



**Now accepting applications for
the Charles Abbott Fellowship
with Barbara Gaines**



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
for the 2019-2020 Charles Abbott Fellowship
on Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of
***Emma* directed by Barbara Gaines**

SDC Foundation is thrilled to announce that the Charles Abbott Fellowship this season will be with Artistic Director **Barbara Gaines** on her production of *Emma* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. The Fellowship will take place from December 27, 2019 – February 5, 2020. The application deadline is October 2, 2019.

The Charles Abbott Fellow will be mentored by Gaines through participation in the entire production process, including conceptual meetings, design discussions, and casting sessions, in addition to attending all rehearsals through opening night.

Award: SDCF will provide the recipient with a \$3,000 cash award to support their work on *Emma*.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Members or Associate Members of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society or members of the 2019/20 SDCF Observership Class. Please note that housing is not

included.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 by 6pm EST

Applicant Interviews: Week of November 18th, 2019

First rehearsal: December 27th, 2019

Opening Night: February 5th, 2020

Application Fee: \$5

Application Instructions: Applicants must answer three questions:

- 1) What are the artistic challenges and opportunities of staging a new musical?
- 2) Why would working with Barbara Gaines play a significant role in your professional development?
- 3) Why is working on this particular production attractive to you at this point in your artistic development?

Answers are limited to 1,000 characters, or approximately 150 words, per question. You will also be asked to submit a one page resume in a PDF format.

APPLY NOW

About Barbara Gaines, Founder and Artistic Director of Chicago Shakespeare Theater:

Barbara Gaines (Artistic Director/Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair) has directed nearly seventy productions at Chicago Shakespeare since founding the Theater in 1986, including thirty of Shakespeare's plays. Honors include the 2008 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre; the prestigious Honorary OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in recognition of her contributions strengthening British-American cultural relations; and Joseph Jefferson Awards for Best Production (*Hamlet*, *Cymbeline*, *King Lear* and *The Comedy of Errors*), and for Best Director (*Cymbeline*, *King Lear* and *The Comedy of Errors*). She serves on the Shakespearean Council of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Ms. Gaines has served as a member of the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board for the City of Chicago and on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts. She has also directed *Macbeth* and *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Lyric Opera.

A graduate of Northwestern University's Theatre Department, Ms. Gaines also trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. She was a student of Shakespearean scholar Dr. Wallace A. Bacon. She is the recipient of the Public Humanities Award from the Illinois Humanities Council, the Spirit of Loyola Award, the YWCA Outstanding Achievement Award for the Arts, a Northwestern Alumnae Award, and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Birmingham UK. Most recently Ms. Gaines's career was commemorated in American painter Kerry James Marshall's public art mural, "Mount Rushmore," at the Chicago Cultural Center, honoring 20 women who have changed the Chicago cultural landscape.

About Emma:

Jane Austen's beloved novel is now a deliciously charming musical, created by Tony Award-nominated composer and lyricist Paul Gordon (*Jane Eyre*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Daddy Long Legs*). Privileged, pampered, and preoccupied with romance, Emma Woodhouse indulges in her pastime of misguided matchmaking, but is clueless when it comes to her own feelings and a gentleman named Mr. Knightley. As our imperfect heroine learns that love cannot be predicted or channeled, we are swept up by Paul Gordon's lyrical melodies.

The Charles Abbott Fellowship

Established by a wide group of friends and colleagues of Charles Abbott to honor him upon his retirement as artistic director of Maine State Music Theatre, the goal of the Charles Abbott Fellowship is to help early-career directors and director-choreographers of promise develop their skills in directing musical theatre by allowing them access to the entire rehearsal process as a master artist directs a musical in a regional theatre of national recognition. Mentors for the Charles Abbott Fellowship have historically been the artistic directors or resident directors of the host theatre. This Fellowship will continue to present a new generation of gifted artists with a remarkable education in - and unique understanding of - the directorial skills necessary to create musical theatre, the workings of regional theatre, and the leadership of those artists shaping the regional arts landscape.

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emma

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