

SAVORING THE CLASSICAL TRADITION IN DRAMA

ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS BY
THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD

IN PROUD COLLABORATION WITH

THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

THE WNDC IN WASHINGTON

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION



STEPHEN BURDMAN ♦ Monday, January 29

As we enter the second half of our 2017-18 season we're delighted to do so with **STEPHEN BURDMAN**, founder and artistic director of the **New York Classical Theatre**, a fully professional company that offers admission-free performances in such atmospheric settings as Central Park, Governors Island, Prospect Park, and The Battery. Established in 2000, and specializing in what Mr. Burdman calls "Panoramic Theatre," NYCT has staged 39 productions, presenting classics not only by Shakespeare but by such dramatists as Chekhov, Moliere, Schiller, Shaw, and Sheridan. A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Burdman holds an MFA from the University of California, Irvine, and has



NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
15 Gramercy Park South
Manhattan
PROGRAM 8:00 P.M.
Admission Free, But
Reservations Requested

served in consulting and leadership roles for NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs, the Shakespeare Theatre Association, the Alliance of Resident Theatres, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

KEITH BAXTER ♦ Thursday, February 1

KEITH BAXTER is probably best known as the Prince Hal who shared scenes with such legends as **Orson Welles** (Falstaff) and **Sir John Gielgud** (King Henry IV) in *Chimes at Midnight*, a renowned 1966 Welles film. One of Britain's most versatile dramatic artists, Mr. Baxter played a supporting role to Paul Scofield's Thomas More in the Broadway version of *A Man for All Seasons*. In D.C. he has appeared in many roles at what is now the **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, as the Duke in *Measure for Measure*, for example, as the King in *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, and currently as the Gravedigger in *Hamlet*. He has directed several classics for the company, and he has scripted two



plays of his own. He has also graced two **GIELGUD AWARD** ceremonies, conveying messages from Sir John to Dame Judi Dench in 1999 and to Kenneth Branagh in 2000. Meanwhile he has enriched our libraries with *My Sentiments Exactly*, a charming memoir.



ELEANOR BERGSTEIN ♦ Wednesday, February 28

Dirty Dancing, a heartwarming film that has enchanted viewers since 1987, is now thrilling audiences as a record-setting musical, touring the globe with simultaneous productions on four continents and in more than a twenty nations on a cavalcade that will soon be halfway through its second decade. **ELEANOR BERGSTEIN** based her coming-of-age story on a summer she enjoyed at a Catskills resort in 1963, and she drew upon *Romeo and Juliet* and other archetypes as she and a cast that starred Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze brought it to the screen and delighted us with a score that featured some of our era's most memorable songs. She then created a stage



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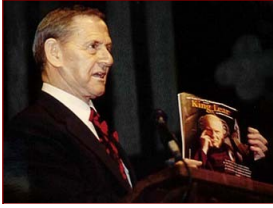
vehicle that took London's **ALDWYCH THEATRE** by storm and has gone on to thrill playgoers in every cultural setting imaginable. Please join us for a unforgettable evening with an artist who can legitimately claim to be "the original *Dirty Dancing* dancer."



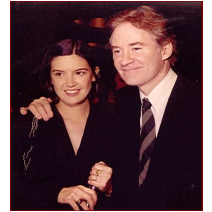
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Founded in 1987, THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD is now in its fourth decade. Since 1994 it has been known primarily for its *GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS*, a trophy created with the enthusiastic endorsement of Sir John, and one that has 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 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 have 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, Sir Richard Eyre, Clive Francis, Stephen Fry, Bernard Gersten, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 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 Pimpton, 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, Judith Martin, John Miller, 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 Lentic Performing Arts Center, the New Mexico Museum of Art, San Miguel Mission, 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, universities, libraries, museums, and other not-for-profit 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.

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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.