



For Immediate Release
April 20, 2009

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CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR *ROMEO AND JULIET*

All Performances Presented at Bruns Amphitheater May 27-June 21
Single Tickets on Sale May 1
Call 510 548 9666 or www.calshakes.org

Berkeley, Calif., April 20, 2009—California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) today announced casting and creative teams for the opening production of the company's 35th anniversary season, Shakespeare's legendary tragic romance *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Cal Shakes Artistic Director **Jonathan Moscone**. The production, which opens Cal Shakes' 35th anniversary season, will run May 27-June 21 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater.

Moscone is finding inspiration for the production in the extreme tension between desperate, blind, adolescent passion and the repressive culture of violence that surrounds it—and that the play's youth are fated to grow into. **Alex Morf**, a recent graduate of A.C.T.'s MFA program who appeared in last season's *Pericles* and *Twelfth Night*, and **Sarah Nealis**, last seen in Cal Shakes' *Pericles* and *An Ideal Husband*, play the titular lovers. Cal Shakes Associate Artist **Catherine Castellanos** will portray Juliet's nurse and Lady Montague, with fellow Associates **James Carpenter** and **Julie Eccles** as the Capulets, **L. Peter Callender** as Montague and the Apothecary, and **Dan Hiatt** as Friar Laurence. **Liam Vincent**, last seen at Cal Shakes in 2008's *Twelfth Night*, will play Paris, **Jud Williford** (A.C.T.'s *War Music, Rock n' Roll*) portrays Mercutio, and **Craig Marker** (most recently seen in Shotgun Players' *Macbeth* and *The Story* at SF Playhouse) will take on the role of Tybalt. **Julian Lopez-Morillas**—whose history with Cal Shakes stretches back to 1977—will return to the Bruns stage as the Prince. Others in the cast include **Thomas Azar** (Benvolio), **Nick Childress** (Gregory), **Avery Monsen** (Sampson/Balthasar), and **Patrick Lane** (Abram); rounding out the ensemble are **Matt Hooker**, **Omoze Idehenre**, and **Marilet Martinez**.

To complement Moscone's vision, **Neil Patel**—set designer for Cal Shakes' groundbreaking production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, whose recent credits include the Broadway productions of *[title of show]*, and *Sideman*, and the HBO series *In Treatment*, returns to create an Italianesque urban landscape. The world of the play, says Moscone, "was initially inspired by a kind of fascist architecture in Italy. Imposing, monolithic, and anything but cheery." But, against these gray walls is a burst of graffiti-inspired color to underscore the young lovers' intense, electric energy."



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Raquel M. Baretto, who designed the 2008 BATCC Award-winning fashions of Cal Shakes' *Uncle Vanya*, as well as *Pericles* and *The Triumph of Love*, will create the show's contemporary Italian style. Sound design for *Romeo and Juliet* will be created by **Andre Pluess**, an Artistic Associate at Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre who designed the soundscape for Cal Shakes' 2008 production of *Twelfth Night*, as well as Berkeley Rep's recent production of *Arabian Nights*. Russell H. Champa (*Pericles*, *The Triumph of Love*, *Man and Superman*) is the production's lighting designer, Cal Shakes Associate Artist **Nancy Carlin** is the text coach, Associate Artist **MaryBeth Cavanaugh** is choreographer, and Resident Fight Director **Dave Maier** serves as fight choreographer.

Single tickets start at \$20 and go on sale to the public on May 1. Season packages and group tickets (10+) are available now. 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.

California Shakespeare Theater's 2009 season is sponsored in part by BART, City National Bank, KDFC, Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa, Meyer Sound, and Peet's Coffee & Tea, and receives institutional support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation. Artistic Learning programs are sponsored in part by Shapell Homes and underwritten in part by Citigroup Foundation, the Dale Family Fund, Koret Foundation, Links for Life Foundation, The Thomas J. Long Foundation, Oakland Fund for the Arts, The San Francisco Foundation, and Yahoo! Employee Foundation. Audience Enrichment programs are underwritten in part by the City of Orinda's Community Grants Program.

Photos are available upon request.

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: California Shakespeare Theater's 35th anniversary opening production:
Romeo and Juliet

WHO: Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Jonathan Moscone

Designed by Neil Patel (sets), Raquel M. Baretto (costumes), Andre Pluess (music and sound), Russell H. Champa (lighting), MaryBeth Cavanaugh (choreography), and Dave Maier (fight choreography).

Starring Alex Morf, Sarah Nealis, Catherine Castellanos, L. Peter Callender, James Carpenter, Julie Eccles, Dan Hiatt, Liam Vincent, Jud Williford, Julian Lopez-Morillas, Thomas Azar, Craig Marker, Nick Childress, Avery Monsen, Patrick Lane, Matt Hooker, Omoze Idehenre, and Marilet Martinez.

WHEN: May 27–Jun 21
Previews (Previews May 27–29) at 8pm
Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30pm
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm
Saturday Matinee, June 20 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.
Subscriptions On sale now; visit www.calshakes.org for series and pricing information.
Single Tickets On sale beginning May 1. 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Inside Scoop Monday, May 11, 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 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.



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- College Pizza Night May 27, 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 May 31 and Jun 14, 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.

- The Shindig June 5, 6:30pm; 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.

- InSight Jun 7, following the 4pm matinee
Explore the world of the play through an informal dialogue with the production's dramaturg following select 4pm performances.

- Behind the Scenes June 4, 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.

- Tastings Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Taste the best of the Bay Area's wine, beer, coffee, sweets, and savories for free on Tuesdays and Wednesdays before the performance.

- INFO: 510.548.9666, calshakes.org, or boxoffice@calshakes.org,

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