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Melissa Chalsma, Artistic Director | David Melville, Managing Director



MEDIA ALERT & CALENDAR LISTING
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INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. ANNOUNCES
THE GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2019

TWELFTH NIGHT
&
PERICLES

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

PERFORMANCES BEGIN SATURDAY, JUNE 29 at THE OLD ZOO in GRIFFITH PARK!

Los Angeles... Independent Shakespeare Co. (ISC) returns to the Old Zoo at Griffith Park for the 2019 season of the **Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival** with two plays by William Shakespeare performed in repertory: **Twelfth Night** directed by David Melville and **Pericles** directed by Melissa Chalsma. ISC is thrilled to return to the Old Zoo for the 16th season of presenting free Shakespeare in Los Angeles Parks! The Old Zoo is located in Griffith Park near the intersection of Crystal Springs Drive and Griffith Park Drive.

ABOUT THE 2019 GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma comments, “**Twelfth Night** and **Pericles** play to the strengths of ISC and our artists. **Twelfth Night** is a sophisticated word play that requires a lot of attention to language and skill. Our production will have lots of music as we’ve become known for incorporating live music – it adds a wonderful dimension to the production as well as the experience of live theater under the stars. **Pericles** is about harnessing the audience’s imagination to create an epic story on a bare stage. With both productions, look for the play to take place not just onstage but throughout the audience area!”

Managing Director David Melville adds, “ISC has always been about erasing the barriers between the audience and the artists on stage. With last year’s expanded slate of participatory events celebrating our 15th Anniversary Season, there was such a sense of delight generated by audience members coming in costume or sharing in a picnic potluck, that we all experienced the Festival in a more joyous, inclusive, cooperative way. We are back this year with opportunities to engage with the plays in a personal way, including costume nights at **Twelfth Night** (Dandy Night and Twin Night), and Pirate Night at **Pericles**! The Festival is the place to celebrate summer in an uniquely Los Angeles environment with picnics and great theater.”

In addition to the performances, ISC will again present an expansive offering of events. Players in the Park/Teatristas en el parque (PIP) family education workshops on select evenings. These workshops are an interactive, energetic way for families to learn about the evening’s performance and to be more engaged in the overall live theater experience. Civic Engagement Nights include voter registration, and free postcards and stamps to write your elected officials. The Salon Series are discussions led by experts in the field. And Festival Arts Partners are local performing artists presenting pre-show performances (including the returning Invertigo Dance Theatre). Additional community nights (like Pirate Night at **Pericles**) will be presented throughout the summer.

For more information, photos, press interviews or for press comps please contact Marisa Johnston at media@iscla.org or 818-710-6306.

GRIFFITH PARK FREE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL:

SCHEDULE AND PRICING

Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival will begin June 29 with **Twelfth Night**, followed by **Pericles** beginning July 27, then both productions will play in repertory through September 1. 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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CALENDAR LISTING

Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival 2019

Begins: Saturday, June 29

Runs: Saturday June 29 – Sunday, September 1

Twelfth Night & Pericles will play in repertory

Twelfth Night

Begins: Saturday, June 29

Opening Night: Saturday, July 6

Closes: Sunday, September 1

Pericles:

Begins: Saturday, July 27

Opening Night: Saturday, August 3

Closes: Friday, August 30

Performances are Wednesday, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at 7pm

Note: no performances July 4, 24, 25 & 26

Old Zoo, Griffith Park

All events are free to the public!

For further information, please visit www.iscla.org

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ABOUT INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO.

With the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival 2018, Independent Shakespeare Co. (ISC) celebrated the 15th anniversary of presenting free Shakespeare in Los Angeles city parks. Also in 2018, ISC opened the ISC Studio, an upgrade from our previous indoor space to a larger performance venue and lounge at the Atwater Arts + Innovation Complex. The ISC Studio is active and unpredictable, serving as a multi-purpose and multi-disciplinary laboratory. ISC is the 2018 recipient of The Paul Robeson Citation Award (recognizing those who best exemplify the principles and ideals of this great humanitarian) by Actors' Equity Foundation and Actors' Equity Association (ISC is only the second organization to receive this honor). Our largest program is the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival which has grown to become a tradition for tens of thousands of Angelenos, bringing together our diverse, vibrant community through accessible, imaginative performances of classical plays. In partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, we moved free Shakespeare in Barnsdall Park in 2010 to Griffith Park, the second largest city park in California. The growth in attendance is extraordinary: at our first season (at Barnsdall Park in 2004), we played to fewer than 1,000 people; since 2013 we have welcomed over 40,000 people each summer to the Old Zoo and have now performed to over 382,000 people. Through classical theater we have attracted a community that is young (71% age 35 and under), diverse (48% identify as non-Caucasian, and 75% are middle and lower income), and from all corners of Los Angeles. www.iscla.org

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