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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**San Francisco Shakespeare Festival Bids Fond Farewell to Associate Artistic Director**  
*Stephen Muterspaugh takes on new role at Jewel Theatre*

**San Francisco, CA** - San Francisco Shakespeare Festival congratulates longtime staff member Stephen Muterspaugh, who is leaving his position as the Festival's Associate Artistic Director to become the Managing Artistic Director of Jewel Theatre in Santa Cruz. SF Shakes fans have grown to know and love Muterspaugh as an actor, director, and passionate advocate for the company's mission of inclusion and access.

Muterspaugh isn't hanging up his Shakespeare hat: he will remain a Resident Artist of SF Shakes, and he will also direct the company's 35th anniversary Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Hamlet* in summer 2017.

Muterspaugh began teaching, performing, and directing with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival in 2010 and became Associate Artistic Director in 2014. As the founder and longtime director of the Shakespeare For All residency program, he created community-based productions featuring first-time actors working alongside professionals in Salida, Modesto, and other Central Valley communities. He also directed four Shakespeare On Tour productions between 2012 and 2015, appeared in two Free Shakespeare in the Park productions (Banquo in 2013's *Macbeth* and Leontes in last season's acclaimed *The Winter's Tale*), and co-directed the 2014 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. During his time at SF Shakes, he passed on his passion for Shakespeare to hundreds of students through Bay Area Shakespeare Camps and Advanced Shakespeare Workshop.

"I'm so thrilled to congratulate Steve on this exciting next step in his career. He has made incredible artistic contributions to our company and will continue to do so as a Resident Artist," said Artistic Director Rebecca J. Ennals. Read more about Muterspaugh's *Hamlet* at <http://www.sfshakes.org/programs/free-shakespeare-in-the-park/hamlet>.

**Link to press release online:** <http://www.sfshakes.org/media/in-the-news/press-releases>

*Note to Editor: Artists and staff are available for interviews at (415) 558-0888.*

About San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

The mission of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is to make the words and themes of Shakespeare available to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education. We accomplish this through the presentation of **Free Shakespeare in the Park** and a wide array of education programs: **Shakespeare On Tour**, **Tailor-Made Residencies**, **Bay Area Shakespeare Camps**, **Midnight Shakespeare**, and **Shakespeare for All**. *Shakespeare*

*On Tour* performs an abridged Shakespeare play at schools, libraries, and community centers all over the state. *Tailor-Made Residencies* connects teaching artists with classroom teachers for in-class theatre enrichment, specifically tailored to their learning objectives and their students. *Bay Area Shakespeare Camps* for ages 4-6, 7-13 and 12-18 are two-week theatre camps held throughout the Bay Area. *Midnight Shakespeare*, the Festival's after-school program for under-served and low-income youth, serves participants in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and Antioch. *Shakespeare For All* in three Central Valley communities, Salida, Madera, and Chowchilla, gives residents a chance to stage community productions of Shakespeare's plays with the assistance and guidance of theater professionals.

#### About Rebecca J. Ennals

Ms. Ennals, who took the position of Artistic Director in 2012, has been a staff member of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival since 2002. She has extensive acting, directing and teaching experience and holds a BA in Theatre and English from Scripps College (summa cum laude) and an MFA in performance from U.C. Davis. For the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, she has directed *The Winter's Tale*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Romeo and Juliet* for Free Shakespeare in the Park, eight Shakespeare on Tour productions, and various projects including *Romeo and Juliet* for Napa's Festival del Sole and the 2013 Green Show, *Witchipedia*. She also devised and directed the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program "30 Days of Free Shakespeare in the Parklet" in 2012.

#### About Stephen Muterspaugh

Mr. Muterspaugh has been teaching, acting and directing for the Festival since 2010. He is currently the Managing Artistic Director of Jewel Theatre Company in Santa Cruz. As a Resident Artist, he has taught Bay Area Shakespeare Camps, Upstart Crows, Advanced Shakespeare Workshop, and Midnight Shakespeare programs, as well as creating the Shakespeare for All Central Valley Residency Program. He has helmed four seasons of Shakespeare on Tour productions, as well as co-directing the 2014 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Acting credits for SF Shakes include Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* and Banquo in *Macbeth*. He is a graduate of PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre and a proud member of Actors' Equity.