

Media Contact Only
John Western, Marketing Director
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
415-865-4422
jwestern@sfsakes.org

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Emergency Funding Successful!

Cupertino's Free Shakespeare in the Park to Return this Summer

Great news! San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is excited to announce that the fundraising campaign to replace the annual \$30,000 hole created by the City of Cupertino's budget cuts have been successful and Free Shakespeare in the Park will return to Cupertino's Memorial Park again this summer.

Local heroes stepped forward, answering the emergency call put out by SF Shakes on the Ides of March, with funding secured from the Rotary Club of Cupertino, Cupertino Library Foundation, San Jose Water District and Sheila Mohan's Mayoral Fund. Many community members shared emails and social media posts, and twenty-seven individual donors contributed financial donations ranging from from \$25 to \$2000.

Free Shakespeare in the Park performances will take place in Cupertino's Memorial Park at 6 pm on Saturdays and Sundays from July 20 through Aug 4. Thought to be Shakespeare's last solo written play, *The Tempest* tells the tale of a father (Prospero) and daughter (Miranda) set adrift to sea by the jealous machinations of Prospero's brother. On an island inhabited with magical creatures, Prospero uses magic to rule the land, until a tempest washes ashore Prospero's brother and co-conspirators. Complete with clownish shipwrecked sailors, *The Tempest* explores themes of revenge and forgiveness and asks the audience to find the humanity in all the characters they meet.

Efforts to fundraise for this summer's Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Tempest* began last October. San Francisco Shakespeare Festival has been performing Free Shakespeare in the Park in the beautiful Memorial Park amphitheater each summer since 1995. The City of Cupertino's budget is contracting and the city has asked San Francisco Shakespeare Festival to fundraise for its annual Free Shakespeare in the Park performances in Memorial Park.

The City remains hugely supportive of this beloved program, and is hoping that its decades-long relationship with SF Shakes and the popularity of the Free Shakespeare

in the Park program with local families will allow a path forward to be found to again put the program on a sustainable footing. “Today is a day to celebrate this accomplishment,” said SF Shakes Executive Director Toby Leavitt. “Hopefully additional local heroes will step forward so we can continue to perform in Memorial Park in the summer of 2025 and beyond.”



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Note to Editor: To schedule an interview with the artists and educators of SF Shakes, please email sfshakes@sfshakes.org or call 415-865-4422. 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.