

CHICAGO  
SHAKESPEARE  
THEATER

Teatro La Plaza's

# HAMLET





photo by Justin Barbin

## WELCOME

Welcome and thank you for joining us at this very special production of *Hamlet*.

Shakespeare is at the heart of our mission and it's inspiring to bring international companies to Chicago. While our own Short Shakespeare! adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has just finished playing to nearly 20,000 middle and

high school students, this joyful and original version of *Hamlet* from Peru shines new light on Shakespeare's most famous play. His work always gives us a deeper understanding of our world and this extraordinary group of artists from Teatro la Plaza brings new perspectives to a play that continues to fascinate, entertain, and provoke. How *Hamlet* defines his identity in a society that he feels apart from is a central theme that is explored here with such humor and passion that once again, the meeting of the contemporary artist and the ancient play creates an unforgettable experience.

We can only do this work because of you. Thank you for joining us as an audience member and as a subscriber or donor. Measuring true "value," as *Hamlet* discovers, is not possible by counting only material wealth. It is the gift of the ephemeral and the residue it leaves on your soul that truly enriches. This, in the theater, is our only currency and we hope you leave this performance a little richer than when you arrived.

Thank you.

**Edward Hall**

Artistic Director  
*Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair*

**Kimberly Notes**

Executive Director

## MISSION

To create vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare.

## VISION

We deliver excellent, powerful, life-changing theater that challenges our preconceptions of everything. We are an open and inspiring destination to meet, talk, and share experience through community and live performance that is available to everyone. We build a better future with those who watch, work, create, and participate.

## ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

A Regional Tony Award recipient, Chicago Shakespeare Theater produces a bold and innovative year-round season that includes Shakespeare, original plays, musicals, family programming, and international theatrical events. CST is committed to serving as a cultural center across its three stages—the 700+ seat Yard, 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater, and the 200-seat Carl and Marilyn Thoma Upstairs Studio as well as in classrooms, neighborhoods, and venues around the world. CST has a deep commitment to education and lifelong learning with robust programming for students, teachers, and lifelong learners, and engagement with communities across the city. Onstage, in classrooms and neighborhoods across the city, and in venues around the world, Chicago Shakespeare is a multifaceted theater—inviting audiences, artists, and community members to share powerful stories that illuminate the complexities, ambiguities, and wonders of our world.

### SEASON SPONSORS

Julie and Roger Baskes



THE GRAINGER FOUNDATION

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ROPES & GRAY

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Carl and Marilyn Thoma

# CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

**EDWARD HALL**  
Artistic Director *Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair*

**KIMBERLY MOTES**  
Executive Director

in partnership with the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA)  
presents  
Teatro La Plaza's production of

# HAMLET

Written and directed by **CHELA DE FERRARI**

Associate Directors & Playwrights  
**JONATHAN OLIVEROS, CLAUDIA TANGO & LUIS ALBERTO LEÓN**

Vocal Training,  
**ALESSANDRA RODRÍGUEZ**

Choreography  
**MIRELLA CARBONE**

Visuals  
**LUCHO SOLDEVILLA**

Lighting Design  
**JESÚS REYES**

Lighting Director  
**MARVIN CALLE**

Sound Designer & Technician  
**JHOSIMAR SULLON**

Video Technician  
**DENNIS HILARIO**

Cast Coordination & Accompaniment  
**ROCÍO PUELLES**

Tour Director  
**ROXANA RODRÍGUEZ**

Stage Manager  
**ALLYSON ESPINOZA**

AEA Stage Manager  
**MAYDI DÍAZ\***

**Performed in Spanish with projected English translation.  
The performance will run 95 minutes with no intermission.**

If we can help accommodate you during your visit, please speak with our House Manager. For your safety, we ask that you keep aisles and doorways clear. We request that you refrain from taking photography or capturing any other video or audio recordings of the production.

*\*denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association*

## ABOUT TEATRO LA PLAZA

Based in Lima, Peru, Teatro La Plaza is a theater creation space that investigates and interprets reality to build a critical point of view that dialogues with its community. It was founded in 2003 with the purpose of connecting with its community by offering a production of works capable of questioning, provoking and surprising. Through new work, as well as classics through a contemporary lens, their productions seek to formulate key questions that allow us to better understand our reality, the hectic times we live in, and the complex nature of being human. With the intention of collaborating in the development of local playwrights, in 2013 La Plaza created Sala de Parto, a program that stimulates the birth of new Peruvian plays and authors. [laplaza.com.pe](http://laplaza.com.pe)

Since 2019, Teatro La Plaza's Hamlet has performed more than 160 shows in 33 cities and 11 countries around the world, including events such as the Paris Autumn Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival. Next up, this production tours to Lincoln Center's Big Umbrella Festival (April 19, 2025) and London's Barbican Centre (April 24-27, 2025).

## CAST

**OCTAVIO BERNAZA**  
**JAIME CRUZ**  
**LUCAS DEMARCHI**

**MANUEL GARCÍA**  
**DIANA GUTIÉRREZ**  
**CRISTINA LEÓN BARANDIARÁN**

**XIMENA RODRÍGUEZ**  
**ÁLVARO TOLEDO**

**OCTAVIO BERNAZA** is 30 years old. From the age of 17 days, he received early stimulation, with the active participation of his parents and brother. At 15 months, he began preschool at Kallpa, and at the age of 7, he enrolled in Colegio Los Reyes Rojos, where he completed his secondary studies. He started swimming at four months old and became a freestyle swimming champion at the 2010 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico. At the age of 10, he began tennis lessons and participated in internal championships. After finishing high school, he studied a styling course while also working on weekends as a waiter in his family

restaurant. From 2014 to 2017, he took dance classes at D1 and won national championships in group salsa dance and pair bachata, as well as the Latin International Dance Cup in group salsa and second place in pair bachata in 2017 in Orlando. In 2016, he worked as an assistant to the Minister of Labor. From the end of 2016 until February 2018, he worked part-time at Saga Falabella while continuing his dancing. In 2018, he was called to work full-time at his family's restaurant, but the demanding hours and limited rest time led him to work at Holiday Inn instead.

**JAIME CRUZ** is 30 years old and has had a deep passion for sports, technology, and theater from a young age. He joined Kallpa and later attended Colegio Champagnat, where he completed his studies. He worked as an assistant at the Ministry of Labor and studied computer science. He later worked as a waiter at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Since the age of five, Jaime has been involved in swimming, serving as the captain of his team and winning the national butterfly stroke championship at the Special Olympics. He has taken workshops at Teatro La Plaza and traveled to Colombia and New York, where he represented the Peruvian Down Syndrome Society at various conferences. Jaime is also an advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and is involved in organizations like Liberarte, Retos, and Best Buddies. In the past year, he has been working at Starbucks, honing his work and customer service skills. Jaime enjoys playing basketball, football, practicing yoga, going to the theater, watching Peruvian films, reading, and spending time with his friends.

**LUCAS DEMARCHI** was born in Buenos Aires and is 24 years old. He has always been a cheerful person, greeting everyone as if they were his friends. At 15 days old, he started early stimulation. When he lived in Córdoba, he practiced competitive swimming. He attended a regular school until the age of 12 when he moved to Peru and joined Kallpa, a school for people with disabilities. There, he participated in sports, theater, singing, and dance. He has designed stage sets and costumes. He studied cooking at the Instituto Columbia and participated in a play at Liberarte Talleres Especiales. After living in Peru for six years, he returned to Argentina just as he began rehearsing *Hamlet*, but he has continued traveling back to Lima periodically to rehearse. He loves dancing, often performing in the street and passing the hat. Last year, he participated in the Special Olympics in Lima. He plans to study psychology at university and is a creative individual who can craft things even with just a wire.

**MANUEL GARCÍA** is 32 years old. At the age of 15 days, he met Dr. Elba Zúñiga, who guided his parents in how to enhance his capabilities, starting a routine of continuous learning. He also received psychomotor therapy and reading therapy at the Centro Médico Peruano Japonés. At six years old, he enrolled in CEBE San Juan Bosco, where he studied with friends with different abilities and participated in various theater performances, which sparked his passion for theater. At 10, he transferred to CEBE Santa Teresa de Couderd, where he learned about baking. He studied electronic organ and reached an advanced level. He also studied kung fu at the Club Peruano Chino, earning a red belt with a star. He met Professor Jonathan Oliveros, who taught him musical theater, and he continues to be his student at the Liberarte Theater School.

**DIANA GUTIÉRREZ** is 35 years old, and is the youngest of six siblings. From a young age, she received many therapies in various centers. She completed primary school until the age of 16 at an inclusive school and finished her alternative basic education at 20. Since childhood, she practiced swimming, aerobics, and dance, and she studied computer science at 24. She attended the Himawari Center, where she received work training. She joined the Peruvian Down Syndrome Society (SPSD) and participated in a Life Project workshop. She had her first job at the REPSOL Santa Maria gas station as a store assistant and later worked as a messenger for the UNDP. Diana is currently a self-manager at SPSPD.

**CRISTINA LEÓN BARANDIARÁN** has extensive work experience in different areas, having worked in merchandising at a jewelry store, as an assistant swimming instructor, and as an intern at the municipal library in Miraflores. She is currently training in shot put, a sport she loves because it relaxes her and makes her feel good about herself. Cristina's goal is to reach the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, and she believes she will achieve it. She has also taken singing, painting, and theater classes, particularly excelling in acting workshops at Teatro sin Límite. Over the past year, she has been working at Starbucks, where she is further developing her professional skills. Her hobbies include watching horror films, romantic dramas, anything related to the paranormal, and her two great passions: anime and having deep conversations with someone very special to her.

**XIMENA RODRÍGUEZ** is 25 years old. She has an older brother and a younger sister. She attended a regular preschool and later completed her secondary studies. She participated in the soap opera *Girasoles para Lucía* when she was only days old and also took part in several school performances. She played the role of Juliet in the play *Romeo and Juliet* during primary school. This year, she recorded a commercial for the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias. Ximena has always loved dancing, especially traditional dances and reggaeton. She took ballet classes until she was eight, after which she started modern dance lessons. At the age of 14, she enrolled in reggaeton classes. At 12, she participated in a race at the Special Olympics, held at the AELU club, and competed in swimming for OMAPED of Pueblo Libre in 2017. In her free time, she creates choreographies and dances, which is her favorite pastime. Over the past year, she has been working at Starbucks, where she has continued to build her customer service skills.

**ÁLVARO TOLEDO** is 24 years old. He is part of the Liberarte Talleres Especiales family. He attended Kallpa and then Colegio Los Reyes Rojos, where he won the 2013, 2017, and 2018 floral games and became the champion in black dance. He has worked as a waiter at the Marina kiosk and also in the school library. He is a black belt in karate and trains tennis every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. In 2015, he won the swimming championship at the Terrazas club.

He studied photography at the Peruvian Down Syndrome Society. He enjoys painting and has sold several paintings to the *Hamlet* family. Álvaro loves singing "Despacito" at home while watching YouTube. He also enjoys organizing small, medium, and large parties, going to the movies with his *Hamlet* friends and those from his high school. His favorite series and movies are *El Chavo del Ocho*, *Descendants*, *The Lion King*, *Shrek*, and *Kung Fu Panda*.

### **CHELA DE FERRARI** (Writer & Director)

Born in Lima, Peru, she studied painting at the University of Rio Piedras, in Puerto Rico, and theater at the Club de Teatro de Lima. In Córdoba, Argentina, she directed Grupo Extras for five years, staging plays by Argentine authors and collective creations. Upon her return to Peru, she was invited to direct several productions at the PUCP Cultural Center. She is the founder of Teatro La Plaza, a non-profit institution founded in 2003, and artistic director since its foundation until 2021. In 2013, she created Sala de Parto, a program of Teatro La Plaza to stimulate the birth of new Peruvian playwriting that in 10 years has helped to give birth to more than 50 plays working with local and international partners, such as the Royal Court in London. Recently, the emphasis has been placed on women creators, to accompany them in their process of creating new plays. In recent years, her work as a director and playwright has focused on the adaptation and direction of three Shakespeare plays (*Richard III* in 2013, *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2016, and *Hamlet* in 2019) and a Peruvian trilogy. In close creative collaboration with Peruvian playwright Luis Alberto León, she premieres: *La cautiva* in 2014 and *Savia* in 2017. They are currently working on *La Barragana*, which closes a trilogy that speaks of three moments of extreme violence in the history of Peru. In 2024, she presented her first film: *Ser Hamlet*, which tells the story of the creative process of eight actors and actresses with Down syndrome and cognitive disabilities rehearsing *Hamlet*.

## **PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

### **CHICAGO LATINO THEATER ALLIANCE (CLATA)**

is a leading advocate organization for Latine theater in Chicago. Supporting the development of emerging and established Latine playwrights, actors, directors and theater professionals is central to its mission. CLATA's goal is to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive theater community, by presenting and producing Latine theater that celebrates and promotes the richness and diversity of Latinidad. CLATA believes that together we can build a stronger and more sustainable Latine theater industry. CLATA produces their international theater festival, *Destinos*, every Fall, bringing artists from around Chicago, the US, and the world together for performances, workshops, and more. This year, the *Destinos* Festival will run September 29-November 2, 2025 and shows will be announced this Spring!

**clata.org @latinotheater**

## **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER**

**EDWARD HALL** (CST Artistic Director, *Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair*) Acclaimed director Edward Hall joined CST in October 2023, directing *Richard III* starring Tony nominee and Paralympian Katy Sullivan. In the 2024/25 season, he is directing *Henry V*, *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Sunny Afternoon*. He previously directed the *Rose Rage* trilogy (2003) which transferred to New York. He was the founding Artistic Director of the multi-award-winning Propeller Shakespeare, touring globally for over twenty years. He led the UK's Hampstead Theatre for nearly a decade, transforming it into one of the nation's most successful theaters for new work development with 100+ world premieres. He has served as an Associate Director at the National Theatre and Old Vic. His extensive film and television credits include *The Heist Before Christmas*, *Blithe Spirit* starring Dame Judi Dench, multiple HBO and BBC series, and the *Downton Abbey* season 4 finale. He is a member of The Arts Club of Chicago and the Economic Club of Chicago.

### **KIMBERLY MOTES** (CST Executive Director)

Esteemed arts leader Kimberly Motes joined CST in October 2023, bringing 25+ years of senior leadership experience within the performing arts and higher education. Motes served as Managing Director of the Tony-winning Children's Theatre Company (CTC). During her seven-year tenure, CTC produced 46 plays/musicals including 15 commissioned works and six co-productions/transfers. Previous roles include Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement at the University of St. Thomas, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at the College of Saint Benedict, Managing Director at Theater Latté Da, and Executive Director at the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts. She spent 13 years in Washington, D.C., where she was Director of Development at Arena Stage and led adult arts education programming and a ballet training program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Her career began at The Washington Ballet. She is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, The Chicago Network, and the Chicago Club.

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*Chicago Shakespeare is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group, Inc., the national service organization of non-profit theaters; Shakespeare Theatre Association; Arts Alliance Illinois; the League of Chicago Theatres; and Ingenuity, Inc.*



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

# CHICAGOSHAKESPEARETHEATER

**EDWARD HALL**  
Artistic Director *Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair*

**KIMBERLY MOTES**  
Executive Director

## ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE

**ERICKA RATCLIFF**  
Literary Manager

**PAIGE WHITSON-MARTINI**  
General Manager

**DANIEL J. HESS**  
Artistic Administrator

**BOB MASON**  
Artistic Associate/  
Casting Director

**GIANNA SCHUETZ-  
MCKINNIS**  
Company Manager

**ALEXIS TAYLOR**  
Casting Associate

**ROSE KALEF**  
Executive Assistant

**KARINA PATEL**  
Literary Associate

**SHEMAR WHEELER**  
Arts Leadership Fellow

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*Ray and Judy McCaskey  
Education Chair*

**EMILSE ALVARADO**  
Associate Director of  
Education

**GRACE CUMMINGS**  
Education Programs Associate

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**MACKENZIE SCHLEYER**  
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**FERA ELY**  
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**TYLER MEREDITH**  
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**ASH PIERCE**  
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Events Director

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Development,  
Individual Giving

**ELIZABETH TEAGUE**  
Associate Director of  
Development,  
Institutional Giving

**FINLEY JONES**  
Development Coordinator

**NATHAN WETTER**  
Donor Services and  
Data Coordinator

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**KATIE TRESNOWSKI**  
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and Administration

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**ALYSSE HUNTER**  
Assistant Controller

**ALEJANDRA SUJO**  
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**KEVIN SPELLMAN**  
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Specialist

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**JANETTA HEARNE**  
Operations Coordinator

**MICHAEL ATKINS**  
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**ANTHONY DAVIS**  
**CANO HERNANDEZ**  
**FERRIS ROBERTSON**  
Custodians

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Manager

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**ALEXA BERKOWITZ**  
Assistant Director  
of Production

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**JESSE GAFFNEY**  
Assistant Technical Director

**TOBI OSIBODU**  
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**JACK BIRDWELL**  
Stage Rigging Crew Head

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**CHRISTOPHER CULVER**  
**AMBER HAHN**  
**BOBBY NOE**  
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**MELISSA PERKINS**  
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**JENN GIANGOLA**  
Wardrobe Supervisor

**TYLER PHILLIPS**  
Draper/Workroom Supervisor

**TEAGAN ANDERSON**  
First Hand

**YAS MAPLE**  
Stitcher

**MICHAEL GEORGE**  
Dresser

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**ARIANNA BROWN**  
Assistant Lighting and Video  
Department Manager

**JOAN E. CLAUSSEN**  
Lighting Crew Head

**HANNAH DONOHUE**  
**ELLIOT HUBIAK**  
**JON LUKE LASSA**  
**BILLY MURPHY**  
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**DAN SCHRECK**  
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**TYLER MALONE**  
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**ASHLEY ADAMS**  
Hair and Make-up Department  
Manager

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**ANNA KATHARINE MANTZ**  
Properties Department  
Manager

**MEGHAN SAVAGIAN**  
Assistant Properties  
Department Manager

**DAN NURCZYK**  
Properties Crew Head

## UP & COMING

