

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2012 SEASON

**Season Includes *Spunk*, a Music-Filled Adaptation of Harlem Renaissance Icon Zora Neale Hurston's short stories; a Return to the Wit of Noël Coward with *Blithe Spirit*; and Bold New Productions of *The Tempest* and *Hamlet***

Berkeley, CA – **California Shakespeare Theater** today announced its plans for the 2012 season, which includes an exuberant music-filled story borne of the Harlem Renaissance, a stylishly loopy supernatural comedy, and bold, new productions of two of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

Opening the season will be ***The Tempest***, Shakespeare's sublime tale of magic, romance, and civilizations lost and reborn, from **May 30-June 24**. Next up will be ***Spunk***, **George C. Wolfe's** brilliantly theatrical adaptation of three vignettes by 20<sup>th</sup>-century master **Zora Neale Hurston**, with music by **Chic Street Man**. This blues-infused look at love, jealousy and the fine art of the hustle will play **July 4-July 29**. A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director and Cal Shakes Associate Artist **Mark Rucker** directs Noël Coward's sparkling masterpiece of ghostly comedy, ***Blithe Spirit***, which plays from **August 8-September 2**. The company will conclude the season with Shakespeare's ***Hamlet***, in its first appearance at the Bruns since 2000, from **September 19-October 14**; **Liesl Tommy**, whose production of *Ruined* at Berkeley Rep earlier this year drew critical raves, will direct. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to a scheduling change, the dates for *Hamlet* are one week later than previously announced.**

"I love making plays for one of the most engaging, challenging, and supportive communities an artistic director could ask for." says Cal Shakes Artistic Director **Jonathan Moscone**. "I am very excited to include an important African-American writer to the roster of great authors whose work we remain committed to bringing to relevant, vital, entertaining life for our diverse audiences throughout and beyond the Bay Area."

Cal Shakes has several complimentary **Audience Enrichment** events scheduled throughout the season: the nightly **Grove Talks** provide valuable insight into the work as members of the artistic staff discuss the relationship between the play and the production; **Inside Scoop** allows audience members to meet directors and designers during the rehearsal process to learn about directorial points of view and design ideas; **Insight Matinees** explore the world of the play through an informal dialogue with the production's dramaturg following the 4pm performance;

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and **Meet the Artists Matinees** provide the audience an opportunity to discuss the production with cast members following the performance.

Season packages and group tickets for parties of 10 or more are available now; single tickets go on sale in May. Prices start at \$124 for a 4-play subscription, with discounts available for seniors, youth, and full-time K-12 educators. 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 is available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

Photos are available from Cal Shakes' online press room.

#### ABOUT THE BRUNS AMPHITHEATER

Founded in 1974, now under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone and Managing Director Susie Falk, Cal Shakes was recently named "one of the most beautiful outdoor performing spaces in America" by the *Wall Street Journal*. The Bruns Amphitheater, recently renovated to include enhanced audience and patron amenities, is nestled in the Siesta Valley of the East Bay Hills between Berkeley and Orinda on a protected watershed. The grounds open two hours before curtain for picnicking in the lush eucalyptus and oak groves; the on-site café in the new Sharon Simpson Center offers gourmet meals on-site, or patrons may bring their own to enjoy. The Theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station, beginning ninety minutes before the performance, and plentiful free parking onsite.

#### ABOUT CAL SHAKES

Now in its 38<sup>th</sup> season, California Shakespeare Theater is known for its innovative productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and other reimagined classics. 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. For more information on the entirety of Cal Shakes work on stage, in schools and in communities, go to [www.calshakes.org/about](http://www.calshakes.org/about) us.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER'S 2012 SEASON

*The Tempest*

By William Shakespeare  
Previews May 30, 31, June 1  
Press opening June 2  
Plays through June 24

*Spunk*

Three Tales by Zora Neale Hurston  
Adapted by George C. Wolfe  
Music by Chic Street Man  
Previews July 4, 5, 6  
Press opening July 7  
Plays through July 29

*Blithe Spirit*

By Noël Coward  
Directed by Mark Rucker  
Previews August 8, 9, 10  
Press opening August 11  
Plays through September 2

*Hamlet*

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Liesl Tommy  
Previews September 19, 20, 21  
Press opening September 12  
Plays through October 14

**PLEASE NOTE: Dates for *Hamlet* are one week later than previously announced.**

**Performance Times:** Previews (Wed-Thu-Fri before opening) at 8pm  
Weeknights (Tue-Thu) at 7:30pm  
Weekends (Fri-Sat) 8pm  
Matinees (Sun) at 4pm: select Saturdays at 2pm  
Grounds open for picnicking two hours prior to curtain.

**Venue:** Bruns Amphitheater  
100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Tickets:** Single tickets go on sale in May; season packages and group tickets are available now.

**Box Office:** 510.548.9666

**Website:** [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

For ticket information, call 510.548.9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

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