

JOHN F. ANDREWS OBE

JOHN F. ANDREWS is an editor, educator, and cultural leader with wide experience as a writer, lecturer, consultant, and event producer. From 1974 to 1984 he enjoyed a decade as Director of Academic Programs at the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**. In that capacity he redesigned and augmented the scope and appeal of *SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY*, supervised the Library's book-publishing operation, and orchestrated a period of dynamic growth in the **FOLGER INSTITUTE**, a center for advanced studies in the Renaissance whose outreach he extended and whose consortium grew under his guidance from five co-sponsoring universities to twenty-two, with Duke, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Penn, Penn State, Princeton, Rutgers, Virginia, and Yale among the additions. During his time at the Folger, Mr. Andrews also raised more than four million dollars in grant funds and helped organize and promote the library's multifaceted eight-city touring exhibition, *SHAKESPEARE: THE GLOBE AND THE WORLD*, which opened in San Francisco in October 1979 and proceeded to popular engagements in Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, and Washington. Between 1979 and 1985 Mr. Andrews chaired America's National Advisory Panel for *THE SHAKESPEARE PLAYS*, the BBC/TIME-LIFE TELEVISION canon. He then became one of the creative principals for *THE SHAKESPEARE HOUR*, a fifteen-week, five-play PBS recasting of the original series, with brief documentary segments in each installment to illuminate key themes; these one-hour programs aired in the spring of 1986 with Walter Matthau as host and Morgan Bank and NEH as primary sponsors.



From 1984 to 1988 Mr. Andrews worked as Deputy Director of Education Programs at the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**. A few years later, in 1992-93, he produced a white paper, *Aiming Higher*, as a consultant for the Office of Postsecondary Education at the **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**.

In 1985 Mr. Andrews published a widely acclaimed 3-volume Scribners reference set, *William Shakespeare: His World, His Work, His Influence*, with Jacques Barzun, Anthony Burgess, Sir John Gielgud, Jonathan Miller, John Simon, and Sir Peter Ustinov among its 60 contributors. In early 2001 he completed a 3-volume, student-oriented companion set, *Shakespeare's World and Work*. From 1988 to 1992 Mr. Andrews edited a 19-volume annotated compilation of the poet's works, *THE GUILD SHAKESPEARE*, for the Doubleday Book & Music Clubs. He then proceeded to a more detailed 16-volume paperback collection of selected plays, *THE EVERYMAN SHAKESPEARE*, for J. M. Dent Publishers in London. For both editions Mr. Andrews obtained forewords from prominent actors and directors, among them F. Murray Abraham, Brian Bedford, Claire Bloom, Zoe Caldwell, Charles Dance, John Gielgud, Julie Harris, Helen Hayes, Hal Holbrook, Celeste Holm, John Houseman, Jeremy Irons, Derek Jacobi, James Earl Jones, Kevin Kline, Michael Langham, Alec McCowen, Kelly McGillis, Adrian Noble, Christopher Plummer, Tony Randall, Ian Richardson, Donald Sinden, and Patrick Stewart. Mr. Andrews has also written and spoken about Shakespeare's role in the Lincoln assassination; details from his October 1990 article in *The Atlantic* appeared on PBS in Ken Burns's *The Civil War*.

In 1987 Mr. Andrews founded **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD**, a global nonprofit organization to foster a deeper appreciation of the world's most influential writer. In 1994, after Mr. Andrews secured the blessing of its namesake, the Guild established the *SIR JOHN GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS*. Devised to preserve a stellar performer's "praise" and perpetuate his "character with golden quill" (Sonnet 85), the trophy was unveiled during an April 1994 Folger reception at which Robert MacNeil, Tony Randall, Susan Stamberg, and sculptor John Safer saluted Sir John on his 90th birthday. *THE GOLDEN QUILL* was presented for the first time in May 1996, at a sparkling benefit for the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**. On that occasion Brian Bedford, Edward Gero, Kelly McGillis, Lynn Redgrave, and James Roose-Evans participated in a revel that paid tribute not only to Sir John but to *Sir Ian McKellen*, the first recipient of the accolade. In April 1997 the Guild honored *Sir Derek Jacobi* with its second annual *GIELGUD AWARD* during a 65th-anniversary Folger gala, hosted by Dame Diana Rigg, that featured the music of Marvin Hamlisch and a *pas de deux* from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* by the principal dancers of Edward Villella's Miami City Ballet. Ancillary activities ranged from a lovely **WHITE HOUSE** reception, presided over by First Lady Hillary Clinton, to a luncheon carried on C-SPAN and NPR from the **NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**. The Guild presented its third *GIELGUD AWARD* in April 1998 to *Zoe Caldwell* in festivities, emceed by Robert MacNeil, that showcased author George Plimpton, Broadway stars David Loud and Audra McDonald, and producer Robert Whitehead. For its 1999 *GOLDEN QUILL* presentation, the Guild moved to New York's **BARRYMORE THEATRE** for a May "Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen." The honoree was *Dame Judi Dench*, and participants included host Robert MacNeil, dramatist Sir David Hare, director Sir Richard Eyre, WGBH producer Rebecca Eaton, and actors Keith Baxter, Brian Bedford, Zoe Caldwell, Hal Holbrook, Ronald Pickup, Christopher Plummer, and Toby Stephens. For its January 2000 *GIELGUD* ceremony the Guild drew more than 450 patrons, nearly half of them American, to London's historic **MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL** for a salute to Shakespeare as "The Man of Millennium" and to actor, director, and producer *Kenneth Branagh* as an artist who had helped transform him into today's hottest screenwriter. The festivities commenced at the **BRITISH ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS (BAFTA)**

with a preview of the honoree's musical version of *Love's Labour's Lost*. Heading a lustrous evening program were such stars as Keith Baxter, Samantha Bond, Richard Briers, Helena Bonham Carter, Dame Judi Dench, Stephen Fry, Bob Hoskins, Sir Derek Jacobi, Geraldine McEwan, and Timothy Spall. The next **GOLDEN QUILL** ceremony took place at New York's **LINCOLN CENTER** in June 2002, with **Kevin Kline**, the first American to be lauded in Gielgud's name, being toasted, and at times roasted, by writer Adam Gopnik, producers Barry Edelstein, Bernard Gersten, and Margot Harley, and actors John Cleese, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Bill Irwin, Dana Ivey, Tony Randall, and Roger Rees. In May 2003 the Guild moved to Gramercy Park's **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**, with **Lynn Redgrave** being honored in festivities that included remarks by her brother Corin, her sister Vanessa, screenwriter Bill Condon, actress Kathleen Chalfant, and producer Elizabeth McCann. On April 19, 2004, the Guild joined the **ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART** and the **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** for a **GIELGUD CENTENARY GALA** in the London theatre that had been renamed for Sir John in 1994. Its cast included the BBC's Ned Sherrin, writers 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, Ronald Pickup, Ian Richardson, Paul Scofield, and Sir Donald Sinden. More recent **GIELGUD** gatherings have honored actor **Christopher Plummer** (in a June 2006 ceremony that featured Zoe Caldwell and Lynn Redgrave at Manhattan's **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**), director **Michael Kahn** (in a May 2007 reception, hosted by Sir David and Lady Manning and including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, at the **BRITISH EMBASSY** in Washington), actor **Patrick Stewart** (in a March 2008 **NAC** gala with UK Ambassador Sir Nigel Sheinwald, pianist Emanuel Ax, and performers F. Murray Abraham, Kate Fleetwood, Whoopi Goldberg, and Joel Grey, and director David Jones), and actor **F. Murray Abraham** (in a September 2010 **NAC** ceremony with Robert Brustein, Tom Hulce, and Jerry Stiller & Anne Meara among the presenters). The Guild now presents its **GIELGUD** trophies as part of the annual **UK THEATRE AWARDS** luncheon in London's venerable **GUILDHALL**. Recent recipients have been **Sir Donald Sinden** (2014), **Dame Eileen Atkins** (2015), **Vanessa Redgrave CBE** (2016), **Sir David Hare** (2017), **Sir Richard Eyre** (2018), and **Sir Cameron Mackintosh** (2019).

Other Guild-sponsored events have taken place in collaboration with partners like the AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE THEATER AT THE KENNEDY CENTER, CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT, the CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART, the DISNEY INSTITUTE, the FRENCH EMBASSY, the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, and THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. Through a **SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE** series that has been offered in settings that include the BRITISH EMBASSY and the NATIONAL PRESS CLUB in Washington, the CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER in the Windy City, and the ALGONQUIN HOTEL, the NATIONAL ARTS CLUB, THE PLAYERS, and the SCHIMMEL CENTER in New York, the Guild has extolled writers Edward Albee, Michael Frayn, Anthony Hecht, Ken Ludwig, Peter Shaffer, and Garry Wills, director Peter Brook, actors Simon Russell Beale, Henry Goodman, and Michael York, journalists Michael Dirda, John Lahr, Judith Martin, Cokie Roberts, Deborah Tannen, and other notables.

Mr. Andrews has been interviewed on a variety of radio and television stations, among them WTBS-TV in Atlanta, WDAF-TV in Kansas City, WOR-TV and WQXR-FM in New York, and WAMU-FM, WETA-FM, and WGMS-FM in Washington. He's been a guest on WETA-FM's "Desert Island Discs," on the VOICE OF AMERICA, on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, and *Weekend Edition* programs, on PBS's *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, on *CBS News Nightwatch* with Charlie Rose, and on London's *SKY NEWS*. In April 1984 Mr. Andrews' satirical remarks about historian A. L. Rowse's "translation" of Shakespeare into quasi-modern English were quoted in *Time*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New York Times Magazine* (Russell Baker's "Sunday Observer"). In April 1986 Mr. Andrews was profiled in a *Washington Post* article, "Shakespeare by Stages," by drama critic Richard L. Coe. His speaking engagements, including presentations on the *Queen Elizabeth 2*, have taken him to Canada, Egypt, England, Japan, and throughout the U.S. He has published in *The American Scholar*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other periodicals. And events he arranged as Executive Director of ESU WASHINGTON (2001-7) appeared on the BBC and on C-SPAN2's *Book TV*, among them a 2001 talk by British statesman Roy Jenkins and a 2007 chat with *To Sir, With Love*'s E. R. Braithwaite.

From 1979 to 1982 Mr. Andrews was a Trustee of the SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. He has also served on the boards of Chicago's NEWBERRY LIBRARY CENTER FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES, New York's THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE, Santa Fe's KSFR radio, state humanities councils in both the District of Columbia and New Mexico, and the MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION. A native of Carlsbad, New Mexico, Mr. Andrews holds degrees from Princeton (A.B., 1965), Harvard (M.A.T., 1966), and Vanderbilt (Ph.D., 1971). He has taught at several universities, among them Tennessee (1969-70), Florida State (1970-74), Catholic (1989-90, 1995), Georgetown (1990-97), and George Washington (1991). On June 19, 2000, during a ceremony at the BRITISH EMBASSY in Washington, Mr. Andrews was inducted, as an Honorary Officer, into the MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. He is married to Janet A. Denton, a noted policy analyst and visual artist, and he has two children, Eric Andrews, senior programmer for Expedia, who resides with his wife Annika and their three children in Seattle, and Lisa Hobart, marketing strategist for Surgent CPE, who lives with her three sons in Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. For more detail, see *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*.