



F. MURRAY ABRAHAM
Recipient of the 2010
GIELGUD AWARD

***AN EVENING AT WHICH THE ADMIRERS OF
A GREAT ACTOR SALUTE HIS ARTISTRY***

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT 6:30 P.M.
THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

For the caricatures of SIR JOHN GIELGUD in various roles that adorn this keepsake, as well as for his other contributions to this evening, we're deeply grateful to CLIVE FRANCIS, a multitalented London actor who has given us such sprightly publications as LAUGH LINES, SIR JOHN: THE MANY FACES OF GIELGUD, and THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DANE.

BACKGROUND FOR TONIGHT'S *GIELGUD* CEREMONY

As in years past, the 2010 presentation of the *GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS* is occurring under the aegis of three vibrant organizations.

One is the branch of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** that represents metropolitan New York City. Its lineage goes back to 1920, when the English-Speaking Union of the United States was created in response to a parallel association that had been established two years earlier in London. The ESU now girdles the planet, with constituents in more than fifty nations, and its exalted mission is to foster global understanding through an increasingly global language.

Another is our host institution. Housed in an architectural jewel that was once the residence of Samuel Tilden (a civic leader, a governor, and a presidential nominee), the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB** has an eminent history in the cultural affairs of our society. Thanks to its dynamic president, **O. Aldon James**, and his dedicated associates, the NAC has become the primary Manhattan setting for *SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE*, a series that has also attracted audiences to New York's Algonquin Hotel, to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and to such Washington locations as the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the National Press Club. Attendees have chatted with such luminaries as actors Jane Alexander, Simon Russell Beale, Richard Easton, Henry Goodman, Bill Irwin, Roger Rees, Prunella Scales, Liev Schreiber, Janet Suzman, John Douglas Thompson, Timothy West, and Michael York, directors Peter Brook and Robert Whitehead, media leaders Cokie Roberts, Susan Stamberg, and Linda Wertheimer, and writers Edward Albee, E. R. Braithwaite, Sir Harold Evans, Flora Fraser, Michael Frayn, Marjorie Garber, Stephen Greenblatt, Anthony Hecht, Ken Ludwig, Judith Martin, Peter Shaffer, James Shapiro, Jesse Sheidlower, Deborah Tannen, and Garry Wills.

These *SPEAKING* engagements are offerings of the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, which was founded in 1987 to cultivate stronger audiences for the poet we've long revered as our most reliable guide to the mileposts of life. In 1994, to perpetuate the legacy of the 20th century's most enduring exemplar of the classical tradition in the performance of Shakespeare and other dramatists, the GUILD unveiled a prize that would honor those who strive to maintain the lofty standards for which this legendary artist has always been admired. At the outset *GIELGUD* laureates received a **John Safer** trophy that was devised to preserve Sir John's "character" with "golden quill" (Sonnet 85). They now receive a memento with more direct connections to the award's namesake: a limited-edition print by actor **Clive Francis** that captures Gielgud's image at a special moment in 1996, at a Garrick Club luncheon shortly after he'd been inducted into Britain's exclusive Order of Merit. Sir John inscribed some of these portraits, and Mr. Francis has kindly provided them to the GUILD to bestow on *GIELGUD* honorees.

The initial *GIELGUD* festivities took place at Capitol Hill's **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**, with **Sir Ian McKellen** (1996), **Sir Derek Jacobi** (1997), and **Zoe Caldwell** (1998) as laureates. Participants included Brian Bedford, Marvin Hamlisch, Robert MacNeil, Audra McDonald, Kelly McGillis, George Plimpton, Tony Randall, Lynn Redgrave, Dame Diana Rigg, and James Roose-Evans.

In May of 1999 the Guild came to the **BARRYMORE THEATRE** in New York to pay tribute to **Dame Judi Dench**, who had just won an Oscar as the Queen in *Shakespeare in Love*, and was en route to a Tony in *Amy's View*. Hosted by Robert MacNeil, this gala featured actors Keith Baxter, Brian Bedford, Zoe Caldwell, Hal Holbrook, Ronald Pickup, Toby Stephens, and Christopher Plummer, director Sir Richard Eyre, producer Rebecca Eaton, and playwright Sir David Hare. A few months later Dame Judi and another *GIELGUD* awardee, Sir Derek Jacobi, were among the hosts for a January 2000 presentation of the trophy to actor, director, and filmmaker **Kenneth Branagh** in London's historic **MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**. This salute, preceded by a screening at **BAFTA'S PRINCESS ANNE THEATRE**, featured composer Patrick Doyle, U.S. Ambassador Philip Lader, and actors Samantha Bond, Richard Briers, Helena Bonham Carter, Richard Clifford, Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Bob Hoskins, John Sessions, and Timothy Spall.

In 2002 the GUILD returned to New York for a revel at **LINCOLN CENTER**, where actors John Cleese, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Bill Irwin, Dana Ivey, Tony Randall, and Roger Rees, writer Adam Gopnik, and directors Barry Edelstein, Bernard Gersten, and Margot Harley toasted, and at times roasted, **Kevin Kline**. A year later the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB** played host for a 2003 gala at which **Lynn Redgrave** was lauded by her siblings Corin and Vanessa, by actors Kathleen Chalfant and Richard Easton, and by film director Bill Condon and producer Elizabeth I. McCann. To our deep regret, Lynn and Corin are no longer with us.

In 2004 the GUILD combined forces with the **ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART** and the **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** to observe the centenary of Sir John's birth, filling the **GIELGUD THEATRE** in London for a gala at which notables like playwrights Alan Bennett and Sir David Hare, director Sir Peter Hall, and actors Dame Judi Dench, Clive Francis, Rosemary Harris, Martin Jarvis, Barbara Jefford, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Sir Ian McKellen, Michael Pennington, Ian Richardson, Paul Scofield, and Sir Donald Sinden recalled their late-departed friend. This stellar gathering was emceed by the BBC's Ned Sherrin, and it was followed by a reception in Covent Garden's venerable **GARRICK CLUB**.

The GUILD was back to Manhattan in June of 2006 for a **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB** presentation to **Christopher Plummer**, who was feted in an evening that included two previous *GOLDEN QUILL* recipients, Zoe Caldwell and Lynn Redgrave, along with actor and visual artist Clive Francis, television journalist Robert MacNeil, and soprano and multiple Tony laureate Audra McDonald.

The 2007 festivities occurred at the **BRITISH EMBASSY** in Washington, where Sir David and Lady Manning presided over a reception at which Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, ESU leader Lord Watson of Richmond, and actors Helen Carey and Ted van Griethuysen paid tribute to artistic director **Michael Kahn** of the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**. In March 2008, Sir David's successor, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, joined actors F. Murray Abraham, Kate Fleetwood, Whoopi Goldberg, Joel Grey, and Daniel Stewart, pianist Emanuel Ax, director David Jones, producer Robert Halmi Jr., and other admirers in a *GIELGUD* salute to **Patrick Stewart**, an honoree who has recently been awarded a knighthood.

A Warm Welcome to this Evening's Festivities

We're delighted that you could join us for a toast to one of the most versatile artists of our time, a man whose portrayal of Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus* earned him an Academy Award for Best Actor in the 1984 film version of Peter Shaffer's evocative drama. This remarkable cinema garnered eight Oscars, among them trophies for Best Picture, Best Screenplay, and Best Director (Milos Forman), along with a Best Actor nomination for Tom Hulce, who depicted Mozart as a genius whose frivolity drove his rival to homicide.

We're pleased that Mr. Hulce will be one of the stars who pay tribute to **F. MURRAY ABRAHAM** at this year's **GIELGUD** festivities. Also represented, either in person or in messages to be conveyed by other program participants, will be a sampling of the scores of other actors, directors, producers, writers, and social and political leaders with whom Mr. Abraham has been associated. His career has featured key roles in dozens of movies, among them *The Sunshine Boys* (1975), *All the President's Men* (1976), *Scarface* (1983), *The Name of the Rose* (1986), *Last Action Hero* (1993), *Mighty Aphrodite* (1995), *Looking for Richard* (1996), *Star Trek: Insurrection* (1998), *Finding Forrester* (2000), and *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (2004), and work with such legends as Sean Connery, Burt Lancaster, Sophia Loren, Al Pacino, and Lina Wertmuller. In Italy Mr. Abraham has completed five pictures with director Renzo Martinelli, among them *The Stone Merchant* (2006) and *Barbarossa* (2009). His many theater credits include classics by Aristophanes, John Guare, Arthur Miller, Harold Pinter, Luigi Pirandello, Edmond Rostand, George Bernard Shaw, Sam Shepard, and Tennessee Williams, and he has starred in such prestigious vehicles as a Broadway revival of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, directed by Mike Nichols, and a **Theatre for a New Audience** staging of *The Merchant of Venice* that took his riveting Shylock to Stratford-upon-Avon as a triumph in the **Royal Shakespeare Company's** epic *Complete Works* festival.

Mr. Abraham has performed such roles as Bottom and Malvolio (in Central Park presentations for the **New York Shakespeare Festival**). He has also starred in *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello*, *Richard II*, and *Richard III*. He has twice appeared at the **White House**, and his drama résumé includes memorable parts in Ethan Coen's *Almost an Evening*, Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, David Mamet's *Life in the Theatre*, Pierre de Marivaux's *Triumph of Love*, Terrence McNally's *The Ritz*, Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius*, and Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. Mr. Abraham has provided narratives for a number of symphonic concerts, assisting artists like James Levine, Itzhak Perlman, and Gerard Schwarz. Television audiences will recall his many appearances on programs such as *Bored to Death* (2009) and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* (2010). And **PBS** viewers will cherish him as the voice of *Nature*, a revered **WNET** series that is currently enjoying its 29th season on the air.

A Gielgud Award Salute to **F. MURRAY ABRAHAM**

Opening Remarks from THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

O. ALDON JAMES

Greetings from THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF NEW YORK

BARBARA O'DWYER LOPEZ

A Brief Overview from THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD

JOHN F. ANDREWS



Salutes to This Year's Honoree

MELINDA HALL

JULIAN SCHLOSSBERG

JERRY STILLER

TOM HULCE

ROBERT BRUSTEIN

GORDON MACDONALD

BRIAN KULICK

ROD BROGAN

MICHAEL FEINGOLD

JAMES SHAPIRO

JANICE YOUNG

FRED KAUFMAN

RENZO MARTINELLI

OSKAR EUSTIS



A Response From

F. MURRAY ABRAHAM

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We're deeply indebted to everyone who has helped with this gathering. We owe special thanks to president **Aldon James**, his talented staff, and his many associates at the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**. Among those who deserve special mention are **Marguerite Yaghjian** and **Ramona Bechtos**, who preside with such diligence over the **NAC Shakespeare Committee**, program director **Steve Mascatello**, chef **Joseph Frappaola**, art director **Jennifer Knox**, and chief technician **Anthony Javier**. The skills they bring to events such as these are absolutely indispensable.

We're immensely grateful to **Barbara O'Dwyer Lopez**, executive director of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF NEW YORK**, not only for her assistance with this gala but for all the aid that she provides each month for our **SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE** series. We've also been blessed once again with the generosity and creative talents of her husband **Richard Lopez**, a musician, composer, and graphic artist who designed the handsome invitation that went out to our constituents.

A number of people have proffered assistance in arranging for tonight's gala, among them **Melinda Hall**, who secured a warm message to the honoree from one of his dearest friends, who helped produce the video montage that will introduce our proceedings, and who has arranged to record the evening's festivities. Working with Melinda is **Amy Leland Hemphill**, a gifted filmmaker who, like Melinda, is donating her time. We're also grateful to **Jeffrey Horowitz** and **Lee Helms** of **THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE**, who've helped with publicity and photographs, and to **James Wolfe**, who has supplied lighting equipment.

A number of the awardee's friends who were unable to be with us tonight have sent congratulatory messages. Many of those greetings will be shared with the audience, and we thank those who took the time to communicate in this way, among them **Edward Albee**, **Harold Bloom**, **Mayor Bloomberg**, **Ray Bradbury**, **Ethan Coen**, **Cynthia Harris**, **Gerard Schwarz**, and **Sir Patrick Stewart**.

We're grateful, as always, for those who've provided financial support for this gathering, which will benefit such endeavors as the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION'S** annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** for high-school students and the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD'S** monthly **SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE** series at the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**. Their names are provided in the supplementary insert that accompanies this program.

Above all, however, we're indebted to those who have come this evening to express their affection for a man who has earned the fervent admiration of his professional colleagues, friends, and loved ones. There is no way to do justice to their myriad accomplishments here, so a few brief listings will have to suffice.

ROD BROGAN appeared with Mr. Abraham in *Mauritius* and was in the touring cast of Broadway's *Doubt*. A regular on *Major Dad*, he has also appeared in TV's *Law & Order* and *Third Watch* and in the new film *The Winning Season*.

ROBERT BRUSTEIN, who founded both the Yale Repertory Theatre and Harvard's American Repertory Theater, has written seventeen books and six plays, among them a trilogy about Shakespeare. A member of the Theatre Hall of Fame, he has reviewed for *Harper's*, *The New Republic*, and *The New York Times*.

OSKAR EUSTIS is artistic director at the Public Theater. He helped develop Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* and Robert Schenkkan's *The Kentucky Cycle*, which won Pulitzer Prizes, and he has also directed award-winning world-premieres of plays by Suzan-Lori Parks, Ellen McLaughlin, and Paula Vogel.

MICHAEL FEINGOLD, award-winning drama critic for *The Village Voice*, has also earned renown as a lyricist, translator, playwright, director, and literary manager, working with such institutions as the American Repertory Theater, Columbia University, the Guthrie Theater, and Theatre for a New Audience.

MELINDA HALL is an actor, director, and drama teacher. She is producing *How Shakespeare Changed My Life*, a film featuring narratives by eminent artists, and she will introduce a video montage and read a message from Ray Bradbury.

TOM HULCE, who was nominated for an Oscar as Mozart in *Amadeus*, has also garnered four Golden Globe nominations, an Emmy Award, and a Tony nomination for his acting. As a producer, he earned eight Tony Awards in 2007 with *Spring Awakening*. He also produced the film *A Home at the End of the World*.

FRED KAUFMAN is the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning executive producer of the PBS *Nature* series. He has been responsible for hundreds of natural-history programs and has created such spinoffs as *Africa* and *In the Wild*, which featured celebrities like Julia Roberts, Robin Williams, and Richard Dreyfus on safari.

BRIAN KULICK, artistic director of Classic Stage Company, has also played key roles at the Mark Taper Forum, the Public Theater, the Shakespeare Society, and Trinity Repertory Company. He has directed premieres by Tony Kushner and other dramatists, and has worked at ACT, McCarter, NYTW, and elsewhere.

GORDON MACDONALD is a British actor, with experience on London's West End, whose film and TV credits include *Brain Damage*, *The Brave One*, *Law & Order*, *Looking for Richard*, *Perfect Stranger*, *Saving Grace*, and *The Thin Red Line*.

RENZO MARTINELLI, one of Italy's most distinguished filmmakers, has produced and directed several features with F. Murray Abraham in starring roles, among them *Barbarossa*, *Carnera: The Walking Mountain*, and *The Stone Merchant*.

JULIAN SCHLOSSBERG has distinguished himself as an interviewer (on *Movie Talk*, an influential syndicated radio program), a teacher (Columbia, NYU, UCLA), and a film executive (producing or distributing such classics as John Ford's *Stagecoach*, Eliz Kazan's *Baby Doll*, and Orson Welles' *Othello*).

JAMES SHAPIRO, a popular Columbia University professor, is the author of such widely acclaimed books as *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?, 1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare*, and *Shakespeare and the Jews*.

JERRY STILLER and his wife Anne Meara delighted audiences of the '60s and '70s with their routines on programs like *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Mr. Stiller returned to prominence in *Seinfeld* and *The King of Queens*. One or both of the Stillers have also appeared with their son Ben in *Heavyweights* and other films.

JANICE YOUNG, producer and director for *Nature* at WNET, has been with the series for nearly twenty years, working primarily on post-production aspects of every program, including favorites like *Silence of the Bees* and *Hummingbirds*.