

SAVORING THE CLASSICAL TRADITION IN DRAMA

ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS BY
THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD
IN PROUD COLLABORATION WITH
THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
THE PLAYERS, NEW YORK CITY
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION



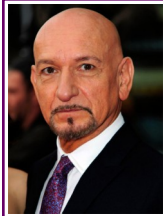
MELINDA HALL ♦ Tuesday, April 23

MELINDA HALL is a highly-regarded writer, teacher, and acting coach who not only works with individual performers but conducts classes for **Actors Equity**, **SAG-AFTRA**, and other organizations. She is the producer who established the *Shakespeare's Birthday Sonnet Slam* in **Central Park**, where all 154 of the poet's lyrics are recited each year, often with leading actors and public figures participating in the festivities. But the most impressive of Ms. Hall's achievements is a series of extraordinary interviews that she has recorded and posted on **YouTube**. Each is a story in itself, based on a prominent narrator's account of *How Shakespeare Changed My Life*. To commemorate



the 455th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, she'll talk about her work and what it has taught her, and she'll share vignettes from such esteemed performers as **F. Murray Abraham**, **James Earl Jones**, **Stacy Keach**, **Ben Kingsley**, **Estelle Parsons**, and **Liev Schreiber**.

NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
15 Gramercy Park South
Manhattan
PROGRAM AT 2:00 P.M.
*Admission Free, But
Reservations Requested*



**William Shakespeare in
Mark Twain's America**
**PRESENTED BY THE PLAYERS
AND THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD**

"EVER THE TWAIN" ♦ Tuesday, April 23

Recognizing that the best way to follow one festive gathering in Gramercy Park is to move next door a few hours later for another, the Guild looks forward to joining **The Players** for an evening that celebrates not only the Bard of Avon but a 19th-century American writer who both admired and envied his eminent predecessor. And what venue could be more fitting for such an event than **Edwin Booth's** final home, a club the actor founded and one that featured **Mark Twain** as a trustee? Presiding over our revels will be **Jonathan Richards**, who co-authored *EVER THE TWAIN* with historian **Lois Rudnick**. He'll be joined by **Tom Collins**, **Shana Farr**, **Forrest Fyre**, **Jeffrey**

Hardy, and other performers for an evening that will revisit events like the famous 1849 Astor Place Riot and charm the audience with vignettes such as the Duke and the King's ludicrous mangling of Hamlet's "To Be or Not to Be" soliloquy in *Huckleberry Finn*.

BONNIE J. MONTE ♦ Wednesday, April 24

Now in her 29th season at the **Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey**, Artistic Director **BONNIE J. MONTE** oversees a multifaceted institution that has evolved into one of the largest and most respected performing-arts complexes in the nation. Ms. Monte has provided audiences not only with acclaimed productions of the playwright her company is known for, but with Greek classics and works by **Chekhov**, **Goldoni**, **Maeterlinck**, and **Pirandello**. She began her career as Casting Director for the **Manhattan Theatre Club**, and from 1981 to 1989 she was Associate Artistic Director of the **Williamstown Theatre Festival** in Massachusetts. She has also directed plays by Tennessee



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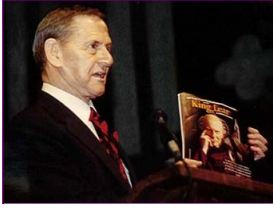
Williams in Broadway's **Circle-in-the-Square**, New Haven's **Long Wharf Theatre**, and California's **Pasadena Playhouse**. During a delightful Salon in the **NAC** parlor, she'll urge attendees who haven't done so to arrange a theatrical excursion to the Garden State.



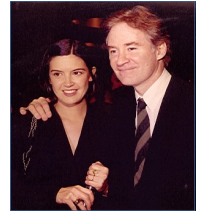
Help the Guild, & Support the Arts EVENTS IN D.C, LONDON, NEW YORK, AND SANTA FE

Founded in 1987, **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD** is now in its fourth decade. Since 1994 it has been known primarily for its **GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS**, a trophy created with the warm endorsement of **Sir John**, and one that has been presented in such venues as the **Folger Shakespeare Library** and the **British Embassy** in Washington; the **Barrymore Theatre**, **Lincoln Center**, and the **National Arts Club** in New York; and **Middle Temple Hall** and the **Guildhall** in London. **GIELGUD**-related activities have also occurred in a number of other settings, among them **BAFTA's Princess Anne Auditorium** and the **Gielgud Theatre** in the West End.

Recipients of the award ~ **F. Murray Abraham**, **Dame Eileen Atkins**, **Sir Kenneth Branagh**, **Zoe Caldwell**, **Dame Judi Dench**, **Sir Richard Eyre**, **Sir David Hare**, **Sir Derek Jacobi**, **Michael Kahn**, **Kevin Kline**, **Sir Ian McKellen**, **Christopher Plummer**, **Lynn Redgrave**, **Vanessa Redgrave**, **Sir Donald Sinden**, and **Sir Patrick Stewart** ~ have often served as presenters in festivities that recognize their esteemed colleagues. Other notables who've participated in these events include **Emanuel Ax**, **Alan Bennett**,



Keith Baxter, **Brian Bedford**, **Samantha Bond**, **Richard Briers**, **Helena Bonham Carter**, **Richard Clifford**, **John Cleese**, **Patrick Doyle**, **Rebecca Eaton**, **Ben Elton**, **Clive Francis**, **Stephen Fry**, **Bernard Gersten**, **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, **Rupert Goold**, **Joel Grey**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Sir Peter Hall**, **Rosemary Harris**, **Kitty Carlisle Hart**, **Hal Holbrook**, **Bob Hoskins**, **Tom Hulce**, **Dana Ivey**, **Martin Jarvis**, **Barbara Jefford**, **David Jones**, **Barbara Leigh-Hunt**, **Robert MacNeil**, **Audra McDonald**, **Geraldine McEwan**, **Michael Pennington**, **Ronald Pickup**, **George Plimpton**, **Tony Randall**, **Ian Richardson**, **Paul Scofield**, **Ned Sherrin**, **Timothy Spall**, **Toby Stephens**, and **Jerry Stiller**.



Since 1998 the **GUILD** has also presented **SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE**, a conversation series that debuted at the **National Press Club** in Washington and has enriched audiences in a variety of other locales, among them the **Cosmos Club**, **Ford's Theatre**, the **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, and the **University Club** in DC, the **Chicago Shakespeare Theatre** in the Windy City, and the **Algonquin Hotel**, **The Players**, the **Princeton Club**, and the **Schimmel Center** in Manhattan. Guests have included actors **Jane Alexander**, **Simon Russell Beale**, **Richard Easton**, **Henry Goodman**, **Stacy Keach**, **Michael Learned**, **Dakin Matthews**, **Roger Rees**, **Prunella Scales**, **Liev Schreiber**, **Marian Seldes**, **Jean Stapleton**, **Janet Suzman**, **John Douglas Thompson**, **Timothy West**, and **Michael York**; directors **Bill Alexander**, **Peter Brook**, **Robert Brustein**, **Karin Coonrod**, **Barry Edelstein**, **Barbara Gaines**, **Margot Harley**, **Jeffrey Horowitz**, **Tina Packer**, **Molly Smith**, **Julie Taymor**, and **Robert Whitehead**; playwrights **Edward Albee**, **Michael Frayn**, **Ken Ludwig**, and **Sir Peter Shaffer**; and writers **Norman Augustine**, **E.R. Braithwaite**, **Michael Dirda**, **Sir Harold Evans**, **Flora Fraser**, **Marjorie Garber**, **Adam Gopnik**, **Stephen Greenblatt**, **Anthony Hecht**, **Peter Holland**, **Peter Kyle**, **John Lahr**, **Peter Marks**, **John Miller**, **Judith Martin**, **Mark Olshaker**, **Bill Press**, **Cokie Roberts**, **Neil Rudenstine**, **Deborah Tannen**, **Stanley Wells**, **Linda Wertheimer**, and **Garry Wills**.



For detail about these and other **GUILD** offerings, including presentations in the Land of Enchantment that have been taken place at the **Lensic Performing Arts Center**, the **New Mexico Museum of Art**, **San Miguel Church**, the **Santa Fe Botanical Garden**, and elsewhere, we hope you'll visit www.shakesguild.org and click on the blue links that guide you through our rich and eventful history of cultural and educational programming. We also invite you to visit our **Membership and Reservations** page and become more deeply involved in our endeavors. **By design, most of our attractions are admission-free; but of course that does not mean they're cost-free.** Like the schools, colleges, libraries, museums, public radio and TV stations, and other nonprofit institutions that we all help with membership dues and donations, the **GUILD** is in constant need of support from those who cherish its efforts to preserve and enhance a unique artistic and intellectual heritage. We urge you to bear in mind, too, that any contributions that are not offset by benefits received are fully tax-deductible.

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation of \$____. Please enroll me as a **GUILD** member in the __ **SUBSCRIBER** (\$50), __ **CONTRIBUTOR** (\$100), __ **DONOR** (\$250), __ **BENEFACTOR** (\$500), __ **PATRON** (\$1,000), __ **SPONSOR** (\$5,000) category. Please reserve __ space(s) for April 23, __ space(s) for April 23, __ space(s) for April 24, Please accept my enclosed check for \$____. Please charge \$____ to _ **AMERICAN EXPRESS** _ **MASTERCARD** _ **VISA** account number _____ (____/____) CVV____.

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Presenter of the GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS
Established in 1994 to Honor Sir John and to Perpetuate his Legacy

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Founded in 1987 and operational since 1994, The Shakespeare Guild is a global nonprofit corporation that celebrates, and endeavors to cultivate larger and more appreciative audiences for, the dramatist who has been applauded in one society after another as our most reliable guide to the mileposts of life.