

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, launching its 25th Anniversary Season this year, Chicago Shakespeare Theater is a Tony award-winning theater company based in a state-of-the-art facility on Navy Pier; and,

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five years, Chicago Shakespeare Theater has grown from a modest Shakespeare theater operating out of a dance auditorium on Chicago's north side to become one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions and one of America's largest and most respected nonprofit theaters; and,

WHEREAS, with the plays of William Shakespeare forming the core of the company's work, Chicago Shakespeare Theater offers a broad spectrum of theatrical experiences year-round, engaging and entertaining audiences from all walks of life and from around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago Shakespeare Theater strives to share its uniquely American brand of Shakespeare with the world, while also bringing to Chicago some of the best international theatrical productions the world has to offer, presenting new cultural expressions and experiences for audiences and artists alike; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago Shakespeare Theater is committed to making theater an expansive, ever-changing and lifelong relationship, providing performances geared towards family audiences, and conducting educational outreach programs in classrooms throughout the Midwest; and,

WHEREAS, for the past several years, on Shakespeare's birthday, April 23, Chicago Shakespeare Theater has marked the event by creating Talk Like Shakespeare Day – a day on which all citizens are encouraged to express their inner thespian, incorporating Shakespearean lines into everyday conversation; and,

WHEREAS, over the course of his life, Shakespeare wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets, but, Shakespeare's writings were not only a monumental contribution to literature, they also greatly influenced the English language; and,

WHEREAS, Shakespeare single-handedly contributed over 1,700 words and innumerable phrases to the English language, including but not limited to "laughable," majestic," "eyeball," "full circle," "a sorry sight," and "strange bedfellows"; and,

WHEREAS, this year, the 447th birthday of William Shakespeare has particular significance to the people of the Land of Lincoln as Chicago Shakespeare Theater once again celebrates Talk Like Shakespeare Day, in conjunction with its 25th Anniversary Season:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2011 as **TALK LIKE SHAKESPEARE DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of Chicago Shakespeare Theater's artistic achievements and contributions to the growth of theatre locally and nationally, and encourage all citizens to celebrate Shakespeare and the legacy of the language on this day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this SEVENTEENTH day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
ELEVEN, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Deesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR