

News Release

Media Contact Only:

John Western, Marketing Director

415/865-4422

jwestern@sfsakes.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Francisco Shakespeare Festival presents Hamlet for 35th Year of Free Shakespeare in the Park

San Francisco, CA – This week, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is proud to open their 35th season of Free Shakespeare in the Park with *Hamlet*. This is the first time in the company's history that this show will be staged in the park.

The modern-dress production, directed by SF Shakes Resident Artist Stephen Muterspaugh, will feature Nathaniel Andalis in the title role. The rest of the cast includes Rolf Saxon* as Claudius, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong as Gertrude, Sharon Huff* as Polonius, Julian Lopez-Morillas* as The Ghost/Player King/1st Gravedigger, Kieran Beccia as Ophelia, Sydney Schwindt as Laertes, Maryssa Wanlass* as Horatio, Melissa Quine* as Rosencrantz/Marcellus/Osric, Radhika Rao as Guildenstern/Barnardo/2nd Gravedigger, Charlie Lavaroni as Cornelius/Reynaldo/Player Villain, and Natalie Ayala as Voltemand/Player/Sailor.

Shakespeare's classic tragedy, about the questionable succession of King Claudius to the throne of Denmark over his nephew Prince Hamlet, speaks strongly about disenfranchisement, frustration, and the need for action during troubled times. Muterspaugh will direct this production after co-directing *The Taming of the Shrew* with Artistic Director Rebecca Ennals in 2014 and directing four seasons of the company's Shakespeare On Tour.

Bring your family and friends, a blanket and a picnic to enjoy professional theater at no charge in a beautiful park setting!

*denotes a member of Actor's Equity Association

2017 Performance schedule for *Hamlet*:

Pleasanton's Amador Valley Community Park, Santa Rita Road and Black Avenue

- Saturday, July 1 at 7:30 pm – Preview
- Sunday, July 2 at 7:30 pm – Opening
- Saturday, July 8 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, July 9 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, July 15 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, July 16 at 7:30 pm

Cupertino's Memorial Park Amphitheater, Stevens Creek Blvd and Mary Avenue

- Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 pm – Preview
- Sunday, July 23 at 7:30 pm – Opening
- Friday, July 28 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, July 29 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, July 30 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, August 4 at 7:30 pm

- Saturday, August 5 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, August 6 at 7:30 pm

Redwood City, grounds of Sequoia High School, 1201 Brewster Avenue at Broadway

- Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 pm – Preview
- Sunday, August 13 at 4:00 pm – Opening
- Saturday, August 19 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, August 20 at 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 26 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, August 27 at 4:00 pm

San Francisco's Presidio, Main Post Parade Ground Lawn

- Saturday, September 2 at 2:00 pm – Preview
- Sunday, September 3 at 2:00 pm – Opening
- Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) at 2:00 pm
- Saturday, September 9 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 pm
- Saturday, September 16 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 pm

San Francisco's McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, 40 John F. Shelley Drive

- Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 pm – Preview
- Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 pm – Opening
- Friday, September 29 at 10:00 am
- Saturday, September 30 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 pm - CLOSING

Admission is free. For more information, call the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival at (415) 558-0888 or visit www.sfshakes.org

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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 accessible 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* connect 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 30th Anniversary program "30 Days of Free Shakespeare in the Parklet" in 2012.

About Stephen Muterspaugh

Mr. Muterspaugh, who served as SF Shakes Associate Artistic Director from 2014-2016, has been teaching, acting and directing for the Festival since 2010. 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. He is now Managing Artistic Director for Jewel Theatre Company in Santa Cruz.