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SAN FRANCISCO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*

40th Anniversary Season production returns to in-person performances

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that its 40th Anniversary season production of Shakespeare's popular romantic comedy, *Much ADO About Nothing*, will be staged in-person at all venues this summer. The show will be performed in Cupertino July 23-August 7, Redwood City August 13-28, and San Francisco September 3-11. Shannon R. Davis will direct, Vanessa Dalpiaz will assistant direct, and Robert Neapolitan* is the Equity Stage Manager.

Festival fans will recognize returning actors Alan Coyne, Livia Gomes Demarchi*, David Everett Moore*, and Maryssa Wanlass*. Fran Astorga, Steven Flores*, Kathryn Hannah*, Gabriel Jenkinson*, Larissa Kelloway, and Veda Baldota make their Free Shakes debut, with Ben Chau-Chiu, Shakoria Davis, and Violet Elisandre understudying.

In addition to Davis, Dalpiaz, and Neapolitan, the creative team includes Rebecca J. Ennals, Artistic Director; Pratiksha Shah, Production Manager; Neal Ormond, Technical Director, Graphic Designer, and Scenic Designer; Gabriella Howell, Deck Manager; Fran Astorga, Master Carpenter; Murph Elyria, Props Master; Richard Jennings, Music Composer; Marina Polakoff, Costume Designer; Anelisa Montoya, Wardrobe Supervisor; Chelsea Gregory, Movement Director; Rachel Katin, Lead Sound Technician; Pablo Rivera, Sound Technician; Rachel Bratt, Hospitality Manager; Robyn Grah, Covid Safety Manager; and Carla Pantoja, Casting Associate.

Interns employed for the show include Veda Baldota and Shakoria Davis (Performance); Violet Elisandre (Literary and Performance); Morgan Bright and Tristan Brousseau (Stage Management); Sara Lowe (Production-Props); Lee Garber-Patel (Production-Wardrobe); and Kaila Bimemiller, Arushi Maheshwar, Anahita Asudani (Hospitality).

As always, **no tickets or reservations are needed** to attend the shows. All are invited to bring family and friends to enjoy professional theater in a beautiful park environment. Additionally, in order to make the show as accessible as we can, a close-captioned recording of the performance will be made available on a date to be announced; check the Festival website, sfshakes.org, for updates.

Covid safety protocols in place at the time of the performances will be followed and updates will also be posted on the Festival website.

Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* features the intermingling of two different love stories - Hero and Claudio, whose love is challenged by jealousy, and Beatrice and Benedick, who work through their past history with each other to find love again. The villainy of Don John and the malaprop-spouting Constable Dogberry add to the fun!

*denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

40th Anniversary production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

Cupertino: Memorial Park Amphitheater, Stevens Creek Blvd and Mary Ave

- Saturday, July 23 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, July 24 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Friday, July 29 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Saturday, July 30 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Sunday, July 31 at 6:00 pm
- Friday, August 5 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, August 6 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 7 at 6:00 pm

Redwood City: Red Morton Community Park, 1455 Madison Ave

- Saturday, August 13 at 4:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, August 14 at 4:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, August 20 at 4:00 pm
- Sunday, August 21 at 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 27 at 4:00 pm
- Sunday, August 28 at 4:00 pm

San Francisco: McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater

- Saturday, September 3 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, September 4 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Monday (Labor Day), September 5 at 2:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, September 10 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, September 11 at 2:00 pm

Admission is free. For more information call the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival at 415-558-0888 or visit www.sfshakes.org

[Download headshot of Director Shannon R. Davis](#)

[Download graphic art for *Much Ado About Nothing*](#)

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Note to Editor: To schedule an interview with artists or staff please email sfshakes@sfshakes.org or call 415-558-0888.

The mission of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education.