

Folio

Winter 2000

William Shakespeare's

Antony and Cleopatra

directed by Barbara Gaines
October 15 – December 19, 1999

A Midsummer Night's Dream

directed by Joe Dowling
January 21 – March 26, 2000

All's Well That Ends Well

directed by Barbara Gaines
April 20 – June 11, 2000

Against a backdrop of shimmering waters, a glittering cityscape and the autumnal sky, Chicago Shakespeare Theater unveiled its new Navy Pier home on October 22 and 23. The Inaugural Weekend sparked a wave of local and national media coverage, the highest accolades from visiting dignitaries, rave reviews, and the attention of people all over Chicagoland – and the nation.

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Watch your mail
for 2000-01
Season
Announcement!

chicago
shakespeare
theater
on navy pier



Kevin Gudahl and
Lisa Dodson in the title roles
of *Antony and Cleopatra*

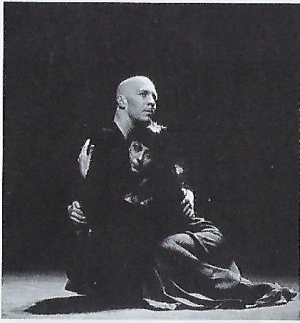


photo by Liz Lamm



photo by Michael Metzger

Matt Schwader (foreground)
as Juliet with
(from left) Michael Gotch,
Ian Christopher and
Ian Novak in
Shakespeare's R&J

An Inaugural Season of Spectacular Firsts

The new Chicago home for Shakespeare captivated the 1,000 guests who came to celebrate its Inaugural Weekend. It was a whirlwind weekend of receptions, soirees and—best of all—great theater, with the Inaugural Production of *Antony and Cleopatra*, sponsored by Hyatt Hotels Corporation. Opening to high praise, the show embodied the grandeur of Shakespeare's new home in Chicago.

Shakespeare's newest home attracted notable friends from British theater and beyond. The renowned director and founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Sir Peter Hall, visited the theater and declared it "one of the best, if not *the* best, Shakespeare spaces in the world." An Opening Weekend luncheon, hosted by Artistic Director Barbara Gaines, drew Mark Rylance, Artistic Director of London's Globe Theatre; the founders of the English Shakespeare Company, Michael Pennington and Michael Bogdanov (both guest directors here in past seasons); former administrative director of the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, Michael Hallifax; and Zdenek Urbanek, a mentor to Czech President Vaclav Havel and the foremost Czech translator of Shakespeare. Chicago guests included cofounders of the International Theatre Festival Bernie and Jane Sahlins.

Historic firsts did not end with the Inaugural Weekend. On November 11, Chicago Shakespeare dedicated its dynamic new Studio, a 180-seat, flexible black box theater on the sixth floor. On hand for the ceremony and reception were Campaign for Chicago Shakespeare Theater Chair Marilyn Thoma and husband Carl Thoma, who were recognized for their extraordinary support that made the Studio possible. Appletree Theatre's *Shakespeare's R&J*, a bold, risk-taking—and true-to-text—adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, opened the Studio on November 19.

New programming reflects the bold energy of this Inaugural Season and the new theater. Grammy Award-winning blues singer Keb' Mo' shared the stage with Artistic Director Barbara Gaines on December 13 and 14, in two musical evenings of songs and Shakespeare. Lauded the *Chicago Sun-Times* the next morning: "Bereft of bad sight lines, coupled with its warm, woody acoustic, this was that rare time when even the venue

made a substantial contribution to the evening's musical delights." On November 22 and in conjunction with Barbara's Bookstore, Chicago Shakespeare brought to the stage Eric Idle, a founding member of Britain's legendary Monty Python comic ensemble, who sang, told stories and read from his new book, *The Road to Mars*.

"At The Bankside," a multi-faceted program of adult education, including discussions with scholars and artists, conversations with cast members, book discussions and theater tours, added still another dimension to the new theater and its growing history. The Open Forum series returned for its eighth season, kicked off by a dynamic interchange between Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and two of the country's most respected Shakespearean scholars: Ania Loomba from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Jeffrey Masten from Northwestern University. Another highlight was the first "Cast Call," an informal discussion in the Theater's Pub before an evening performance, with actors Kevin Gudahl, Larry Yando, Scott Parkinson and director Barbara Gaines. Information about upcoming Bankside programs is found on pages 7 and 11.

Audience, actors, staff, media and our friends and supporters can all look back at the opening of Chicago Shakespeare and see history in the making in a procession of spectacular firsts—a remarkable beginning, which now launches the work of this theater and Shakespeare's legacy into the twenty-first century.

"You have one of the best, if not *the* best, Shakespeare spaces in the world."

Sir Peter Hall

Director and Founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company

inaugural season

Limited tickets
still available!
Call now!
312.595.5600



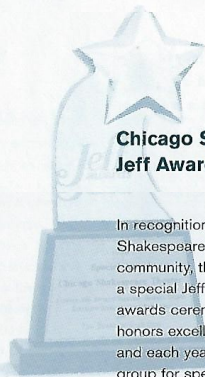
Board of Directors Welcomes Richard J. Franke

Richard J. Franke, Chairman and CEO Emeritus of The John Nuveen Company, was elected in October to the Board of Directors of Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Mr. Franke is a highly respected member of Chicago's business community and is known nationally for his passionate support of the arts. Mr. Franke was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton in 1997 for his work as Chairman and Founder of the Chicago Humanities Festival. He also serves as a trustee of the University of Chicago and on the boards of Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Orchestral Association of Chicago and The Newberry Library.

Chicagoans of the Year: Barbara Gaines and Criss Henderson

Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and Executive Director Criss Henderson were honored by the Chicago media for their contributions to Chicago's cultural life. Ms. Gaines was named one of the 1999 Chicagoans of the Year by *Chicago Magazine*. This special designation celebrates "the men and women whose determination, vision and grit have made our city a better place." "Gaines' productions give us more than a sense of recognition. Their lasting gift is an insatiable appetite for the best!" The January issue of the magazine says the new theater "guarantees that Shakespeare will continue to be a part of Chicagoans' lives for a long time to come."

Both Ms. Gaines and Mr. Henderson were named among 18 Chicagoans of the Year by the *Chicago Tribune* and its Arts & Entertainment staff. In recognizing the significant contributions that the two have made to the Chicago's arts community, the newspaper pointed to Chicago Shakespeare's transformation from a small, up-and-coming troupe into a major cultural institution. Richard Christiansen remarked, "Amazing' is a word Gaines and Henderson used a lot this year. And they're right. What they accomplished in 1999 is amazing."



Chicago Shakespeare Receives Special Jeff Award

In recognition of the outstanding contribution that Chicago Shakespeare Theater has made to the city's theater community, the Joseph Jefferson Committee presented a special Jeff Award to the Theater at its annual awards ceremony on November 8. The Jeff Committee honors excellence in Chicago theatrical productions, and each year (like the Oscars) selects an individual or group for special commendation.

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news briefs

Subscribers up 120%!

1998-1999 7,500 subscribers
1999-2000 16,600 subscribers

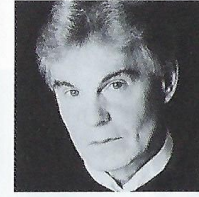
Speaking of Shakespeare

"Sprightly Conversations with Distinguished Luminaries"

"Speaking of Shakespeare" explores Shakespeare's influence in contemporary life. This new series, presented in conjunction with The Shakespeare Guild in Washington, D.C., invites our audience to take part in animated chats with notable persons from the realms of theater, journalism, politics and the media. Join the conversation with two stellar guests who will launch this Inaugural Season series.



Garry Wills
Monday, February 28



Sir Derek Jacobi
Monday, May 1

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Garry Wills will open Chicago Shakespeare's "Speaking of Shakespeare" series on Monday evening, February 28. Wills is Adjunct Professor of History and former Henry R. Luce Professor of American Culture and Public Policy at Northwestern University. Drawing on his intimate knowledge of the vivid intrigue of Jacobean England, Wills in his 1994 *Witches and Jesuits* explored Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in the context of the political and theological crises of the playwright's own time. Mr. Wills has received the Presidential Medal of the Endowment for the Humanities and two National Book Critics Circle Awards. His two most recently published books, *St. Augustine* and *A Necessary Evil: A History of American Distrust of Government*, were recently featured on the cover of the *Chicago Tribune* "Books" section.

Monday, February 28, 7:30-9:15 pm

\$15; book signing following program. Cosponsored by Tickets on sale now: Box Office 312.595.5600

One of the great classical actors of our time, Sir Derek Jacobi will be here on Monday evening, May 1, to discuss his vibrant life in the arts. Winner of numerous awards including the Tony, the Emmy and the Olivier (England's version of the Oscar), Sir Derek is perhaps best known for his portrayal of Claudius in the BBC television series "I, Claudius." A member of England's National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, he has played many of the greatest roles on the English stage. His numerous film credits include Claudius in Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* and the Chorus in Branagh's *Henry V*. He is known on television for his role as the title character in the series "Cadfael." In 1997, Sir Derek received The Golden Quill, The Sir John Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts, an award presented by The Shakespeare Guild, based in Washington, D.C.

Monday, May 1, 7:30-9:15 pm

Reception follows
\$15 program only; \$75 with reception
Tickets (limit 6) on sale now: Box Office 312.595.5600

Hosting the programs will be Dr. John Andrews, Founder and President of The Shakespeare Guild, and former Director of Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library. In his Washington, D.C.-based series, Dr. Andrews has interviewed such luminaries as actor Hal Holbrook, director Peter Brook, NPR journalists Susan Stenberg and Linda Wertheimer, and political analyst Cokie Roberts. With its casual format—compared by some to a chat on the set of *Masterpiece Theatre*—"Speaking of Shakespeare" is relaxed, engaging and enlightening.

The law firm of Kirkland & Ellis made a lasting commitment to education at the Theater with the establishment of the Kirkland & Ellis Audience Enrichment Fund. Part of the Theater's permanent endowment, the fund will provide resources on an annual basis to help underwrite visiting artists, scholars and celebrities who participate in adult education programs. "Speaking of Shakespeare" is underwritten in part by the Kirkland & Ellis Audience Enrichment Fund.

The 1999-2000 Inaugural Season Promotional Partners:

American Airlines® is the official airline of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.



is the official hotel of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.



Speaking of Shakespeare

The 1999 / 2000
Inaugural Season

A Conversation with Garry Wills

Monday, February 28, 2000

7:30-9:15pm

*Speaking of Shakespeare is underwritten in part by the
Kirland & Ellis Audience Enrichment Fund.*

This evening's program is co-sponsored by Barbara's Bookstore.

Garry Wills

Adjunct Professor of History
Northwestern University

Distinguished historian and author, Dr. Wills has served on the faculty in the Department of History at Northwestern University since 1980. A graduate of Yale, Dr. Wills also taught at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of 20 published books, including *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, *Witches and Jesuits*, and most recently, *Saint Augustine*, and *A Necessary Evil: A History of American Distrust of Government*. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize for Literature, Dr. Wills has received the Presidential Medal of the endowment for the Humanities, the National Book Critics Award, and the Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcasting.

John F. Andrews

President, The Shakespeare Guild
Washington, D.C.

John Andrews is an editor, author, lecturer and educator, with extensive experience as an administrator, producer and consultant in the arts and humanities. For 10 years, Dr. Andrews directed the Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library. In 1987 he founded The Shakespeare Guild, a nonprofit global organization to foster a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare. The Guild's Sir John Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts has honored Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Derek Jacobi, and Dame Judi Dench, and Kenneth Branagh, among others. "Speaking of Shakespeare" was launched first in Washington, D.C. Chicago Shakespeare Theater is proud to become the "Second City" where this popular series is now hosted by Dr. Andrews.

Upcoming "Speaking of Shakespeare"

A Conversation with Sir Derek Jacobi

Monday, May 1, 2000 7:30-9:15 p.m.

Call the Box Office now for tickets at
312.595.5600.

at the bankside

Shakespeare's own theater grew up beside the water's edge.

We now welcome you to the new Bankside at Chicago Shakespeare,

a special place for entertainment, learning, and leisure time.