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## CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER ANNOUNCES 2018 SEASON OF BRUNS DEBUTS

**44<sup>TH</sup> Season includes stories of visionary scope:  
an adaptation of Cervantes' masterpiece  
by Octavio Solis; a Branden Jacobs-Jenkins West Coast premiere;  
and an epic Shakespearean event**

**Berkeley, CA, September 18, 2017**—California Shakespeare Theater (**Cal Shakes**) today announced its **2018 Season** of firsts at the Bruns Amphitheater: ***Quixote*** by **Octavio Solis**, adapted from *Don Quixote* by Miguel Cervantes, June 13-July 1; the West Coast premiere of ***Everybody*** by **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**, July 18-August 5; and ***The War of the Roses***, adapting **William Shakespeare's** historical tetralogy covering *Henry VI, parts 1, 2, and 3*, and *Richard III*, August 22-September 9. Cast and creative teams for each will be announced at a later date.

First up, a literary classic re-imagined: ***Quixote*** marks the return of playwright Octavio Solis (*John Steinbeck's The Pastures of Heaven*) to the Bruns with his acclaimed adaptation originally commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival but conceived anew, setting La Mancha as a modern-day Texas border town. Filled with flights of fancy and Tejano tunes, Don Quixote and his trusty sidekick Sancho ride into battle against dragons, evil enchanters, and illusions of the mind.

Next, a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century riff on the medieval morality play: ***Everybody*** by acclaimed playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (*An Octoroon*) in its West Coast premiere. Everybody dies. It's the one universal truth. So when death comes knocking, one of six actors chosen randomly at the top of each performance seeks companionship for their final journey in an allegorical play that plumbs the depths of the human condition with surprising humor, heart, grace, and dancing skeletons.

Finally, a Shakespearean event of epic proportions: ***The War of the Roses***, a monumental evening of theater spanning four of Shakespeare's histories—the *Henry VI* trilogy and *Richard III*—delivering a fast-

paced, far-ranging, vividly theatrical depiction of two powerful families—the Lancasters and the Yorks—and their decades-long fight for English rule that’s sure to leave you breathless. When weak leadership and civil strife run rampant, what are the consequences? Who will take the throne?

“I’m excited to share with you our plans for 2018—stories of visionary scope that speak as much to who we are as to who we’ve been,” says Eric Ting, Artistic Director. “This season also brings changes. We listened as many of our audiences expressed concerns over their increasingly hectic summers and the erratic weather of spring and autumn. We heard from many of our most ardent supporters that Cal Shakes should always be BOLD theater—big enough to fill the vast outdoors. We wanted new ways to celebrate the unique experience of the Bruns, be they return engagements of popular productions or extraordinary events that we couldn’t pass up. And so **we’ve created a concentrated subscription season filled with the epic and eventful work so many of our audiences crave, of scale and scope and audacious, uncompromising vision**—a true summer at the Bruns, anchored by three plays from June to September. This also affords us room to explore additional programming at the Bruns—with subscribers benefitting by broadened experiences and early access to tickets. Stay tuned for more information as those plans develop.”

Last season, Cal Shakes saw record single ticket sales for its hit show, *black odyssey*, and the audience and critical response was overwhelmingly positive. California Shakespeare Theater continues to redefine the boundaries of classical theater for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, producing new works inspired by classic texts and presenting Shakespeare that engages with the contemporary moment. “Who we are as a people, as human beings, is in no small part defined by the stories that we were raised on,” continues Ting. “Stories, in their way, teach us how to be human. They teach us our morality, our sense of right and wrong, how to love, how to hate, how to live. Next year’s stories will be no exception.”

Season packages for the three-play season are available now; single and group tickets go on sale to the public April 9, 2018. Prices start at \$99 for a three-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, Discover, 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).

## **ABOUT CAL SHAKES**

California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Ting and Managing Director Susie Falk, is now in its 43rd season as a nationally-recognized leader in drawing on the power of authentic, inclusive storytelling to create more vibrant communities. Serving more than 43,000 people annually, Cal Shakes invites people from all walks of life to make deeply-felt connections with our shared humanity through its work onstage, in schools, and with people in non-traditional settings

throughout the Bay Area who have little or no access to theater. For more information, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

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**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS  
CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER'S 2018 SEASON**

***Quixote***

June 13-July 1  
by Octavio Solis  
adapted from *Don Quixote* by Miguel Cervantes  
Previews June 13, 14, 15  
Press opening June 16

***Everybody***

July 18-August 5  
by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins  
Previews July 18, 19, 20  
Press opening July 21

***The War of the Roses***

August 22-September 9  
by William Shakespeare  
Adapted from the *Henry VI* trilogy and *Richard III*  
Previews August 22, 23, 24  
Press opening August 25

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:                     Subscriptions starting at \$99 are available now.  
                                    Single and group tickets go on sale to the public April 9, 2018.

Box Office:                510.548.9666

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

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