

GIVING NEW LIFE TO SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare is at the heart of our mission. This season’s five productions displayed Shakespeare as we know him to be: a contemporary and radical writer in his own time, whose compelling and original voice continues to inspire us today. His works teach us empathy, entertain us, challenge our ways of thinking and constantly remind us of the wonder of our world. Out of his humanity and his artistry, our work this season highlighted the breadth and depth of his genius, a powerful reminder of the Bard’s relevance in the modern world.

Shakespeare Productions in the 2024/25 Season

Shakes in the City: Twelfth Night
directed by Tyrone Phillips

Henry V
directed by Edward Hall

Royal Shakespeare Company’s *Pericles*
directed by Tamara Harvey
FROM THE UK

Short Shakespeare!
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
adapted and directed by Edward Hall

Teatro La Plaza’s *Hamlet*
adapted and directed by Chela De Ferrari
FROM PERU

“Chicago has the well-deserved international reputation of being the American City of choice for theater. I want CST to be the place audiences come to see the very best Shakespeare in the world.”

—Edward Hall, Artistic Director
Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair

30% of Shakespeare attendees were new to CST in each of the last two seasons



CONNECTING VETERANS WITH SHAKESPEARE

Our “In Service” veterans post-show conversation series explored themes of honor, valor, leadership, and the repercussions of war in *Henry V*.

Bringing together veterans affairs leaders from the public and private sectors, these discussions served as an example of how CST provides powerful and thoughtful points of entry to the art on our stage, enjoying another lens through which to understand Shakespeare. Partners included Chicago Veterans, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, The Brigade, Warrior-Scholar Project, Duchossois Family Foundation, and John Edelman, member of the CST Board of Directors.



SHAKES IN THE CITY FOR CHICAGO

With free performances across north, west, and south side Chicago neighborhoods, the reenvisioned Shakes in the City program joined community activations and programming to bring Shakespeare to new audiences.

- 25 free pop-up performances in parks large and small
- 15 free dance workshops
- 21 neighborhoods
- 356.4 miles traveled
- 2,000+ community members engaging



CROSSING BORDERS & MAKING CONNECTIONS

By providing an opportunity for a multitude of voices to be heard, Teatro La Plaza’s *Hamlet* from Peru opened the door for audiences and actors to come together and remember our shared humanity.

“Traditionally, Hamlet is played by an iconic actor, a master of the craft, but what if the role was given to actors historically excluded from artistic and intellectual spaces? This was more than a casting choice—it was a provocation, inviting us to experience Hamlet’s most famous question in a deeply personal and contemporary way.”

—Chela De Ferrari, *Hamlet* Director
as quoted in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pericles represented a historic international collaboration as it marked the first return of the Royal Shakespeare Company to Chicago in 30 years and the beginning of an ongoing partnership between our theaters.

“*Pericles*’ perennial relevance is compelling, with its examination of leadership, endurance, loss, and hope. We couldn’t wait to share this beautiful play with Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s audiences as together we write the next chapter in the centuries-old story of collaboration between our two nations.”

—Tamara Harvey
Pericles Director &
RSC co-Artistic Director
as quoted in
THE NEW YORK TIMES

