

Media Contact Only:  
John Western, Marketing Director  
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival  
415-865-4422  
[jwestern@sفشakes.org](mailto:jwestern@sفشakes.org)  
For immediate release  
August 2, 2023



## **Free Shakespeare in the Park Returns to McLaren Park's Jerry Garcia Amphitheater with Shakespeare's *Cymbeline***

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that the 2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's ***Cymbeline*** will return to San Francisco's Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, located in McLaren Park. There will be five performances, September 2 to 10 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday. All McLaren Park shows start at 2:00 pm. Bleacher seating is available in the amphitheater. The adjacent grassy hillsides are also available for those who prefer to stretch out on a blanket. 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 1983 and has become a highly

anticipated annual tradition ever since. Over the years performances have taken place in various locations throughout the city, including various sites in Golden Gate Park and the Presidio. Shows in Garcia Amphitheater, which began in 2013, quickly became a favorite spot for cast and audience alike. The amphitheater offers a dramatic focus for the performances and the stage is flanked by trees and greenery. New this season will be Free Shakespeare performances at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda (see dates, times, and locations for the remaining season below).

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.

### **2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Cymbeline***

#### **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](http://www.sfshakes.org)

#####

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.



(L to R) Catherine Luedtke\* as Queen and Nathaniel Andalis\* as Cloten in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Cymbeline*

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

\*Member Actors' Equity Association / Photo: Jay Yamada



(L to R) Deanalís Arocho Resto\* as Posthumus and Shakoria Davis as Imogen in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's 2023 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *Cymbeline*

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

\*Member Actors' Equity Association / Photo: Jay Yamada