



HEARTLAND ACTORS' REPERTORY THEATRE

Heartland Actors' Shakespeare on the Canal at White River State Park Returns in July with *Othello*

Indianapolis, Indiana—June 12, 2012—Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre (HART) announces the return of HART's Shakespeare on the Canal at White River State Park in July, 2012. The theatre company will perform a full-scale production of *Othello*, with performances to be given July 20 and 21 at 8:00PM, and July 22 at 2:00PM. As in years past, the production will take place in downtown Indianapolis at White River State Park's Celebration Plaza Amphitheater. Admission is free to the general public.

HART's Shakespeare on the Canal at White River State Park stands as the only full-scale, faithful, and professional "Shakespeare-in-the-Park" event in Indianapolis, putting the Circle City on par with other cities that play host to similar cultural offerings, such as New York, Chicago, and Toronto. Begun in 2008 as part of the White River State Park Family Arts Series with *Merchant of Venice*, the series has collectively attracted over 6,000 Hoosier audience members since its debut.

One of the most iconic dramas of all time, *Othello* will feature regional powerhouse David Alan Anderson in the title role, with HART company member Ryan Artzberger playing the duplicitous Iago. HART company members Diane Timmerman, Sam Fain, and Scot Greenwell will also appear in the play, as will actress Lauren Briggeman in the role of Desdemona. The production will be directed by HART artistic director Michael Shelton.

"We are returning with a dream cast, one of Shakespeare's most enduring and universal works, and high anticipation in the community for what is truly a wonderful theatrical event unique to our city," said Mr. Shelton. "Heartland Actors could not be more thrilled for this July."

HART's 2012 Shakespeare on the Canal in White River State Park is made possible through the generous support of The Lily Endowment and the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, as well as other donations from private individuals.

"We are tremendously grateful to those who support us in our belief that theatre can change lives," said Matthew Roland, Associate Artistic Director of HART, "and who, in particular, have helped us continue the series as a way to offer theatre of the highest quality to Indianapolis audiences, regardless of race, creed, class, or cultural background."

Audience members are encouraged to arrive early to the free event in order to enjoy picnics and live pre-show music and events on the lawn of the Celebration Plaza Amphitheatre.

For more information, please visit www.heartlandactors.org or contact HART Artistic Director Michael Shelton at 317.796.2222.

Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre is dedicated to achieving artistic excellence while nurturing and showcasing the work of the finest theatre artists in a relevant manner that is accessible to all people. Focusing on a wide range of dramatic styles, HART encourages audiences to understand the breadth of dramatic literature, from the classical to the most contemporary, and to develop an appreciation for the art of live theatre. Through a resident professional company, HART strives to inspire, challenge, amaze, educate, excite, empower, and connect artists and audiences.

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