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**CAL SHAKES**  
CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

## **Free Shakespeare in the Park presents *Cymbeline* at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda**

SFShakes and Cal Shakes jointly announce that the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater will host Free Shakespeare in the Park with free performances of Shakespeare's epic, romantic adventure *Cymbeline*. Performances at the Bruns Amphitheater (100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563) will take place September 16, 17, 23 & 24 at 4:00 pm, with the Amphitheater opening at 2:30 pm.

Seating is offered on a first-come, first served basis. All are invited to attend free of charge and no ticket or reservation is needed. The show runs 90 minutes long and is performed without intermission. This will be the first Free Shakespeare in the Park production in the East Bay since 2019, when programming was disrupted in Pleasanton by the pandemic, as well as the first time at the Bruns.

The house will open at 2:30 pm. Seating is offered on a first-come, first served basis. Preshow Grove Talks will be presented at 3:00 pm. Cal Shakes Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly will present the talks on September 16 and 17. Karina Gutiérrez, Latinx Director and Scholar, will be the presenter for the September 23 talk. The speaker for the September 24 talk is to be announced.

"Free Shakespeare in the Park will be a wonderful addition to our, "At The Bruns" arts series this summer," says Cal Shakes Executive Director Clive Worsley. "This is a great opportunity for audiences to continue to enjoy Shakespeare onstage at the Bruns, in anticipation of our own Shakespeare production in 2024 for our 50th Anniversary. We are deeply appreciative of the several donors who have chosen to support this collaboration." "I'm delighted that our two companies could partner to bring Free Shakespeare in the Park to the Bruns this summer, " says SF Shakes Executive Director Toby Leavitt. "We want to make this a win-win-win, certainly for both our organizations, and especially for audiences."

*Cymbeline*, Shakespeare's epic romantic adventure, features a dazzling mix of comedy, tragedy, and fairy tale that concludes with inventive scenes of revelation and joyous reconciliation. The play is directed by Festival Resident Artist Maryssa Wanlass. Believed to be one of Shakespeare's final plays, *Cymbeline* is widely considered one of his greatest achievements. 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. 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.

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 and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. 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.



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

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



(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*

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