

Chicago Shakespeare Theater announces

Direct from triple-extended New York run
prior to a London transfer

Eddie Izzard performs Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Strictly limited engagement! April 19–May 4



Chicago—March 26, 2024—Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) announces today a thrilling addition to the season: Tony Award-nominated actor **Eddie Izzard** brings her celebrated solo theatrical performance of *Hamlet* to Chicago, direct from a triple-extended New York run at the Orpheum and Greenwich House Theaters and prior to launching a highly anticipated London transfer at Riverside Studios. Izzard portrays 23 characters in William Shakespeare's iconic play in this dynamic new staging adapted by **Mark Izzard** and directed by **Selina Cadell**. This strictly limited two-week engagement plays **April 19–May 4, 2024** in the Courtyard Theater.

In *Hamlet*, The King of Denmark is dead, and Prince Hamlet is determined to take revenge—initiating a cascade of events that will destroy both family and state. Izzard portrays men, women, ghosts, scholars, tyrants, courtiers, lovers, fools, and poets.

She says of the monumental undertaking, “I have always gravitated towards playing complex and challenging characters and Hamlet is the ultimate. This is a production for everyone, a timeless drama with an accidental hero. Selina, Mark, and I want audiences to see and hear an accessible, touching, scary, and dramatic *Hamlet*.”

CST Executive Director **Kimberly Motes** and Artistic Director **Edward Hall** shared, “After seeing Eddie's extraordinary performance in New York, we are thrilled she's agreed to join us at CST and share her *Hamlet* with Chicago audiences before London. It's a rare opportunity to see a *Hamlet* that makes this a play for all of us—truly a play for today.”

A Tony Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning actor, Izzard's boundary-pushing career includes critically acclaimed roles in theater, film, and television. On Broadway, Izzard starred in Roundabout Theatre Company's 2003 revival of *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, garnering the Tony nomination for Leading Actor in a Play—and appeared in David Mamet's *Race*. Major London stage credits include *The Cryptogram*, *Edward II*, *900 Oneonta*, *Joe Egg*, and *Lenny*. Izzard made her West End debut in 1993 in the solo show *Live at the Ambassadors*, receiving an Olivier Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement. Izzard's film roles include Stephen Frears' *Victoria & Abdul* opposite Dame Judi Dench, Julie Taymor's *Across the Universe*, Peter Bogdanovich's *The Cat's Meow*, *Valkyrie*, *Ocean's Twelve*, *Ocean's Thirteen*, and the recent *Doctor Jekyll* in which she plays Dr. Nina Jekyll and Rachel Hyde. She is the recipient of two Emmy Awards for her televised special, *Dressed to Kill*. She's also been seen as Dr. Abel Gideon in “Hannibal” and in FX's critically acclaimed series, “The Riches,” in which Izzard both starred and executive produced.

In 2022, Izzard performed a solo adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*—also created in collaboration with Mark Izzard and Selina Cadell—which played to rave reviews and sold-out audiences in New York and in London's West End. The creative team reunites for *Hamlet*, which features set design by

Tom Piper, lighting by **Tyler Elich**, costume styled by **Tom Piper** and **Libby DaCosta**, composer **Eliza Thompson**, movement director **Didi Hopkins**, and fight director **J. Allen Suddeth**. It is produced by Westbeth Entertainment, Mick Perrin Worldwide, and John Gore.

The press opening for *Hamlet* is scheduled for **Saturday, April 20 at 7:00pm**.

More information at chicagoshakes.com/hamlet or on social media at [@chicagoshakes](https://twitter.com/chicagoshakes).

Hamlet will be presented April 19-May 4, 2024, in the Courtyard Theater. Single tickets starting at \$69 are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Box Office at 312.595.5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com.

ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Regional Tony Award-recipient Chicago Shakespeare Theater produces a bold and innovative year-round season—plays, musicals, world premieres, family productions, and theatrical presentations from around the globe—alongside nationally recognized education programming serving tens of thousands of students, teachers, and lifelong learners each year. Founded in 1986, Chicago Shakespeare’s onstage work has expanded to as many as twenty productions and 650 performances annually. CST is dedicated to welcoming the next generation of theatergoers; one in four of its audience members is under the age of eighteen. As a nonprofit organization, Chicago Shakespeare works to embrace diversity, prioritize inclusion, provide equitable opportunities, and offer an accessible experience for all. On CST’s three stages at its home on Navy Pier, in classrooms and neighborhoods across the city, and in venues around the world, Chicago Shakespeare Theater is a multifaceted cultural hub—inviting audiences, artists, and community members to share powerful stories that connect and inspire. www.chicagoshakes.com

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