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**Free Shakespeare in the Park Returns to Redwood City's
Red Morton Park with *Cymbeline*,
Shakespeare's epic romantic adventure**
- New showtime this summer: 6pm -

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that the 2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's ***Cymbeline*** will return to Redwood City's vibrant Red Morton Park this summer. Performances will take place on the lawn near the Magical Bridge Playground at Valota Road and Vera Avenue. There will be six performances, August 12 to August 27 on Saturdays and Sundays. All Redwood City shows will start at 6:00 pm this summer. The later show time is a response to the afternoon heat. The show runs approximately 90 minutes without intermission. All are invited to attend free of charge and no ticket or reservation is needed.

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 is 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.

Free Shakespeare in the Park began performing in Redwood City in 2012 and has become a highly anticipated annual tradition ever since. The performance venue at Red Morton Park began last year in order to better accommodate the increasing audiences. In addition to Redwood City, *Cymbeline* will play in San Francisco and Orinda (see dates, times, and locations 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*

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 2022 at Redwood City's Red Morton Park

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Photo: John Western