



**Media Contact Only:
John Western, Marketing Director
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
415-865-4422**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2021**

**San Francisco Shakespeare Festival Announces
Return to Outdoor Park performances, Sept 4-Oct 10, for
Free Shakespeare in the Park's *Pericles, Prince of Tyre, Episode 4***

Plus hosted watch-parties for recordings of Episodes 1-3

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival prepares to return to in-person performances in Bay Area parks starting September 4 with Episode 4 of *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* in a new verse translation by playwright Ellen McLaughlin. The final installment of *Pericles*, titled "This Great Miracle," is the culmination of our 39th season, which began playing on a live virtual stage in July.

In-park performances of Episode 4: This Great Miracle are scheduled September 4-12 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday at 4:00 pm on the grounds of Redwood City's Sequoia High School. The tour then moves to San Francisco and plays in McLaren Park's Jerry Garcia Amphitheater September 18-26 on Saturdays and Sundays, plus Friday September 24 at 2:00 pm. The season concludes at Cupertino's Memorial Park, October 2-10 on Saturdays and Sundays, plus Friday October 8 at 4:00 pm. Park performances will last approximately 90 minutes with no intermission. All in-person performances will abide by state and local policies for health and safety that are in place during the run of the shows.

In Episode 4, directed by Carla Pantoja, Pericles' daughter Marina has been kidnapped and sold to a brothel in Mytilene but she devises an exit and begins earning a living as a teacher. A despondent Pericles drifts into Mytilene believing his daughter to be dead. Lysimachus, the local governor, summons Marina, thinking her kindness might comfort the depressed prince. A joyous recognition occurs when Marina utters the name of her dead mother, Thaisa. The goddess Diana descends and orders Pericles to visit her temple in Ephesus. There he recounts all his hardships in full, and another reunion takes place.

Starting August 13, for a limited time, playgoers can watch recordings of live virtual performances of Episodes 1 through 3 on demand at the Festival's YouTube Channel. The Festival will also host a series of watch parties on Zoom for playgoers to view all the previous

episodes in one viewing. Hosted by Artistic Director Rebecca J. Ennals and guests, the watch parties are scheduled for August 14, 21, and 28 at 7:00 pm. Additionally, Episode 4 will be released as an on-demand recording on a date to be announced.

The Festival is looking forward to returning to in-person performances after over a year of performing in Unified Virtual Space. Presenting the play in an episodic fashion– with the first three online and the last in person– has allowed the Festival to adapt to changing conditions in this uncertain time while still maintaining professional live performances at no charge to the public. Rebecca J. Ennals, Artistic Director and Director of Episode 1, explains that “by starting with three virtual episodes before returning to the parks at the end of summer, the Festival has been able to fulfill our mission of making professional theatre available to the widest possible audience, even under constraints imposed by the pandemic.” Chris Beth, Director, Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department comments, “Free Shakespeare in the Park has become a highly anticipated annual tradition in Redwood City over the past 10 years and we welcome the return of in-person performances.”

Pericles Watch Parties

(Watch the first 3 episodes in one viewing)

- Saturday, August 14 at 7:00 pm (PDT)
- Saturday, August 21 at 7:00 pm (PDT)
- Saturday, August 28 at 7:00 pm (PDT)

In-person performances for Episode 4: *This great miracle*

(Performances last approximately 90 minutes and no intermission.)

Grounds of Sequoia High School, 1201 Brewster (at Broadway), Redwood City

- (Preview) September 4, Saturday at 4:00 pm
- (Preview) September 5, Sunday at 4:00 pm
- (Opening) September 6, Labor Day Monday at 4:00 pm
- September 11, Saturday at 4:00 pm
- September 12, Sunday at 4:00 pm

McLaren Park’s Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, San Francisco

- (Preview) September 18, Saturday at 2:00 pm
- (Opening) September 19, Sunday at 2:00 pm
- September 24, Friday at 2:00 pm
- September 25, Saturday at 2:00 pm
- September 26, Sunday at 2:00 pm

Memorial Park Amphitheater, Stevens Creek Blvd & Mary Ave, Cupertino

- (Preview) October 2, Saturday at 4:00 pm
- (Opening) October 3, Sunday at 4:00 pm
- October 8, Friday at 4:00 pm

- October 9, Saturday at 4:00 pm
- October 10, Sunday at 4:00 pm

All performances are free.

On-demand recordings of Episodes 1 through 3 will be available starting August 13 at <https://www.youtube.com/user/SFShakes> A recording of the in-park performance of Episode 4 will be released on a date to be announced. For more information, visit www.sfshakes.org or call (415) 558-0888.

#####

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

Photos are available at:

<http://www.sfshakes.org/media/photos/free-shakespeare-in-the-park-2021>

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.