

For Immediate Release  
February 10, 2010

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## **California Shakespeare Theater receives 2-year grant from Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation**

### **\$160K gift supports artistic and educational programming, plus Phase One of Bruns Amphitheater revitalization**

Berkeley, CA – As it prepares to embark on its groundbreaking 36<sup>th</sup> season, California Shakespeare Theater today announced it has received a **2-year, \$60,000 grant from the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation**, which was awarded to support of the Theater's on-going operations, plus a **capital investment of \$100,000** toward Phase I of an ambitious plan to reinvigorate the Bruns Amphitheater as a permanent, sustainable, and welcoming home for the Theater's artists and audiences.

"We are so grateful to the Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation for their generous support of Cal Shakes," commented Managing Director **Susie Falk**. "2010 is a landmark year for Cal Shakes, with our first commissioned world premiere scheduled to open on our main stage, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jonathan Moscone's artistic leadership, and the scheduled completion this summer of the first phase of our construction project, *The Campaign for the Future*. With this award, the Leshar Foundation reaffirms its leadership in supporting significant cultural institutions in the East Bay."

The Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation has been a vital partner in Cal Shakes' emergence as a cultural force in the Bay Area arts scene. Since 1998, the Foundation's generous on-going support has nourished Cal Shakes' artistic vibrancy, and enabled the Theater to serve its audiences in three fundamental and distinct ways: through a body of critically acclaimed and theatrically innovative Main Stage work; the formalization in 2001 of the company's arts education activities through its Artistic Learning program; and the launch of the Theater's pioneering New Works/New Communities program in 2003, whose most recent project, an adaptation of John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven*, will open the 2010 Main Stage season.

Since 1994, the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$40 million and reaching citizens in all parts of Contra Costa County. True to the original wishes of Dean and Margaret Leshar, the Foundation continues to build on the strengths of the community by supporting organizations and programs

that provide help and support to people in need; enhance and enrich the lives of all citizens; and promote a healthy and exciting future for the community.

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.

California Shakespeare Theater's 2010 season begins with *John Steinbeck's The Pastures of Heaven*, written by Octavio Solis, and directed by Jonathan Moscone, June 2-27; George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, directed by Timothy Near, July 7-August 1; Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, directed by Joel Sass, August 18-September 12; and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Jonathan Moscone, September 22-October 17. All performances are held at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 Wilder Road, Orinda, CA. Season tickets are available now at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or 510.548.9666.

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