

For Immediate Release
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Dramatic Differences: California Shakespeare Theater's "Building for the Future" raises \$7.8 million, prepares for June opening of new building at the Bruns Amphitheater

Facility to be named for Bay Area philanthropist and long-time Cal Shakes supporter Sharon Simpson

Berkeley, CA—May 5, 2010. With the first phase of its "Building for the Future" campaign nearly complete, California Shakespeare Theater has announced two significant milestones: the raising of \$7.8 million, or 95%, of its \$8.2 million goal, and the naming of its new, environmentally sustainable building at the Bruns Amphitheater.

In Phase One of "Building for the Future," a **7,000+ square-foot, state-of-the-art, sustainable facility** designed to LEED certification standards by **LMS Architects**, and built by **Overaa Construction** will replace the dilapidated, 18-year-old "temporary" trailers that formerly housed the café, restrooms, and offices. Designed to blend with the natural surroundings of the Siesta Valley, it will be a true home for artists and audiences alike, featuring a host of amenities: plentiful new restrooms with low-flow plumbing to reduce water consumption; energy-efficient dressing rooms, wardrobe area, and green-room for the artists; a modern café and theater store; offices for house management and volunteers; and much-needed storage space. **In a first for Bay Area theaters**, the entire structure will be topped with a green "**living roof**" designed to provide structural insulation, as well as habitat for plants and animals, and a visual link to the hillside beyond.

The new facility will be named for Bay Area philanthropist, long-time member of the Cal Shakes Board of Directors, and Building for the Future campaign co-chair **Sharon Simpson**; **The Sharon Simpson Center** is scheduled to open in June with the start of Cal Shakes' 2010 season.

"I'm genuinely thrilled about the opening of the Simpson Center," says Cal Shakes Managing Director **Susie Falk**. "The building represents a watershed for Cal Shakes in so many ways. It's beautiful, indoors and out; it was created with intelligence and integrity and respect for the land; and as a gathering space and a busy practical facility it will be an almost immeasurable improvement for our artists, patrons, and the community members we serve. This building brings our physical-plant amenities into line, at long last, with the excellence of our work. It

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would never have been possible without Sharon Simpson's indefatigable leadership and financial generosity. We're so grateful to Sharon and Barclay for their support."

Additional improvements to the Bruns Amphitheater campus are also underway. The entire site will be re-graded to open up the area adjacent to the Simpson Center into a central gathering place with a **spacious plaza** filled with additional seating for picnickers, and shaded with Chinese pistachio trees. The plans also provide for the creation of a **gently sloping open meadow** that will blend the picnic areas seamlessly into the hillside, providing casual picnickers an unobstructed view to the vistas behind the Amphitheater.

California Shakespeare Theater officially launched Phase One of its "Building for the Future" campaign in October 2009; campaign committee members include co-chairs Jim Roethe and Sharon Simpson, Ellen Dale, Edward F. Del Beccaro, Susie Falk, David Goldsmith, Anne Grodin, Jonathan Moscone, and John Sears.

Press site visits are available; contact Marketing and Public Relations Manager Marilyn Langbehn at 510.548.3422 x118 or mlangbehn@calshakes.org to schedule.

For more information about Cal Shakes newly-renovated Bruns Amphitheater, check out "Building for the Future" online at calshakes.org/future.

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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