

## Sing For Your Shakespeare - Westport Country Playhouse, Westport, CT, USA



**Wayne Barker, Mark Lamos, and Deborah Grace Winer** hit it out of the ballpark on opening night with their **original musical, *Sing For Your Shakespeare*** performed at the [Westport Country Playhouse](#) in **Westport, Connecticut**. The play features **Karen Akers, Britney Coleman, Darius de Haas, Stephen DeRosa, Constantine Germanacos, and Laurie Wells** and runs until June 28, 2014. While many theatre companies perform Shakespearean plays during the summer, make no mistake, you have never seen Shakespeare performed quite like this, baby! ***Sing For Your Shakespeare***, making its world premiere, is definitely a hit in the making! Bravo!

Conceived by Wayne Barker, Mark Lamos, and Deborah Grace Winer, and directed by Mark Lamos, *Sing For Your Shakespeare*, was based on an original idea and production for the 92nd Street Y's Lyrics and Lyricists TM, New York City, New York.

We attended opening night on June 7, 2014, and from the reaction of the audience, the play was an immediate success. The year 2014 is the 450th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), and it is indeed remarkable when one reflects on how this man has influenced, and continues to influence, so many through his impressive body of work.



The Cast

### Sing For Your Shakespeare

*Sing For Your Shakespeare* is a delightful, rollicking romp through the sonnets, quotations, and plays of William Shakespeare, and includes present day interpretations of his plays through the music of Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers (*The Boys From Syracuse*), Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim (music from *West Side Story*), Frank Loesser (*Hamlet*), Kurt Weil and Odgen Nash (*Speak Low*), and Cole Porter (*Kiss Me Kate*), to name but a few. William Shakespeare influencing some of the greatest songs in the American Songbook; who would have thought it possible?

The talented cast features Karen Akers, Britney Coleman, Darius de Haas, Stephen DeRosa, Constantine Germanacos, and Laurie Wells, all Broadway veterans with the exception of Britney Coleman whose voice and talent will clearly carry her far.



**Laurie Wells, Karen Akers, Britney Coleman**

There were many memorable performances throughout including the song, *Sing For Your Supper* written by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, from the 1938 Broadway musical, *The Boys from Syracuse*. When the trio, Karen Akers, Britney Coleman, and Laurie Wells, sang the lyrics, "Sing for your supper, and you'll get breakfast, songbirds always eat, if their song is sweet..." they brought the house down with cheers and applause.



**Stephen DeRosa, Constantine Germanacos, Darius de Haas**

Also notable was the Cole Porter song, *Too Darn Hot*, performed by the Company, *Star Crossed Lovers* written by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and performed by Darius de Hass and Britney Coleman, and *Ariel* performed by Constantine Germanacos and Stephen DeRosa. However, it was Stephen DeRosa as the Bard appearing on stage in period costume, interpreted as a Las Vegas club act, complete with drink in hand, who stole the show with *Shakespearean Song* written by Richie Webb and David Cohen, and performed by Stephen DeRosa with Britney Coleman, Karen Akers, and Laurie Wells.



**Britney Coleman, Constantine Germanacos**

*Sing For Your Shakespeare* is the second play in the 2014 season at the Westport Country Playhouse, which opened with the well-cast Noël Coward play, *A Song at Twilight*. With three more upcoming plays, *Nora* by Ingmar Bergman, adapted from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House* (July 15 - August 2, 2014), *Things We Do For Love* by Alan Ayckbourn (August 19 - September 6, 2014) and *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage (October 7 - November 3, 2014) the Westport Country Playhouse is going to have a most memorable and winning season, and certainly one that you will not want to miss.



**The Cast**

**Sing For Your Shakespeare**

**The Cast**

Karen Akers

Britney Coleman

Darius de Haas

Stephen DeRosa

Constantine Germanacos

Laurie Wells

**The Orchestra**

Wayne Barker

Piano

Rick Kissinger

Reeds

Joshua Samuels

Percussion

Joseph Wallace

Bass

Lynette Wardle

Harp

Mary Tokanski

Accordion

Melissa Westgate

Cello

**Who's Who**

William Shakespeare

Playwright

Mark Lamos

Director/Co-conceiver/Artistic Director

Wayne Barker

Co-conceiver/Music Director

Deborah Grace Winer

Co-conceiver

Dan Knechtger

Choreography

Riccardo Nernandez

Scenic Design

Candice Donnelly

Costume Design

Robert Wierzel

Lighting Design

Domonic Sack

Sound Design

Karin White

Props Master

Matthew Melchiorre

Resident Productions Stage Manager

Amanda Spooner

Assistant Stage Manager

Tara Rubin Casting

Casting

***Sing For Your Shakespeare*** runs until June 28, 2014. Performances are held on Tuesdays at 8:00 pm, Wednesdays at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 3:00 pm.



**Karen Akers, Darius de Haas**

For information on the play or to purchase tickets, please call the box office at 203-227-4177 or call the toll-free number at 888-927-7529, or visit them on the website at [www.WestportPlayhouse.org](http://www.WestportPlayhouse.org).

Created by: Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta

The Westport Country Playhouse Box Office is open during Performance Days Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 pm until 8:30 pm, Saturday from 11:00 am until 8:30 pm, Sunday from 11:00 am until 3:30 pm, and is closed on Monday. Non-Performance Days, the Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm, and is closed on Monday.



The Westport Country Playhouse named as "Theatre Company of the Year" in December 2013 by The Wall Street Journal, opened in the 1930s in a transformed 1835 cow barn, which has, and continues to attract, a "who's who" of prominent actors. Looking at the framed posters of past shows that line the lobby walls was like entering an encyclopedia of the arts. A few of the many renowned actors who have appeared on the stage there include Ethyl Barrymore, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Tallulah Bankhead, Gloria Swanson, Don Ameche, Hume Cronin and Jessica Tandy, Jane Fonda, Danny Aiello, Blythe Danner, Jill Clayburgh, Richard Dreyfus, Whoopi Goldberg, Liza Minnelli, Bernadette Peters, Lynn Redgrave, Gene Wilder, and Westport residents Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman.

"Westport Country Playhouse, a not-for-profit theater, serves as a cultural nexus for patrons, artists and students and is a treasured resource for the State of Connecticut. There are no boundaries to the creative thinking for future seasons or the kinds of audiences and excitement for theater that Westport Country Playhouse can build."

For information on upcoming events and other performances, please visit the website: [www.WestportPlayhouse.org](http://www.WestportPlayhouse.org).

## Upcoming Performances

### Play

### Dates Running

*Sing For Your Shakespeare* by Wayne Barker,  
Mark Lamos, Deborah Grace Winer

June 3 - 28, 2014

*Nora* by Ingmar Bergman

July 15 - August 2, 2014

*Things We Do For Love* by Alan Ayckbourn

August 19 - September 6, 2014

*Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage

October 7 - November 3 2014



**Westport Country Playhouse**  
**25 Powers Court**

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Facebook: [www.Facebook/WestportCountryPlayhouse](http://www.Facebook/WestportCountryPlayhouse)

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