

## Syllabus: Shakespeare's Ms-Takes

As we unlock new meanings by reconsidering the ways in which women's roles can be performed, many other aspects of these plays open up to unexpected nuances. For example, we will conduct a profound consideration of Shakespeare's shaping of interpretive openness via philosophical and psychological underscores, as well as via his use of rhythm and meter. Renowned actresses Nancy Carlin and Joy Carlin will perform passages that vibrate with alternate meaning. International designer Annie Smart will discuss, in week three, the interpretive importance of design. She will also discuss how she goes about design as a member of the creative team.

Week One: Dr. Kelly (with Nancy Carlin): *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: What's love to do with it? Shakespeare's dramatic exploration of gender, youth, age and the law.

Week Two: Dr Kelly (with Nancy Carlin): *Romeo and Juliet*: The birth of love and the arc of tragedy: tragedy as a comedy's inverse mirror, and women making patriarchy's inverse laws.

Week Three: Designer Annie Smart: Stage design as an interpretive tool: Berkeley and the Royal Court

Week Four: Dr Kelly (with Joy Carlin): The meaning of majesty: *King Lear* and the dethroning of identity - must Lear be a man?

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION:

In this course experienced professional actors Nancy Carlin and Joy Carlin perform famous monologues in different interpretive tones that highlight themes of gender and power in very different ways. There will be passages from *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Lear*. So many productions of these three plays "lock" characters - particularly women - into certain interpretive positions. What happens when we perform these passages differently to unlock very different meanings?

Team Leader **Philippa Kelly** serves as Resident Dramaturg for the California Shakespeare Theater and Napa Shakes, as well as production dramaturg for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and many other regional theaters. She also runs a year-round community theater appreciation group, Berkeley Theater Explorations: contact [siegelbooks@jps.net](mailto:siegelbooks@jps.net). Philippa's work has won grants from the Fulbright, Rockefeller, and Walter and Elise Hall Foundations, as well as the Commonwealth Awards and the California Arts Council. Her many university fellowships have been granted by the University of California, Irvine, the University of California, Berkeley, Oxford University, the University of New South Wales, Sydney University, and the Australian National University. She has published numerous books and articles, and can be found all summer long (except for Thursdays 1-3 in June!) at the beloved Bruns in Orinda, conducting audience enrichment at the California Shakespeare Theater.

**Joy Carlin** is possibly the most renowned actress and director in the Bay Area, having starred in countless plays and directed countless others, even being cast in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine*. *If you look on google, you will see the numerous articles that have been written about Joy - she is way too modest to write about herself.*

**Nancy Carlin** is a renowned actress (stage and screen), director, professor, and voice and text coach. Nancy's reach is enormous, and at any one time she is conducting multiple projects. She has been described as the "quiet, mighty force" of Bay Area theater.

**Annie Smart** has designed productions for the Royal Court in London, the Berkeley Repertory Theater, the California Shakespeare Theater, and others too numerous to name. She also teaches as professor at the University of California, Berkeley.