

SAVORING THE CLASSICAL TRADITION IN DRAMA

ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS BY
THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
AND THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION



FLORA FRASER ♦ February 23



An acclaimed biographer and a charming conversationalist, **FLORA FRASER** is the daughter of writer **Lady Antonia Fraser** and statesman **Sir Hugh Fraser**, the granddaughter of another eminent author, **Elizabeth Longford**, and the stepdaughter of dramatist **Sir Harold Pinter**, who won the Nobel Prize for literature. Among Ms. Fraser's numerous books are *The Unruly Queen: The Life of Queen Caroline* (1997), *Beloved Emma: The Life of Emma, Lady Hamilton* (2004), and *Princesses: The Six Daughters of George III* (2006). She'll introduce her latest publication, *Pauline Bonaparte: Venus of Empire*, a study of the Emperor's favorite sibling. Thanks to our friends at **KNOPF**, copies will be available at a discount for purchase and for inscription by the speaker. During a dialogue with the **GUILD's John Andrews**, Ms. Fraser will also share some ideas about Virginia Woolf and her ruminations on Shakespeare's fictional sister Judith.

NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

15 Gramercy Park South
Manhattan

Program 8:00 p.m.
Members \$25 Others \$30

BURNETT THOMPSON & CASEY BIGGS ♦ March 16

What do Shakespeare and jazz have in common? You'll find out that Duke Ellington wasn't the only artist with an answer to that question when you join us for an evening of melody and verse with composer **BURNETT THOMPSON** and actor **CASEY BIGGS**. They'll present, and then discuss, several of the playwright's most touching sonnets, with Mr. Thompson offering piano variations in response to Mr. Biggs' evocative readings.



BURNETT THOMPSON has collaborated with **New York Philharmonic** director **Lorin Maazel** and taught master classes in Shanghai and other settings. He's performed in such venues as **Carnegie Hall**, the **Kennedy Center**, and the **National Gallery of Art**. *The Washington Post* has described his playing as "music for the head and heart."

CASEY BIGGS has appeared in dozens of stage productions, among them *Shakespeare in Hollywood* and *Long Day's Journey into Night* at Washington's **Arena Stage**, the first theater in the country to win a regional Tony Award. His directing credits include such classics as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Richard III*. But he'll be most familiar for his many appearances in film (in features such as *Broken Arrow* and *The Pelican Brief*) and on television (for example, *Crossing Jordan*, *CSI: Miami*, *ER*, *General Hospital*, *Matlock*, and *Ryan's Hope*). Fans of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* will recognize him for his stirring role in that series as the Cardassian Damar.



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Spring Attractions in the Guild's Popular SOS Series

On Monday, May 11, our guests will be Artistic Director **BARBARA GAINES** and Education Director **MARILYN HALPERIN** of the **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER**, winner of the 2008 regional Tony Award.

On Monday, June 8, we'll chat with another leading figure, Artistic Director **TINA PACKER** of **SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY** in Massachusetts. Contact shakesguild@msn.com for details.



Join the Guild, and Greet the Stars EVENTS IN LONDON, NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON

If you attended *A SHAKESPEAREAN REVEL AT LINCOLN CENTER* in 2002, you relished such personalities as actors **JOHN CLEESE**, **KITTY CARLISLE HART**, **DANA IVEY**, and **TONY RANDALL**, writer **ADAM GOPNIK**, and directors **BERNARD GERSTEN** and **MARGOT HARLEY** in a toast to **KEVIN KLINE** as that year's recipient of the *GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS*. It



was a joyous occasion, but like its 2003 sequel with **LYNN REDGRAVE** as laureate and her brother **CORIN** and her sister **VANESSA** as presenters at the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**, it was also substantive, with remarks not only about the honoree's achievements but about the heritage they illustrate. In this respect it echoed a 1999 gala at Broadway's **BARRYMORE**



THEATRE, where **ZOE CALDWELL**, who'd won a 1998 *GIELGUD* at the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**, led a cavalcade of notables – actors **KEITH BAXTER**, **BRIAN BEDFORD**, **HAL HOLBROOK**, **RONALD PICKUP**, **CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER**, and **TOBY STEPHENS**, dramatist **SIR DAVID HARE**, director **SIR RICHARD EYRE**, *Masterpiece Theatre* producer **REBECCA EATON**, and news host **ROBERT MACNEIL** – in a tribute to **DAME JUDI DENCH**. A few months later **DAME JUDI** and another *GIELGUD* honoree, **SIR DEREK JACOBI**, were among the hosts for a 2000 presentation to performer, director, and filmmaker **KENNETH BRANAGH** in London's historic **MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**. This Bardic *SALUTE TO "THE MAN OF THE MILLENNIUM"* featured vignettes by U.S. Ambassador **PHILIP LADER**, composer **PATRICK DOYLE**, and actors **SAMANTHA BOND**, **RICHARD BRIERS**, **HELENA BONHAM CARTER**, **RICHARD CLIFFORD**, **BEN ELTON**, **STEPHEN FRY**, **BOB HOSKINS**, **GERALDINE MCEWAN**, and **TIMOTHY SPALL**.

On April 19, 2004, in the London theatre that had been renamed for Sir John in 1994, a few months after the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD** unveiled a gleaming **JOHN SAFER** trophy to perpetuate a gifted actor's legacy "with golden quill" (Sonnet 85), the **GUILD** combined forces with the **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** and the **ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART** to celebrate the centenary of Sir John's birth. During an evening hosted by the **BBC's NED SHERRIN**, 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** commended their late-departed friend. On June 12, 2006, the **GUILD** returned to the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB** for a Manhattan salute to **CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER**, who was toasted by **JULIE ANDREWS**, **ZOE CALDWELL**, **CLIVE FRANCIS**, **NAC President ALDON JAMES**, **ROBERT MACNEIL**, **AUDRA McDONALD**, and **LYNN REDGRAVE**. A few months later, on May 21, 2007, the **GUILD** joined the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** at Washington's **BRITISH EMBASSY** for a reception at which **SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING**, **JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG**, performers **HELEN CAREY** and **TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN**, and other leaders feted **MICHAEL KAHN**, artistic director of the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**, for his contributions to the cultural life of the Nation's Capital. On March 10, 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**.

In recent years, through events in locales such as the **NATIONAL PRESS CLUB** in D.C., the **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER** in Illinois, and the **ALGONQUIN HOTEL** in New York, **GUILD** attendees have chatted with actors **JANE ALEXANDER**, **SIMON RUSSELL BEALE**, **HENRY GOODMAN**, **BILL IRWIN**, **MICHAEL LEARNED**, **ROGER REES**, **PRUNELLA SCALES**, **JANET SUZMAN**, **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**, **MICHAEL FRAYN**, **STEPHEN GREENBLATT**, **ANTHONY HECHT**, **KEN LUDWIG**, **JUDITH MARTIN**, **GAIL PASTER**, **PETER SHAFFER**, **JAMES SHAPIRO**, **JESSEE SHEIDLLOWER**, **DEBORAH TANNEN**, and **GARRY WILLS**. **GUILD** constituents enjoy member prices at all *SPEAKING* engagements. In addition, those who affiliate as **SUBSCRIBERS** receive 15% discounts on tickets for our annual *GIELGUD* gala. **CONTRIBUTORS** enjoy 20% discounts, **DONORS** 25%, and **BENEFACTORS** 30%. **PATRONS** receive 4 prime tickets free, and 35% reductions on further tickets. **SUSTAINERS** receive 10 prime tickets free and 40% discounts on further tickets. Any payments not offset by benefits claimed are fully tax-deductible.

I wish _ to make a tax-deductible donation, or _ to enroll as a **GUILD** member in the _ **SUBSCRIBER** (\$50), _ **CONTRIBUTOR** (\$125), _ **DONOR** (\$250), _ **BENEFACTOR** (\$500), _ **PATRON** (\$1,000), _ **SUSTAINER** (\$2,500) category. Please reserve _ space(s) at \$25, _ space(s) at \$30, for Feb. 23; _ space(s) at \$25, _ space(s) at \$30, for Mar. 16. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____. Charge \$ _____ to _ **AMERICAN EXPRESS** _ **MASTERCARD** _ **VISA** account _____ (____/____).

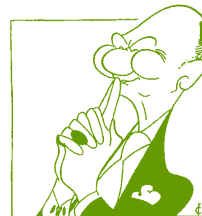
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*Presenter of the GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS
Established in 1994 to Honor Sir John and to Perpetuate his Legacy*

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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.