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Santa Cruz Shakespeare announces 2018 Summer Festival Productions

Celebrate the 5th season of this beloved independent summer theater

Santa Cruz, CA – Santa Cruz Shakespeare is thrilled to announce its 2018 summer season, with repertory performances beginning July 10 and running through September 2 at the Audrey Stanley Grove in DeLaveaga Park.

Celebrating its fifth season as an independent nonprofit, SCS will kick off summer performances with Shakespeare's hilarious feast of language *Love's Labour's Lost*, directed by Paul Mullins (*The 39 Steps* 2017, *Hamlet*, 2016) beginning performances July 10. *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's classic tragedy of star-crossed lovers, starts July 24 and is directed by Laura Gordon (*Much Ado About Nothing*, 2015). The final mainstage production of the season begins August 7 with David Ives's psycho-sexual comedic thriller *Venus in Fur*. All productions run in repertory after opening. Plus, Santa Cruz Shakespeare continues the tradition of showcasing the season's intern acting company with its celebratory **Fringe** production, Dorothy Parker's *Men I'm Not Married To*. Tickets go on sale May 15, 2018 with a Santa Cruz Shakespeare Member pre-sale starting May 1, and can be purchased online at santacruzshakespeare.org.

Artistic Director Mike Ryan frames the season by saying, "To quote *Venus in Fur*: 'Hail, Aphrodite!' Our 2018 lineup is about the consequences of trying to control love. The results of this control play out tragically, hilariously, and even sexually, but always with unexpected results. It is a season in which women refuse to be defined by the men around them or to play by their rules."

SCS also inaugurates its first week of student-only matinees in early September, open to area high-school students. "The ultimate goal for this program is to make sure every high school student in Santa Cruz County will have seen a live, professional production of Shakespeare by the time they graduate," says Ryan. "We couldn't be more thrilled to share one of Shakespeare's classics with the next generation of theatergoers."

Santa Cruz Shakespeare will once again offer a "Free Youth Ticket" to one of its productions, a program initiated in 2015 to encourage the introduction of Shakespeare to the next generation. This year, those 18 and under accompanied by a paying adult will receive a **free grounding ticket** to *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Press photos can be downloaded at www.santacruzshakespeare.org/media. To arrange an interview with Mike Ryan, Artistic Director, or other SCS artists, contact Lane Jouvett at 831-460-6396, x6.

Inspired by Shakespeare, SCS creates and strengthens community by bringing audiences and theater artists together to celebrate stories about our collective humanity. SCS envisions a community where generations are increasingly passionate and knowledgeable about Shakespeare and live theatre, a community that engages in active discussion about language and art and reaches for passion, connection, and empowerment.

www.santacruzshakespeare.org

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