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**Free Shakespeare in the Park Returns to Cupertino's
Memorial Park Amphitheater with *Cymbeline*,
Shakespeare's epic romantic adventure**
- 41st season to be launched in newly revitalized Memorial Park -

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that the 2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's ***Cymbeline*** will be performed this summer at Cupertino's newly revitalized Memorial Park Amphitheater. The Cupertino shows will take place July 22 to August 6 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 6:00 pm. The show will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

Cymbeline, Shakespeare's epic romantic adventure, is believed to be one his final plays and is widely considered one of his greatest achievements. It features a dazzling mix of comedy, tragedy, and fairy tale that concludes with inventive scenes of revelation and joyous reconciliation. The play was selected by the Festival's Resident Artists, who felt that the play's sweeping story would help remind us of the power of live theater and the joy of coming together to share an epic experience.

In this tale King Cymbeline has banished Posthumus, a man of low stature, who has secretly married his daughter, Princess Imogen. A series of unimaginable misadventures ensue that test the strength of their commitment to each other. This will be the company's second production of *Cymbeline*, having previously staged it in 2011. Director Maryssa Wanlass is interested in the fairytale quality of this story, and wants to lean into the archetypal characters and set the play in an alternate universe fantasy realm. Casting reflects the many communities for which SF Shakes performs, and the main love story between Imogen and Posthumus will be told with a queer lens. Expect big performances, music, delicious villains and ultimately a family-friendly coming of age story.

Cupertino's Memorial Park is the longest consecutively running venue that the Festival's Free Shakespeare program has performed in. Although the program first started in San

Francisco in 1983, over the years shows have taken place in various parks throughout the city (currently it performs in San Francisco's McLaren Park). The first season in Memorial Park was in 1995 and Free Shakespeare in the Park has become a highly regarded annual tradition there ever since.

The City of Cupertino's budget is contracting, and while the City has maintained funding for Free Shakespeare in the Park in Memorial Park in its 2023/24 budget, they have asked SF Shakes to fundraise for the program. To that end, SF Shakes has launched a fundraising campaign to strengthen the sustainability of this beloved program in Cupertino. The Cupertino Library Foundation is the first organization to pledge their financial support, and additional contributions are being sought.

In addition to Cupertino, *Cymbeline* plays in Redwood City, San Francisco, and Orinda (see dates and times below.)

2023 is San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 41st season of Free Shakespeare in the Park. Since its beginning, the Festival has been bringing the words and themes of William Shakespeare to audiences throughout the Bay Area and beyond, regardless of their age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education. The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival believes that Shakespeare experienced in a communal setting -- whether outdoors, in a classroom, in a theater, or live online -- elates the soul, inspires the mind, and unifies those who sit beside each other

41st Season Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Cymbeline*

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

- Saturday, July 22 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, July 23 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Friday, July 28 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Saturday, July 29 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Sunday, July 30 at 6:00 pm
- Friday, August 4 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, August 5 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 6 at 6:00 pm

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

- Saturday, August 12 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, August 13 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, August 19 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 20 at 6:00 pm

- Saturday, August 26 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 27 at 6:00 pm

San Francisco, McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater

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

Orinda, The Bruns Amphitheater

- Saturday, September 16 at 4:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, September 17 at 4:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, September 23 at 4:00 pm
- Sunday, September 24 at 4:00 pm

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: To schedule an interview with artists or staff please email sfshakes@sfshakes.org or call 415-558-0888.



Maryssa Wanlass* director San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 2023 production of *Cymbeline*

[\(click to download image\)](#)

*Member Actors' Equity Association
Photo courtesy of director



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

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Photo: John Western