

Rodger Barton – I am a graduate of the UBC Theatre Program and The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School two-year acting programme, and have had a diverse career acting on stage, film, TV and commercials. For thirty years I also coached hundreds of Toronto actors to get into schools or land parts in professional theatres. My 12-play, abridged Shakespearean series encourages teachers and students all over the world to **practice** and refine Shakespeare's characters, out loud. Through this practice students learn iconic stories, rich vocabulary, playful syntax and develop oral communication skills so important for future success. Some may even become actors.



Keith Knight Keith Knight was a professional actor for 30 years and worked in every province in Canada. He was a member of Second City Toronto for 2 years and the Shaw Festival for 8. He was a regular on a number of television series and was a very busy voice actor, voicing more than 50 cartoon series over 20 years. Behind the scenes Keith taught for several years at Equity Showcase and directed a dozen plays. Keith had thousands of books and tapes: you could google it or ask Keith Knight. Keith was my Bard-buddy and best friend for 25 years. He helped me create the 12-play shakespeareoutloud.ca series and stage some of this show. Keith passed 16 years ago, and I still miss him daily

Jeanette Gascho – Shirt and handkerchief maker supreme, professional counsellor extraordinaire, former lighting designer, Mennonite who knows several languages, much music, all about growing vegetables, murdering midnight tomato worms, protecting chickens, raising goats, pulling weeds, cooking foods, saving stray animals, the proper use of words and loving children. Everything I create gets vetted by Jeanette – she misses nothing. Often, she just teaches with silence.

I wish you could all enjoy such talented and tempered co-creators.



Doris, Will and Me

I do this show for your pleasure and my challenge. It is many of the best bits collected from lots of sources, some practiced for many years, some brand new - all hopefully served with an intent and style which Shakespeare would have approved. Will was addicted to the antithesis of the human condition. This proclivity for antithetical thought made him deeply funny and profound.

I composed the connective tissue, but 75% of the show is the writing of Shakespeare and others. The show has had different content and titles through the years, but now, at its most mature, it even includes mom. Unlike my previous versions, created primarily for students, this show contains my story, and was created for my own age group – boomers!

All the writers and characters in this show have passed, so I get to say all the words. That's the real drama of the piece for me – will it kill me along the way? Will mother remain sober enough to save me? Buckle-up!

Act 1

Hamlet *Speak the speech* *A Mirror up to Nature*

Jacques *As You Like It* *Seven Ages of Man*

52 Shakespearean phrases

Sonnet 29 *Fortune and Men's Eyes*

Hotspur *Henry IV, Part I* *I did deny no prisoners*

Dromio *The Comedy of Errors* *She's the kitchen wench!*

London smells

James I

London night

Clergy ranting against the theatre

Visiting the Globe theatre for the first time

Titania *A Midsummer Night's Dream* *Forgeries of Jealousy*

Juliet *Romeo and Juliet* Vial Speech

4th Chorus *Henry V*

Henry V *Henry V* *St Crispin's Day Speech*

Romeo and Juliet at the window after their one night together

Intermission

Act 2

The Gull's Hornbook (a fool's instructional manual)

The bucolic life of Henry Hastings

London, morning – the plague raging

Cutting Ball's scam of stealing from plague victims

Hamlet *Hamlet* *To be or not to be*

Bear Baiting

Duke of Gloucester *Henry VI, part 3* WS longest monologue

Bottom *A Midsummer Night's Dream* waking alone

Prospero *The Tempest* Shakespeare's goodbye to the stage

Elizabethan Insults (*for the car ride home*)

bunch-backed malignancy clay-brained lackey

yeasty mad-bred leper lean-witted turd

weak-hinged baboon ass-headed knob

ill-breeding hedge-pig evil-eyed she-fox

pale-hearted puke-stocking rug-headed boor

adulterate ill-breeding mongrel ill-composed rudespy

Thou bawdy hedge-born boar-pig Thou illiterate loiterer