

For Immediate Release
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California Shakespeare Theater's Annual Gala, *La Dolce Vita*, Raises More Than \$530,000, Shattering All Previous Records

*"Fund-a-Need" portion of live auction garners \$130,000
for Cal Shakes' educational work*

*Theater Green Room to be Named for Jonathan Moscone in
Recognition of Decade of Visionary Leadership*

Berkeley, CA – Surrounded by friends, family, and colleagues from the East Bay, San Francisco and Marin, California Shakespeare Theater's Artistic Director **Jonathan Moscone** was truly the man of the hour at *La Dolce Vita*, Cal Shakes' 15th annual gala on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The event, honorarily co-chaired by **Ann and Gordon Getty** and **Barclay and Sharon Simpson**, celebrated 10 years of Moscone's artistic leadership of the company, with the proceeds raised going to Cal Shakes' work on stage, in classrooms and throughout communities.

San Francisco's elegant Four Seasons hotel, its hallways lined with exquisite costumes from Cal Shakes productions, provided a breathtakingly dramatic setting for the sold-out crowd of **435 guests**, who mingled amidst the beautifully designed décor, supervised by gala committee member **Julie Landres**, and lit by **York Kennedy** and **Got Light**. Feasting on scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, with spirits courtesy of **Stockholm Krystal Vodka**, guests bid on silent auction items from vacations to wines, assembled by auction chair **Jean Simpson**.

After the guests made their way into the candle-lit ballroom to the swing music of the **CoolTones**, Master of Ceremonies **Danny Scheie** kicked off the evening by hilariously, and touchingly, honoring Moscone's 10-year tenure. Managing Director **Susie Falk** then invited Jonathan to the stage to receive his unexpected gift from the Cal Shakes Board of Directors; to the surprise and delight of the crowd, Board President **David Goldsmith** announced that the **green room at the Theater's new Patron and Artists Center at the Bruns Amphitheater would be named for Moscone**.

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"I am so unbelievably grateful to be a part of this organization, and to have been honored for the work we've done over the last 10 years." says Moscone. "This is all due to an extraordinarily dedicated staff and board; a community of artists and teachers who enact our mission with passion and talent; and our community of supporters in the East Bay, San Francisco, Marin, and beyond, who make our work possible. It was in every respect, a perfect evening."

Following the sumptuous meal provided by the Four Seasons, with wine provided by **Pine Ridge Vineyards**, came time for the tributes. "When I met Jonathan, it was love at first sight!", exclaimed board member and gala honorary co-chair **Sharon Simpson** – one of many well-wishers whose fond recollections of Jon and his impact on Cal Shakes were captured on video, including Associate Artists **James Carpenter** and **L. Peter Callender**, Berkeley Rep Artistic Director **Tony Taccone**, and playwright **Octavio Solis**, author of Cal Shakes' upcoming world premiere production, *John Steinbeck's The Pastures of Heaven*, which will be directed by Moscone.

Among the guests were **Willie Brown and Sonya Molodetskaya, Carole Shorenstein Hays and Dr. Jeffrey P. Hays, Tony Taccone, Wilkes Bashford, Gina Moscone, Sharon and Barclay Simpson, Ellen and Joffa Dale, Jeannette Etheredge, Peter Read, Frank and Carey Starn, Christopher and Linda Moscone, Simon and Allese Baker, Harvey and Gail Glasser, Dale Djerassi, Dorka Keehn, and Francesca Vietor**. Also there to celebrate Cal Shakes: **William Taggert, Phil and Chris Chernin, Ed and Denise Del Beccaro, Kate Stechschulte and David Cost, Nina and David Bond, Joe Di Prisco and Patti James, Jeff and Janie Green, Anne and Marshall Grodin, Sunne and John McPeak, Melinda Yee Franklin and Dennis Franklin, Jo Alice and Wayne Canterbury, Tom Kelley, Leslie Thieriot, Arline Klatter and Jon Ennis, Jerry and Kim Overaa, Debbie Chinn, Phillipa Kelly and Paul Dresner, and David and Diane Goldsmith**.

The evening's auctions, wine raffle drawing, ticket sales, and donations shattered the Theater's previous fundraising record, by bringing in more than **\$530,000** to support Cal Shakes' artistic and educational programming. The "Fund-a-Need" appeal single-handedly garnered **\$130,000** to bring Shakespeare and the classics to underserved youth throughout the Bay Area.

The evening was made possible in part through the generosity of **City National Bank, John Muir Health, Mechanics Bank, Overaa Construction, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Pine Ridge Vineyards, Rakestraw Books, Safeway, San Francisco Magazine, Simpson Strong Tie, and Stockholm Krystal Vodka**.

Photos available upon request.



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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.

ABOUT ARTISTIC LEARNING

California Shakespeare Theater's Artistic Learning programs serve learners of all ages and backgrounds from economically and geographically diverse communities throughout the Greater Bay Area. Rooted in the same philosophy that guides our artistic endeavors, Cal Shakes educational activities seek to awaken and nurture the power of creative thinking in learners, and to lay the foundation for a life-long interest in attending and supporting arts in their communities.

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