



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE**

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**The Shakespeare Theatre Brings Beloved Oscar-Winning Film to Life  
with the First Northeast Production of  
*Shakespeare in Love***

MADISON, NJ — **The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey** celebrates art and William Shakespeare with its next Main Stage production, *Shakespeare in Love*. This new play based on the Oscar-winning screenplay by **Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard** and adapted for the stage by **Lee Hall** makes its Metropolitan debut at STNJ on **October 11**. The production features music by **Paddy Cunneen** and is directed by the Theatre's **Artistic Director Bonnie J. Monte** with **musical direction by Kris Kukul**. Patrons can **purchase tickets at The F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre** located at 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, **by calling the Box Office at 973-408-5600 or by going online at [www.ShakespeareNJ.org](http://www.ShakespeareNJ.org)**.

This exuberant theatrical “love letter” is filled with music and a huge cast of colorful characters (and one feisty dog). The play introduces Will Shakespeare as he struggles with writer’s block – and a forbidden romance with the woman who inspires some of his greatest work. An epic Elizabethan extravaganza – it is rousing, funny, and a beautiful homage to love, art and the Bard himself.

Ms. Monte said, “We’re very excited to be the first company in our region to bring this wonderful theatrical gift to our audience. This is the kind of play, as was the film it’s based on, that has something for people of all ages. It is a glorious conglomeration and celebration of history, imaginative fiction, music, romance, comedy, high and low wit, companionship, and the sublime mystery of the act of artistic creation. We are thrilled to bring it to life for what will hopefully be a broad and diverse audience.”

Provident Bank and Beacon Trust are proud sponsors of *Shakespeare in Love*. Chris Martin, President and CEO of Provident Bank said, "We are delighted to partner with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey to bring *Shakespeare in Love* to the stage. Our support of the performing

arts is an integral part of our commitment to the communities we serve, and one that we take great pride in.”

***Shakespeare in Love*** is sponsored in part by Dr. W. John Bauer and Nancy Boucher. Additional support is provided by Wood Huntley and Beirne Donaldson.

**The Cast:**

**Jon Barker** returns for his 10<sup>th</sup> season in the lead role of Will Shakespeare. Mr. Barker was most recently seen at STNJ in last season’s *Exit the King* on the Main Stage and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (revised)* on the Outdoor Stage. His regional credits include *The Girl of the Golden West*, *Omnivores*, and *Venus in Fur*.

Making her STNJ debut is **Whitney Maris Brown** as Viola de Lesseps, the woman who becomes the inspiration for so many of Shakespeare’s heroines. She has performed regionally at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and the Guthrie Theater. Her television credits include *Divorce* on HBO, *The Path* on Hulu, and *The Americans* on FX.

For his fourth season at The Shakespeare Theatre, **Marcus Dean Fuller** will play the role of Lord Wessex. His company credits include *The Misanthrope*, *King Lear*, and Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. His television credits include *Guiding Light*, *As the World Turns*, and *Law and Order*.

**Edmond Genest** returns for his 21<sup>st</sup> season with The Shakespeare Theatre as Henslowe. His company credits include *A Song at Twilight*, *The Royal Family*, *The Devil’s Disciple*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, and *The Cherry Orchard*, among many others. He has performed on Broadway in *The Elephant Man*, *A Few Good Men*, and *The Real Thing*.

For his 15<sup>th</sup> season, **Ames Adamson** will be playing the role of Fennyman. Mr. Adamson was most recently seen in last season’s *Richard III*. He has also recently performed in the acclaimed Off-Broadway production of *Butler* in the title role.

**David Andrew Macdonald** will play the role of Burbage for his eighth season. His company credits include *Red Velvet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. He has appeared on Broadway in *Skylight*, *Rocky*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Coram Boy*, and *Two Shakespearean Actors*.

**Anthony Marble** returns for his fourth season with The Shakespeare Theatre as Shakespeare’s rival, the playwright Christopher Marlowe. His company credits include *Wittenberg*, *Arms and the Man*, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. He has performed regionally with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

For his fifth season with The Shakespeare Theatre, **Colin McPhillamy** will play Tilney. He has been previously seen at the Theatre in *Tovarich*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Amadeus*, and *The Play’s the Thing*. Mr. McPhillamy has appeared on Broadway in *Waiting in the Wings* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

The dual roles of Queen Elizabeth and Viola's Nurse will be played **Erika Rolfsrud**. Her past company credits include *Misalliance* and *I Capture the Castle*. She has performed on Broadway in *The Coast of Utopia*, *Exit the King*, and *Rabbit Hole*. She is the recipient of the 2008 Kevin Kline Best Actress Award for *The Little Dog Laughed* at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

**Seamus Mulcahy** returns for his eighth season with The Shakespeare Theatre in the role of John Webster. He was most recently seen in last year's holiday production of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. He has also appeared in film and television in *Elementary*, *One Fall*, and *Killing Lincoln*. Mr. Mulcahy is performing side by side with his furry friend, **Dublin the Dog** who is making his STNJ debut in *Shakespeare in Love* as Spot.

Rounding out the cast are returning company members **Quentin McCuiston**, **Patrick Toon**, **Aurea Tomeski**, **Javon Johnson**, **Garrett Lawson**, **Julian Blake Gordon**, and **Joelle Zazz**; **Ryan Halsaver**, **Spencer Lackey**, and **David H. Littleton** will make their STNJ debuts.

#### **The Director:**

**Bonnie J. Monte** is in her 27<sup>th</sup> season with The Shakespeare Theatre and serves as the Artistic Director; under her leadership, the Theatre has evolved into one of the most respected classical companies in the nation. She has directed over 60 acclaimed productions for the company during her tenure, most recently directing this season's Outdoor Stage production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and last season's *Red Velvet* and *Exit the King*.

#### **The Creative Team:**

The F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre stage will be transformed into an Elizabethan theatre by the creative talents of **Scenic Designer Brian Clinnin**, **Lighting Designer Steven Rosen**, and **Costume Designer Nikki Delhomme**. The show's live music is directed by **Kris Kukul**. **Julie Foh** is the **Dialect Coach**, **Danielle Liccardo** is the **Period Dance Consultant**, and long-time company member **Rick Sordelet** is the **Fight Director**. The **Production Stage Manager** is **Denise Cardarelli**.

#### **Tickets:**

Single tickets for *Shakespeare in Love* begin at \$49 for preview performances and \$69 for regular performances. The Theatre is proud to bring back its successful **30 UNDER 30** program for the 2017 season. Patrons aged 30 and under can purchase tickets for only \$30 with valid ID, subject to availability. For tickets, patrons can **call the Box Office at 973-408-5600** or visit **[www.ShakespeareNJ.org](http://www.ShakespeareNJ.org)**.

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey offers various cost-saving opportunities, including \$15 **student rush tickets**, which are available 30 minutes prior to each performance, with a valid student ID, and a limited number of **Pay What You Can** tickets for every performance on a first come, first serve basis. Season Memberships are also available and provide significant cost savings.

### **Special Performances:**

For the same price as a regular ticket, the **Symposium Series performances** offer a post-show discussion with the cast and artistic staff. For *Shakespeare in Love*, the symposia will be held following the Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 p.m., and Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. performances.

On Saturday, October 21 at the 2:00 p.m. matinee, there will be an **Audio Described** and **Open Caption** performance. One hour prior to the matinee, there will be a half-hour sensory seminar at the Theatre. Former company member **Kristen Gongora** will be the audio describer.

The **Know the Show** pre-show talks are offered free-of-cost. Prior to the show, an artist from The Shakespeare Theatre presents a pre-performance talk providing background information and an inside perspective on the production. This program is free with the purchase of a performance ticket, and for *Shakespeare in Love* will be held on Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m., with the show beginning at 8:00 p.m. The Know the Show talk will be **broadcast live on the Theatre's Facebook** page so patrons can watch and interact live from home on their electronic device.

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The acclaimed Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey is an independent, professional theatre company located on the Drew University campus. One of the leading Shakespeare theatres in the nation, serving approximately 100,000 children and adults annually, it is New Jersey's largest professional theatre company dedicated solely to Shakespeare's canon and other world classics. Through its distinguished productions and education programs, the company strives to illuminate the universal and lasting relevance of the classics for contemporary audiences.

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's programs are made possible, in part, by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional major support is received from Bank of America, The Merrill G. and Erita E. Hastings Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The F.M. Kirby Foundation, The Edward T. Cone Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, CTW Foundation, The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation, and The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, as well as contributions from numerous corporations, foundations, government agencies and individuals.

### ***Shakespeare in Love* Snapshot:**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:** Bonnie J. Monte

**MANAGING DIRECTOR:** Todd Rosen

#### **MAIN STAGE:**

36 Madison Avenue (at Lancaster Road)

Madison, NJ

(located on Drew University's campus)

### ***Shakespeare in Love***

Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard

Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

Music by Paddy Cunneen

Directed by Bonnie J. Monte

Originally produced on the West End by Disney Theatrical Productions & Sonya Friedman Productions, directed by Declan Donnellan, and designed by Nick Ormerod.

**Performances begin October 11**

**Previews:** Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, October 12 at 8:00 p.m.; Friday, October 13 at 8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, October 14 at 2:00 p.m.

**Opening Night:** Saturday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m.

**Post-Show Symposium Performances:** Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m.

**Know the Show:** Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.; curtain at 8:00 p.m.

**Audio Described and Open Caption Performance:** Saturday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m., with a sensory seminar at 1:00 p.m.

**Performances:**

Tuesdays (7:30 p.m.): October 24 and November 7

Wednesdays (7:30 p.m.): October 11, 25, and November 8

Thursdays (8:00 p.m.): October 12, 19, 26, November 2 and 9

Fridays (8:00 p.m.): October 13, 20, 27, November 3 and 10

Saturdays (2:00 p.m.): October 14, 21, 28, November 4 and 11

Saturday (7:30 p.m.): October 14

Saturdays (8:00 p.m.): October 21, 28, November 4 and 11

Sundays (2:00 p.m.): October 15, 22, 29, November 5 and 12

Sundays (7:30 p.m.): October 15, 22, 29, November 5 and 12

For tickets and information: Call 973-408-5600 or visit [www.ShakespeareNJ.org](http://www.ShakespeareNJ.org).