



THE 2008 GIELGUD AWARD GALA

A Festive Salute to Patrick Stewart

Toasts by U.K. Ambassador SIR NIGEL SHEINWALD, Director MICHAEL KAHN, Members of a Stellar *MACBETH* Cast, and Other Special Guests

We hope you'll join us for a tribute to one of the most versatile artists of our time, a man whose portrayal of the title character in *Macbeth* has garnered the **EVENING STANDARD AWARD** and has been nominated to receive an **OLIVIER** trophy for a production that filled every seat last autumn in London's **GIELGUD THEATRE**. That performance is now thrilling jam-packed audiences at the **BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC**. And in an enthusiastic February 15 review for the *New York Times*, critic **Ben Brantley** extols the "fearsome insight and theatrical fire" that **PATRICK STEWART** brings to the protagonist. According to Brantley, Stewart delivers "a Thane of Cawdor who has the intellectual richness and ambivalence of the Prince of Denmark. That gift may be Macbeth's killing curse, but it's a theatergoer's blessing."

Most familiar to many admirers as Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the charismatic figure he played on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, **PATRICK STEWART** has been praised by the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD's** inaugural **GIELGUD AWARD** recipient, Sir Ian McKellen, as "one of the great Shakespearians of our time." In recent years these remarkable actors have co-starred in a popular *X-Men* film series, but their ties go back three decades, to when they began working together at the **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**. Both excelled during the **RSC's** ambitious **COMPLETE WORKS** festival in 2005-7, with Stewart as male lead in *Antony and Cleopatra* and as Prospero in *The Tempest*, and with McKellen as the monarch in a *King Lear* that has placed him, too, in contention for a prestigious British theatre prize to be announced on Sunday, March 9.

In a profile that appeared Sunday, January 27, in the *New York Times*, reporter **Sarah Lyall** observes that **PATRICK STEWART** "is in the midst of a third act in his unlikely career that brings him full circle: back to England and back to the Shakespeare of his youth. And while his earlier professional life" in the United Kingdom "was, by his own estimation, 'very sound but never spectacular,' his new incarnation . . . has been a revelation. Critics who sniffed that he had sold out to 'zoom about television screens in a preposterous spacesuit' have showered him with perhaps the highest compliment they can conjure." Ms. Lyall notes that "Mr. Stewart's latest performance, in the title role of Rupert Goold's stunningly staged 'Macbeth,' which opened at the Chichester Festival last summer" before "its subsequent West End run," has "inspired several British newspaper critics to pronounce it the 'Macbeth' of a lifetime, the best they have ever seen."

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Full-Bar Reception 6:30

Elegant Dinner 7:15

Ceremony 8:30

NATIONAL ARTS CLUB

15 Gramercy Park South
New York City

Select Seating \$250

Choice Seating \$500

Prime Seating \$1,000

BLACK TIE



A Yorkshire native, Mr. Stewart trained in Bristol and arrived at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1966, where he found himself in the company of young talents like **Ben Kingsley** and **Ian Richardson**. He debuted on Broadway as Snout in **Peter Brook's** legendary rendering of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Among his other roles with the **RSC** were acclaimed portrayals of Enobarbus in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Leontes in *The Winter's Tale*, and Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. His TV credits prior to the one for which he is best known today included Lenin in *Fall of Eagles*, Sejanus in *I, Claudius*, Karla in *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, and Claudius in a **BBC Hamlet** with **Derek Jacobi** as the Prince.

In 1987, after one of **Gene Roddenberry's** producers heard him speak at **UCLA** during a tour to promote theatre education, Mr. Stewart signed on for a multi-year commitment to *Star Trek*, which became a phenomenally successful television series that spawned several blockbuster spinoffs at the cinema. These led to such engaging movie roles as a supercilious maitre'd in Steve Martin's

LA Story (1991), as Sterling in *Jeffrey* (1995), as John in *Let It Be Me* (1995), as Dr. Jonas in *Conspiracy Theory* (1997), as Captain Ahab in *Moby-Dick* (1998), and as Professor Charles Xavier in six *X-Men* features (2000 through 2006). Meanwhile Mr. Stewart continued to win accolades in such imaginative stage vehicles as a solo version of *A Christmas Carol*, for which he depicted all of Dickens' characters and collected a **DRAMA DESK** award in New York (1992) and an **OLIVIER** in London (1994).

For this revel the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD** joins hands with the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**, where it offers monthly *SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE* dialogues, and with the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, whose New York branch has co-sponsored these and other **GUILD** activities. A portion of the proceeds will benefit **ESU** endeavors like the **NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION**, a much-praised initiative for the edification of students and teachers. Seating assignments and recognition in the printed program will be based on levels of support, and **all but \$100 of the price for each ticket will be tax-deductible** as a donation. **Special Discounts** are available to those who belong to the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD**. They save **15%** as **Subscribers**, for example, **20%** as **Contributors**, and **25%** as **Benefactors**. For details about affiliation, and about arranging to attend this special evening, please see the reverse side of this announcement.

Join the Guild, and Greet the Stars

EVENTS IN LONDON, NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON



If you attended *A SHAKESPEAREAN REVEL AT LINCOLN CENTER* a few Junes back, 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 the 2002 recipient of the **GIELGUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS**. It was a joyous occasion, but like its predecessors, and like its



sequel a year later with **LYNN REDGRAVE** as **GIELGUD** laureate and with her brother **CORIN** and her sister **VANESSA** as presenters at the **NATIONAL ARTS CLUB**, it was also substantive, with scintillating remarks not only about the honoree's achievements but about the heritage they illustrate. In this respect it echoed a May 1999 presentation at



Broadway's **BARRYMORE THEATRE**, where **ZOE CALDWELL**, who had won the 1998 **GOLDEN QUILL** at the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**, led a parade of theatrical celebrities – actors **KEITH BAXTER**, **BRIAN BEDFORD**, **HAL HOLBROOK**, **RONALD PICKUP**, **CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER**, and **TOBY STEPHENS**, playwright **Sir DAVID HARE**, director **Sir RICHARD EYRE**, *Masterpiece Theatre* producer **REBECCA EATON**, and news host **ROBERT MACNEIL** – in a sparkling tribute to Dame **JUDI DENCH**. A few months later Dame **JUDI** and another **GIELGUD** honoree, **Sir DEREK JACOBI**, were among the hosts for a January 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**.

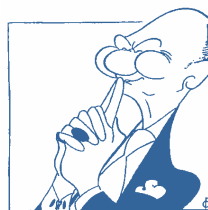
On April 19, 2004, in the London theatre that had been renamed for Sir John in 1994, a few months after the **SHAKESPEARE GUILD** unveiled a gleaming **JOHN SAFER** trophy to perpetuate a gifted actor's legacy "with golden quill" (Sonnet 85), the Guild combined forces with the **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** and the **ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART** for a celebration of the centenary of Sir John's birth. In an evening that was 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**, **RONALD PICKUP**, **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 the **BRITISH EMBASSY** in Washington for a reception at which **SIR DAVID AND LADY MANNING**, **JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG**, performers **HELEN CAREY** and **TED VAN GRIETHUYSEN**, and other notables feted **MICHAEL KAHN**, artistic director of the **SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**, for his contributions to the cultural life of the Nation's Capital.

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**, **RICHARD EASTON**, **HENRY GOODMAN**, **BILL IRWIN**, **MICHAEL LEARNED**, **ROGER REES**, **PRUNELLA SCALES**, **JANET SUZMAN**, **MICHAEL YORK**, and **TIMOTHY WEST**, directors **PETER BROOK** and **ROBERT WHITEHEAD**, media leaders **COKIE ROBERTS**, **SUSAN STAMBERG**, and **LINDA WERTHEIMER**, and writers **E. R. BRAITHWAITE**, **Sir HAROLD EVANS**, **MICHAEL FRAYN**, **GEORGE GARRETT**, **STEPHEN GREENBLATT**, **ANTHONY HECHT**, **KEN LUDWIG**, **JUDITH MARTIN**, **JAMES SHAPIRO**, **DEBORAH TANNEN**, and **GARRY WILLS**. **GUILD** constituents enjoy member prices at all **SPEAKING** engagements. In addition, those who affiliate with the **GUILD** as **SUBSCRIBERS** receive 15% discounts on tickets for our annual **GIELGUD GALA**. **CONTRIBUTORS** enjoy 20% discounts on **GIELGUD** tickets, **DONORS** 25%, and **BENEFACTORS** 30%. **PATRONS** receive 4 prime tickets free, and 35% reductions on additional tickets. **SUSTAINERS** receive 10 prime tickets free, and 40% reductions on additional tickets. Members of the **GIELGUD CIRCLE** are entitled to 20 prime tickets, and 50% reductions on additional tickets. Any payments that are not offset by benefits claimed are fully tax-deductible.

I wish ___ to make a fully tax-deductible donation, or ___ to enroll as a Guild member for a year in the ___**SUBSCRIBER** (\$50), ___**CONTRIBUTOR** (\$125), ___**DONOR** (\$250), ___**BENEFACTOR** (\$500), ___**PATRON** (\$1,000), ___**SUSTAINER** (\$2,500), ___**GOLDEN QUILL CIRCLE** (\$5,000) category. I'd like to reserve ___space(s) ___at \$250, ___at \$500, ___at \$1,000 for the 2008 **GIELGUD AWARD GALA**. As a paid-up Guild member at the ___level, I have deducted ___%. I enclose a check for \$___. Please charge \$___ to ___American Express ___MasterCard ___Visa account (___/___).

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The information requested in this order form can be submitted by phone, fax, or e-mail if you'd prefer. Guild contact details appear to the right.



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

5B CALLE SAN MARTIN
SANTA FE, NM 87506-7536
Phone (505) 988-9560 OR (202) 483-8646
Fax (505) 983-0806

JOHN F. ANDREWS OBE, President
shakesguild@msn.com
www.esuwdc.org/shakespeare.html

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.