



DEMAND PR
David Elzer Marketing AND Public Relations

INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. presents
**THE GRIFFITH PARK
FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2015**

*Celebrating ISC's 12th Season of Presenting
FREE Shakespeare in Los Angeles Parks!*

**PERFORMANCES BEGIN THURSDAY, JUNE 25
at THE OLD ZOO in GRIFFITH PARK!**

May 13, 2015...Los Angeles... Independent Shakespeare Co. (ISC) returns to the Old Zoo at Griffith Park for the 2015 season of its **GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** with two plays by William Shakespeare: **ROMEO & JULIET** and **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. ISC is the recipient of the 2015 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for sustained excellence in theatre, and also the recipient of a 2015 National Endowment for the Arts Grant Award.

Comments Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma, “Without a doubt, the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival is the highlight of our year. The audience brings such amazing joy and excitement, the park is a gorgeous refuge, and our company of artists is the strongest it’s ever been. It’s an honor to bring so many Angelenos together to experience wonderful theater!”

Managing Director David Melville adds, “Our production of *Romeo & Juliet* had a sell-out run in our Independent Studio at Atwater Crossing last spring – it was so special that we knew we wanted to share it with a larger audience. We are very excited to be bringing an expanded version of the production to Griffith Park this summer. *Much Ado About Nothing* is also one of our favorites. Since the last time we tackled it our audience has grown exponentially – in 2010, our first year in Griffith Park, we were excited to close with more than 600 people in the audience, now we average 1,100 individuals at each performance!”

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In addition to the performances, ISC will again offer family education workshops on select evenings. Players in the Park/Teatristas en el parque (PIP) workshops are an interactive, energetic way for families to learn about the evening's performance. Led by ISC teaching artists, families will learn about the play, explore Shakespeare's language, take a backstage tour, and try out how it feels on the ISC stage. All workshops are offered in both English and Spanish.

Also returning this season is the Salon Series, discussions led by experts on topics related to Shakespeare as well as Festival Arts Partners, curtain-raising performances by local musicians, dancers and eclectic performing artists.

ISC will also present special, free Wednesday events at Independent Studio, an intimate performance space at Atwater Crossing.

Specific dates for performances, education workshops and special events will be released this spring.

SCHEDULE AND PRICING

GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL runs June 25 through August 30. All Performances are **FREE!** The festival is located in The Old Zoo at Griffith Park (near 4730 Crystal Spring Dr.) GPS Coordinates of the parking area: 34*8.034'N, 118* 17.100'W Visit www.iscla.org or call (818) 710-6306 for directions and information.

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For more information, photos, press interviews or for press comps please contact David Elzer/DEMAND PR at 818-508-1754 or at davidelzer@me.com

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Calendar Listing:

Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival 2015

Opens: Thursday, June 25

Runs: Thursday, June 25 – Sunday August 30

Performances are Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at 7pm, (some Wednesdays)

Old Zoo, Griffith Park

All events are free to the public

For further information, please visit www.iscla.org

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INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. (ISC) was founded in 1998. We have been producing accessible, imaginative performances of classical plays since that time. We are the 2015 recipients of the LA Drama Critics Circle's highest honor, the Margaret Harford Award for sustained excellence in theater and a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Grant Award. Our first performances were located on the Lower East Side of New York City. The stripped down production style of our early productions enabled us to travel easily and we quickly found ourselves touring Europe, ending with an invitation to perform our production of Macbeth for four weeks at The King's Head Theatre in London. In 2001 we relocated to Los Angeles and -- with the support of the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Cultural Affairs -- founded Free Shakespeare in Barnsdall Park, in 2004. Because of audience demand, in 2010 we moved to the significantly larger venue at the Old Zoo and re-christened the summer season the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival. The growth in attendance is extraordinary: our first season played to fewer than 1,000 people; by 2014 over 45,500 people came to Griffith Park for 40 nights of free classical theater productions. In 2012, we expanded our offerings with our indoor performance space, Independent Co. Studio where we present original work, re-imagined stagings of classics, readings and classes. For more information call 818-710-6306 or visit www.iscla.org.

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