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## **Free Shakespeare in the Park Returns to Cupertino's Memorial Park Amphitheater with Shakespeare's *The Tempest***

**- 42nd season sets sail on July 20 -**

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that the 2024 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* will return this summer to Cupertino's revitalized Memorial Park Amphitheater, **performing Saturdays and Sundays at 6 pm, July 20 to August 4.**

Thought to be Shakespeare's last solo written play, *The Tempest* tells the tale of a father (Prospero) and daughter (Miranda) set adrift to sea by the jealous machinations of Prospero's brother. On an island inhabited with magical creatures, Prospero uses magic to rule the land, until a tempest washes ashore Prospero's brother and co-conspirators. Complete with clownish shipwrecked sailors, *The Tempest* explores themes of revenge and forgiveness and asks the audience to find the humanity in all the characters they meet.

Director Rotimi Agbabiaka looks to highlight the themes of forgiveness and recovering from loss. Joining him is Assistant Director Ely Sonny Orquiza, who holds an unwavering belief in the remarkable power of equity and representation in storytelling to bridge the divide and differences amongst us. The show will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

This will be the Festival's fourth presentation of *The Tempest*, having staged it in 1983 (the debut of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), directed by Margrit Roma; 1991, directed by Albert Takazauckas; and 2006, directed by Kenneth Kelleher.

Due to cuts in the City budget, a fundraising campaign was mounted to replace the \$30,000 deficit for Free Shakespeare performances in Cupertino. Thanks to support received from the Rotary Club of Cupertino, Cupertino Library Foundation, San Jose Water District, Sheila Mohan's Mayoral Fund, and individuals who made donations ranging from from \$25 to \$2000, the show will go on as scheduled. The Rotary Club of Cupertino will also be selling snacks before each performance as a service to the community.

## **2024 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Tempest***

### **Cupertino, Memorial Park Amphitheater, Stevens Creek Blvd and Mary Ave**

- Saturday, July 20 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, July 21 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Saturday, July 27 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, July 28 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Saturday, August 3 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Sunday, August 4 at 6:00 pm

### **Redwood City, Red Morton Park, Vera Ave and Valdota Rd**

- Saturday, August 10 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, August 11 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, August 17 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 18 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, August 24 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 pm

### **San Francisco, McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater**

- Saturday, August 31 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, September 1 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Monday (Labor Day), September 2 at 2:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, September 7 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, September 8 at 2:00 pm

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

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Note to Editor: To schedule an interview with artists or staff please email [sfshakes@sfshakes.org](mailto:sfshakes@sfshakes.org) or call 415-558-0888.

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.



Rotimi Agbabiaka director San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 2024 production of *The Tempest*

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Photo courtesy of director



Free Shakespeare in the Park at Cupertino's Memorial Park Amphitheater

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Photo: John Western



Free Shakespeare in the Park signature artwork

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