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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SAN FRANCISCO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES SEARCH  
FOR NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Priority Given to Applicants Submitting by August 8, 2022**

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival announces that a search for SF Shakes' new Artistic Director has been launched - interested applicants are encouraged to apply by August 8 via the [SF Shakes website](#).

The new Artistic Director will provide artistic vision, strategic direction, and passion, to build on SF Shakes' 40-year commitment to changing lives through accessible Shakespeare-based performances, education, and engagement. "This is an excellent opportunity for a hands-on, creative, and collaborative leader who is looking for an artistic home and connection with Bay Area communities," says Executive Director Toby Leavitt. The search is being conducted by a transition team comprised of Board Chair Cynthia Francis, Teaching Artist Evan Held, Executive Director Toby Leavitt, Resident Artist David Everett Moore, and Production Manager Pratiksha Shah; the team is supported by Robert Martin, of Aquarius Consulting.

The new Artistic Director will succeed Rebecca J. Ennals, who will be leaving the company as of December 31, 2022. Ennals has served as Artistic Director for over a decade, having assumed the role in 2012. Ennals shares that her departure comes with mixed emotions: "I've worked here with some of the most amazing, inspiring, and beloved people in my life. In my tenure as Artistic Director, I have become a partner and a parent, and these new roles have reordered my priorities and made me consider carefully where I spend my time and energy." Ennals looks forward to more time writing, teaching, and directing as she steps back from full-time management.

The new Artistic Director will be a key participant in an upcoming strategic planning process. "Leadership change is an important step towards us becoming a more equitable and anti-racist organization." says Ennals. "My exit will create space for new voices in leadership and for a new organizational structure, and it is my deep desire that this leadership reflects the diversity of the Bay Area and our stated values. I will do everything I can to set them up for success."



(L to R) Mary Ann Rodgers, Ezra Reaves, and Ron Chapman\* recap the storm scene in Episode 4 of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 2021 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*.  
(\*Member Actors' Equity Association)

Photo: Jay Yamada

[\(download large image\)](#)

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Note to Editor: For more information 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. San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is celebrating their **40th Anniversary of Free Shakespeare in the Park** this summer with a production of Shakespeare's romantic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*; performance schedule is as follows:

- July 23 - August 7; Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays; 6:00 pm; Cupertino's Memorial Park
- August 13 - 28; Saturdays & Sundays; 4:00 pm; Redwood City's Red Morton Park
- September 3 - 11; Saturdays, Sundays, & Labor Day Monday; 2:00 pm; San Francisco's McLaren Park