



For Immediate Release  
August 27, 2009

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**CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER  
CONCLUDES ITS 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH  
A MAGICAL, MUSICAL VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S  
*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM***

**All Performances Presented at Bruns Amphitheater September 16 to October 11**

Berkeley, CA, August 27, 2009—California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) ends its 35th anniversary season with a thoroughly magical production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by **Aaron Posner**, in his company debut. One of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, this marks the first coproduction between Cal Shakes and Two River Theater Company in New Jersey, where Posner serves as Artistic Director. The production will play at the Bruns Amphitheater September 16 through October 11, and then move to New Jersey for a limited run.

"This is one of my favorite plays and it's a total joy to return to it, particularly with such an amazing group of artists," says **Aaron Posner**. "I directed it about 10 years ago and was very pleased with the production, but it has been amazing to come back to it and realize how much it has changed for me. I have grown. The world has changed. And of course, like any great classic story, the play now feels wonderfully different. So that is exciting."

The cast for Cal Shakes' *Midsummer* is a rich blend of exciting newcomers to the Bruns stage, with some of the Bay Area's finest comic actors playing the Rude Mechanicals. **Danny Scheie**, most recently seen as the crazed Emperor of Rome in Berkeley Rep's *You, Nero*, plays Bottom; **Patty Gallagher** and **Dan Hiatt** (Winnie and Willie, respectively, in Cal Shakes' *Happy Days*) appear as Quince and Snout, Associate Artist **Joan Mankin** plays Snug/Philostrate, **Lance Gardner** portrays Flute, and **Ted Barker** plays Starveling. The human and fairy royalty are played by **Keith Randolph Smith** (Oberon/Theseus), and **Pegge Johnson** (Titania/Hippolyta) in their Cal Shakes' debuts; the young lovers are played by **Lindsey Gates** (Helena), **Avery Monsen** (Lysander), **Richard Thieriot** (Demetrius), and **Erin Weaver** (Hermia), with Dan Hiatt as Hermia's father, Egeus. **Doug Hara**, ensemble member of Chicago's Lookingglass Theater, plays the mischief-maker, Puck.



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Posner has assembled a team of talented designers to create *Midsummer's* dreamlike world. The electric-blue setting will be crafted by **Brian Sidney Bembridge**, who was named one of the top nine emerging designers in *North America Entertainment Design* magazine. Internationally-acclaimed costume designer **Olivera Gajic**—who exhibited a production of *Midsummer* for the Julliard School at the Prague Quadrennial—will clothe the characters in Shakespearean garb with a touch of the avant-garde. **Peter West** returns to light up the Bruns stage, a task he did to much acclaim for Cal Shakes' 2003 production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Chicago-based sound designer **Andre Pluess**, who provided the eclectic soundscapes for Cal Shakes' *Romeo and Juliet* (2009) and *Twelfth Night* (2008), will create the sounds of *Midsummer's* forest and court, enhanced by the musical talents of the cast.

Single tickets range from \$32-\$68, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. Prices subject to change. For information or to charge tickets by phone with VISA, MasterCard or American Express, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

California Shakespeare Theater's 2009 season is sponsored in part by BART, Bay Area News Group, City National Bank, KDFC, Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa, Meyer Sound, and Peet's Coffee & Tea, and institutional support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation. Audience Enrichment programs are underwritten in part by the City of Orinda's Community Grants Program. Artistic Learning programs are underwritten by generous support from Citigroup Foundation, The Dale Family Fund, The Thomas J. Long Foundation, Koret Foundation, Oakland Fund for the Arts, The San Francisco Foundation, and Yahoo! Employee Fund. California Shakespeare Theater's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is part of *Shakespeare for a New Generation*, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

Photos are available from Cal Shakes online press room at <http://www.calshakes.org/v4/press/index.html>.

#### ABOUT CAL SHAKES

Founded in 1974, California Shakespeare Theater is a fully professional, critically acclaimed theater known for its innovative productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and other reimagined classics. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone and Managing Director Susie Falk, Cal Shakes is committed to being a leading community citizen by nourishing the imaginations of audiences, artists, and learners of all ages. Cal Shakes makes boldly imagined and deeply entertaining interpretations of Shakespeare and the classics; provides in-depth, far-reaching artistic learning programs for learners of all ages and circumstances; and brings disparate communities together around the creation of new American plays that reflect the cultural diversity of the Bay Area.

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

WHO Written by William Shakespeare  
Directed by Aaron Posner  
Coproducted by Two River Theater Company

Designed by Brian Sidney Bembridge (sets), Olivera Gajic (costumes), Andre Pluess (sound), and Peter West (lighting).

Starring Ted Barker (Starveling), Patty Gallagher\* (Quince), Lance Gardner\* (Flute), Lindsey Gates\* (Helena), Doug Hara\* (Puck), Dan Hiatt\* (Snout/Egeus), Pegge Johnson\* (Titania/Hippolyta), Joan Mankin\* (Snug/Philostrate), Avery Monsen\* (Lysander), Danny Scheie\* (Bottom), Keith Randolph Smith\* (Oberon/Theseus), Richard Thieriot\* (Demetrius), and Erin Weaver\* (Hermia).

\*Member, Actor's Equity Association

WHEN September 16-October 11  
Previews Sep 16-18 at 8pm  
Opening Sep 19 at 8pm  
Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30pm  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm  
Saturday Matinee, Sep 5 at 2pm  
Sundays at 4pm  
Grounds open two hours prior to showtime for picnicking.

WHERE Bruns Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda, CA 94563 (just off Highway 24 at the Shakespeare Festival Way/Gateway Exit, one mile east of the Caldecott Tunnel.) Complimentary shuttle from Orinda BART beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain. Complimentary parking onsite.

TICKETS All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley CA, 510.548.9666, or online at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org). Single ticket prices start at \$20.

GROUP SALES Groups of 10 or more save \$10 off the single ticket prices; complimentary ticket available for groups of 15+. For more information, call 510.809.3290.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Inside Scoop	Monday, Aug 31, 7pm, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way	Audiences are invited to meet and converse with the director, actors and designers to learn about directorial points of view, actors' methods, and design ideas for the upcoming production. Complimentary Peet's coffee and Loard's ice cream is served. This event is free and open to the public.
Grove Talks	45 minutes before each performance	Led by resident Grove Talks speakers, these free, informal 20-minute talks are held on site 45 minutes before each and every performance, offering invaluable insight into the play and the production.
Tastings	Tuesdays and Wednesdays, beginning at 6pm	Taste the best of the Bay Area's wine, beer, coffee, sweets, and savories for free on Tuesdays and Wednesdays before the performance.
College Pizza Night	Sep 16 6:30pm event; 8pm performance	Pre-show pizza party for the college-age crowd to celebrate the school year; starting at 6:30pm at the Theater. Free with ticket to the show. Performance tickets only \$20 for age 30 or under.
Meet the Artists	Sep 20 and Oct 4 following the 4pm performance	Audience members enjoy an opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about the production with cast members following select 4pm matinee performances.
Behind the Scenes	Sep 24 5:30pm event; 7:30pm performance	Share an intimate chat with actors from each production. The evening includes a backstage tour, hors d'oeuvres, wine, and a catered dinner beginning at 5:30pm. Cost: \$40 (not including theater ticket). Call 510.548.9666 to order.
OUTdoors	Sep 25 6:30pm event; 8pm performance	Pre-show cocktail party for the LGBT crowd featuring music and games; starting at 6:30pm at the Theater. Free with ticket to the show. Performance tickets only \$20 for age 30 or under.
InSight	Sep 27 following the 4pm matinee	Explore the world of the play through an informal dialogue with the production's dramaturg following select 4pm performances.



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The Shindig

Oct 2

6:30pm event; 8pm performance

Pre-show party for young professionals with themed cocktails, music, and more; starting at 6:30pm at the Theater. Free with ticket to the show. Performance tickets only \$20 for age 30 or under.

INFO: 510.548.9666, calshakes.org, or [boxoffice@calshakes.org](mailto:boxoffice@calshakes.org).

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