirty Blonde (Apple Tree Theatre). National tour credits include Harry Bright in Mamma Mia!. Regional credits include: The Full Monty, Cats and Mame (Maine State Music Theater). Television credits include the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in the nationally broadcast production of A Christmas Carol: The Concert (PBS). Mr. Lindner received his BA in musical theater from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.



ROSS LEHMAN

(Fool) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: The Merry Wives of Windsor, Cyrano de Bergerac, As You Like It, Feste in Twelfth Night,

Dudley Marsh/ Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy of Errors, Troilus and Cressida, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (at CST and on tour to the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratfordupon-Avon), King Lear and Cymbeline. Other Chicago credits include: Fiddler on the Roof, The Producers (Marriott Theatre); The Man Who Came to Dinner, Waiting for Godot, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Jeff Award), Stage Kiss (Goodman Theatre); A Man of No Importance (Jeff Award), The Dresser (After Dark Award), As You Like It and Hamlet (Writers Theatre). Broadway credits include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Tempest and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. International credits include Koko in the London production of Hot Mikado (Laurence Olivier Award nomination).



DAVID LIVELY (Old Man) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Henry VIII, Henry V, Julius Caesar, Beauty and the Beast, Timon of Athens, The Madness of George III.

Romeo and Juliet (2005, 2010) Macbeth, Amadeus, Henry IV in Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (at CST and the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon), Much Ado About Nothing, King John, A Midsummer Night's Dream, among others. Other Chicago credits include: White Christmas, The Drowsy Chaperone, My Fair Lady, Beauty and the Beast, 1776 (Marriott Theatre); Cabaret, Sherlock's Last Case, 1776, Camelot, Anything Goes, My Fair Lady, The Foreigner (Drury Lane Theatre); and Hay Fever (Court Theatre). Regional credits include the national tour of Twelve Angry Men (Roundabout Theatre Company), and productions with: Asolo Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, Geva Theatre, New Stage Theatre and The Kennedy Center. Television credits include: The Chicago Code, Prison Break (FOX); What About Joan, Cupid (ABC); and George Washington (CBS). Film credits include: The Opera Lover and Contagion.



JESSE LUKEN (Edmund) makes his Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Regional credits include: Bury the Dead, St. Joan of the Slaughterhouse (The Actors' Gang); The Merchant of Venice (Ethos

Theatre, Los Angeles); and James and the Giant Peach (Johnson Hall Children's Theater). Film credits include The Guest and 42. Television credits include: three seasons of Justified (F/X); as well as stints on Star-Crossed (CW); The Mentalist (CBS); Glee (FOX); NCIS (CBS); and Castle (ABC). Mr. Luken received his BFA in theatre from Colorado State University.



LARRY YANDO (King Lear) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: Julius Caesar, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, Cymbeline, The Tempest, Timon of Athens,

All's Well That Ends Well, Antony and Cleopatra, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, King Lear and The Two Noble Kinsmen. Since returning from three years as Scar in The Lion King (National Tour), Chicago credits include: six years as Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, Candide, The Jungle Book (Goodman Theatre); The Dance of Death, As You Like It, Nixon's Nixon, Rocket to the Moon, Hamlet, Bach at Leipzig (Writers Theatre); Angels in America, Travesties, An

Ideal Husband (Court Theatre); Fake and Mother Courage and Her Children (Steppenwolf Theatre). Mr. Yando has taught acting at DePaul University, Northwestern University and CST, and is a freelance acting/verse coach. His acknowledgments include: Chicago Magazine's Best Chicago Actor, DePaul University's Excellence in the Arts Award, one of the nine national recipients of the prestigious Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship in 2010. and four Joseph Jefferson Awards.



BARBARA GAINES

(Director/Artistic Director) is the founder of Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where she has directed more than thirty of Shakespeare's plays. Honors include: the 2008

Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre; the prestigious Honorary OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in recognition of her contributions strengthening British-American cultural relations; and Joseph Jefferson Awards for Best Production (Hamlet, Cymbeline, King Lear and The Comedy of Errors), and for Best Director (Cymbeline, King Lear and The Comedy of Errors). She has received the Public Humanities Award from the Illinois Humanities Council, the Spirit of Loyola Award, and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Birmingham UK. She serves on the Shakespearean Council of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and is a Life Trustee of Northwestern University. She directed Giuseppe Verdi's Macbeth for the Lyric Opera.

MARK BAILEY (Scenic and Costume Design) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he previously designed Macbeth and Hamlet. Other US credits include Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny (Los Angeles Opera) and Pieces (New York). International credits include: The Importance of Being Earnest (Toronto/London); The Pretenders (Norway); The Double Dealer, The Seagull (Dublin) and Ariadne Auf Naxos (Maggio Musicale Florence). Ballet designs include: Sleeping Beauty (Hong Kong); Snow Queen (London and Lithuania) and A Time There Was (Copenhagen). As associate artist at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Wales designs include: King Lear, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It and Equus. Credits in London's West

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End include: Iolanthe. Rat Pack Confidential. The Winslow Boy, Which Witch, Present Laughter, Mack and Mabel, Legal Fictions and Rent. Designs in musical theater and opera include: Sweet Smell of Success, Fiddler on the Roof, Into the Woods, Cabaret, The Threepenny Opera (Royal National Theatre): Madame Butterfly (Grange Park Opera); and Carmen (Royal Opera, Linbury Theatre).

MICHAEL GEND (Lighting Designer) makes his Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Off Broadway credits include Annapurna (Acorn Theatre). Regional credits include: Annapurna, A Steady Rain, Passion Play. The Irish Curse. Ivanov (Odvssev Theatre Ensemble); The Cloth Peddler (Dorothy Chandler Pavilion); We Are Proud to Present... (The Matrix Theater Company): The Bells of West 87th (Greenway Court Theater); After the Fall (Lillian Theatre); Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical, Into the Woods, The Threepenny Opera (Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza); Smoke, Lilies, and Jade (Center for New Performance); Sucktion (REDCAT); Mother On Fire (Pasadena Playhouse, 24th Street Theatre); and Inside the Creole Mafia (Evidence Room), Mr. Gend holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and serves as the department chair of theatre arts/ dance at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, CA.

LINDSAY JONES (Original Music and Sound Designer) has created music for and designed twenty-five productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, including: The Merry Wives of Windsor, Henry VIII, Julius Caesar, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, and Henry V. Other Chicago credits include productions with: Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre and Lookingglass Theatre 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 Theater, South Coast Repertory, McCarter Theatre, Arena Stage, The Old Globe and Hartford Stage. International credits include productions with the Royal Shakespeare Company (UK) and Stratford Festival (Canada), as well as shows in Austria, Zimbabwe, Scotland and South Africa, Recent film and television scoring credits include The Brass Teapot for Magnolia Pictures, and A Note of Triumph (2006 Academy Award for Best Documentary, Short Subject) for

HBO Films. He is the recipient of six Jeff Awards (with nineteen nominations), two Ovation Awards, three Drama Desk Award nominations, and the Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award.

MELISSA VEAL (Wig and Make-up Designer) has designed wigs and make-up for over eighty productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, including: Henry V, Road Show, Gypsy, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Cyrano de Bergerac, Henry VIII, The School for Lies (Jeff Award), Sunday in the Park with George, Othello: The Remix, Timon of Athens, Elizabeth Rex (Jeff Award nomination), Follies, The Madness of George III (Jeff Award), As You Like It, Twelfth Night, Amadeus, Funk It Up About Nothin', Othello, Passion, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 (at CST and Royal Shakespeare Company), Rose Rage: Henry VI Parts 1, 2 and 3 (at CST and The Duke on 42nd Street), and all eight CPS Shakespeare! productions. She worked for ten seasons with the Stratford Festival, where she received four Tyrone Guthrie Awards, including the Jack Hutt Humanitarian Award. Other Canadian credits include work with: Shaw Festival, Mirvish Productions and The Grand Theatre in London, Ontario. Ms. Veal received the 2007 Hurckes Award for Artisans and Technicians.

MATT HAWKINS (Fight Choreography) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater for his twelfth production, including: Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream, Edward II, Henry V, Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet, and the CPS Shakespeare! productions of Othello and Hamlet. Other Chicago credits include productions with: Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company. The House Theatre of Chicago. The Hypocrites, Writers Theatre and The Neo-Futurists, among others. Regional credits include productions with The Kennedy Center and the Stratford Festival. Mr. Hawkins is the recipient of five Non-Equity Jeff Awards. He earned his BFA in acting from Southern Methodist University, and his MFA in directing from The University of Iowa. Mr. Hawkins currently teaches at Northwestern University and Loyola University.

DENNIS J. CONNERS (Production Stage Manager) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include Seussical. Othello: The Remix (CST, London, South Korea) and assistant stage manager for Henry V. Other Chicago credits include: Appropriate, Disconnect (Victory Gardens Theater): Freud's Last Session (Mercury Theater, CRC Productions); Mr. Chickee's Funny Money, The Houdini Box, Goodnight Moon (Chicago Children's Theatre); Ethan Frome, Peter Pan: A Play. Lookingglass Alice. Fedra: Queen of Haiti, The Arabian Nights, Clay (Lookingglass Theatre Company); What Once We Felt (About Face Theatre); Dangerous Beauty and In the Bubble (American Music Theatre Project). Off Broadway credits include Clay (Lincoln Center Theater) and Lookingglass Alice (New Victory Theater). Regional credits include Clay (Kirk Douglas Theatre, Kansas City Rep) and Lookingglass Alice (Alliance Theatre). Mr. Conners is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he has served as adjunct lecturer in stage management and stage management mentor.

JOHANNAH HAIL (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where she was production stage manager for Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream. Other Chicago credits include: Mr. Chickee's Funny Money, The Adventures of Frog and Toad, Bud Not Buddy, Harold and the Purple Crayon (Chicago Children's Theatre) and The Elephant and the Whale (Redmoon). Floor manager credits include: Red, A Christmas Carol, Race, Camino Real. The Iceman Cometh and Crowns (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include productions with: Utah Shakespeare Festival, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival and Guthrie Theater. Ms. Hail studied technical theatre at Henderson State University.

BOB MASON (Artistic Associate/Casting Director) begins his fifteenth season as CST's casting director, where his credits include over eighty productions and thirty-two plays in Shakespeare's canon. In addition to twenty-one productions with Barbara Gaines, other productions of note include: eight Sondheim musicals directed by Gary Griffin; Rose Rage: Henry VI, Parts 1, 2 and 3, directed by Edward Hall; and The Molière Comedies, directed by Brian Bedford, Additional Chicago credits include the precursor to Road Show, entitled Bounce (Goodman Theatre and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), as well as productions for Asolo Repertory Theatre, Northlight Theatre and Northwestern University's American Music Theatre Project. Prior to casting, Mr.

Mason enjoyed a fifteen-year career as a Jeff Award-winning actor and singer, and has been a visiting educator for the School at Steppenwolf, Acting Studio Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University.

RICK BOYNTON (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, Vancouver); Othello: The Remix (CST, London, Germany, Edinburgh, South Korea, Sydney); 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, The Adventures of Pinocchio, Murder for Two (CST, New York); and The Feast: an intimate Tempest (in collaboration with Redmoon). Former artistic director of the Marriott Theatre and multiple Jeff Awardwinning 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 director/associate at Jane Alderman Casting, projects included: the television series Early Edition, 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. He serves on the board and is past president of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.



CRISS HENDERSON

(Executive Director) has produced CST's past twenty-five seasons. Under his leadership, CST has become one of the nation's leading regional theaters and one of

Chicago's most celebrated cultural organizations, honored with the 2008 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, as well as multiple Laurence Olivier and Joseph Jefferson Awards. Mr. Henderson has garnered multiple honors, including: the 2013 Cultural Innovation Award from the Chicago Innovation Awards; the Arts Administrator of the Year by Arts Management Magazine at the Kennedy Center and the Chevalier de

L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Minister of Culture of France. He was named among the top 40 business people under the age of 40 in Crain's Chicago Business. He serves as president of the Producers' Association of Chicago-area Theatres and on the Board of Directors 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.

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To be!



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Stuart Sherman, 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.

hy should not old men be mad?" asks William Butler Yeats at the start of a great late poem. It is, in its seeming reasonableness, a chilling question—as though the madness of the old might somehow make clear sense.

King Lear asks this question too, and answers it in many ways-beginning perhaps with Lear's own question to his three daughters, and the fevered rage that follows from it: "Which of you shall we say doth love us most ...?" The naked expression of need, the arrant appeal to greed (most "love" = biggest beguest), the power-addiction disguised as relinquishment—all these speak clearly of an old king's loosening grip not only on his past potencies but on reality too. "See better, Lear," urges his best adherent Kent, appalled that his liege is seeing so badly. ("Mad" did not yet also mean "angry," but Lear's relentless rage does open a gateway into madness.)

To Yeats's Why? Shakespeare adds a When?: When, if ever. can we say that the play's protagonist has gone mad? Shakespeare had posed this problem before. Hamlet's seeming madness has (as Polonius so quotably notes) plenty of "method in't." It is impossible from the playtext to tell for certain whether and when his feigning overflows into debilitating authenticity.



Lear's shift involves less method and more pain. One daughter remarks, after his first outburst, that he was always thus: "he hath ever but slenderly known himself." The Fool's counsel is riddled with questions of timing: "Thou shouldst not have been old before thou hadst been wise." Lear's reply muddles timing further: "Oh. let me not be mad. sweet heaven!" That "be" is ominous: "Go mad" would have thrust this fear wholly into the future; "be" registers, with a tremor, Lear's terror of the present tense, the possibility that he may have gone mad already.

To Yeats's stark question, the twenty-first century is developing its own useful though unpoetic answers. Increasingly doctors understand dementia

Shakespeare shows much about the infirmity of age, but even more about the burden of deep knowledge, the pain of learning.

(though not yet well enough) as a physical affliction often triggered by old age. Yeats answers his own question differently. In his reckoning, old men are made mad not by loss of mind but by its overburdening. Having lived so long, they now know too much truth: "No single story [can] they find," Yeats writes, "of an unbroken happy mind."

King Lear, fixated on the mind's terrifying ways of breaking, combines the poet's answer and the doctors'. Tracking the ordeals of Lear and Gloucester, Shakespeare shows much about the infirmity of age, but even more about the burden of deep

knowledge, the pain of learning. Gloucester's son Edgar, who avoids madness only by feigning it, comes to understand knowledge as an endless descent into unanticipated horrors:

> I am worse [off] than e'er I was ... And worse I may be yet. The worst is not As long as we can say 'This is the worst.'

The play proceeds with this remorseless logic, heaping worse on worse until at long last, and in many ways much too late, remorse arrives to trigger mercy not only for the characters but for the audience also. When Edgar reconciles with his father, he speaks calmly of acceptance, in tones again redolent of Hamlet ("The readiness



is all"): "Men must endure / Their going hence even as their coming hither. / Ripeness is all." To which Gloucester answers in kind. "And that's true too."

"Too" is for Shakespeare perhaps the crucial word. He is the great orchestrator of what he once called the "too-much," inundating us with word, thought, action, emotion—and of the "also," spellbound by more than one truth, capable (as Keats expressed it) of "being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason"—and convenient resolution.

King Lear is probably Shakespeare's mightiest exploration of the too and the too-much. (This holds true even of its playscripts: he wrote at least two very different versions. In one Gloucester speaks this line, in the other he does not; almost every production, true to its own vision, is a hybrid of both texts.) If too much knowing is the way to madness, then this play is built to make us mad. Shakespeare takes us from worse to worse, before delivering moments of calm that nonetheless entail unbearable, unfathomable loss.

If too much knowing is the way to madness, then this play is built to make us mad.

Why put ourselves through it? That's a mystery inbuilt into all tragedy, but maybe most powerfully into this one. "We must suffer into truth," wrote Aeschylus, the first known crafter of tragedies. Yeats concludes that "Old men should be mad." Lear at one point declares "I shall go mad," as though it's his choice and a choice worth making, the proper price of

knowing things. In King Lear we get to suffer several lifetimes' worth of truth in a single evening. We get a tantalizing chance to refute the Fool: to get past madness, and to grow wise before we are all too old.



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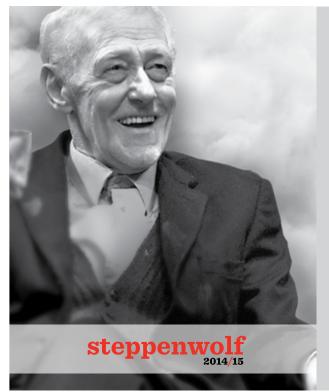
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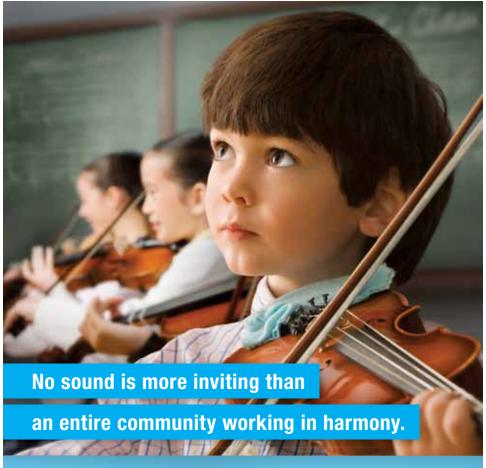
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