



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT: David Elzer
818/508-1754

MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO.
presents
**FREE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS
FOR FAMILIES AT THE
GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

June 22, 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 AND 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.

Players in the Park/Teatristas en el parque (PIP) are pre-show workshops led by ISC teaching artists where families will learn about the play, explore theatrical language, take a backstage tour, and try out how it feels on the ISC stage. All workshops are offered in both English and Spanish.

Workshops before **ROMEO & JULIET**

Sunday, July 12, 5pm

Saturday, July 25, 5pm

Workshops before **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Sunday, August 9, 5pm

Saturday, August 22, 5pm

Reservations recommended for Players in the Park/Teatristas en el parque: 818-710-6306 or www.iscla.org.

(more)

Comments Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma, “Sharing great stories with one another reminds us that we are all connected and much more alike than we are different. Our audience is an extremely diverse community, and it is crucial that we have opportunities that bring us together. It's a joy to see so many families in the audience. We are honored that we are the first experience of Shakespeare (and even live theater) for so many young people, and we feel a responsibility to make the experience engaging, challenging, and memorable. Young people are welcomed and completely included in the festival, not only through providing workshops for families, but through the performance itself: our actors are uniquely accessible, and always happy to take a moment to talk and ask a child's opinion. Not only that, the action of the play frequently moves through and into (and often includes) the audience. We love seeing the row of children that have set up their blankets at the foot of the stage, not wanting to miss a single moment!”

ISC has historically attracted an uncharacteristically youthful and diverse theater audience. The Festival audience is: 46% non-Caucasian, 70% age 35 and under, (26% under the age of 18), and 61% earning under \$50,000 a year.

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 performing artists.

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

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.

#

(more)

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

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

No performance July 4, added performance Wednesday, July 22

Old Zoo, Griffith Park

All events are free to the public

For further information, please visit www.iscla.org

#

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.

#