



For Immediate Release
June 9, 2015

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Santa Cruz Shakespeare in talks with City for new home in 2016

Santa Cruz, CA – Santa Cruz Shakespeare (SCS) announced today that it is in talks with the City of Santa Cruz to find an appropriate location within the City parks system to produce its summer Festival starting in 2016, opening a new chapter in the Festival’s history. While SCS will be performing in the Sinsheimer-Stanley Festival Glen this summer from June 30 through August 30, UC Santa Cruz has informed SCS that it will not renew the Company’s Glen lease agreement after the conclusion of the 2015 season.

“Since we became a new, independent, non-profit theatre company last year, one of our primary strategic goals has been to integrate more deeply and meaningfully with the community,” said Mike Ryan, Artistic Director. “Our recent strategic planning process has made clear that if SCS is to continue to grow and thrive as an independent and sustainable organization, we need to be situated in the city of Santa Cruz, not only artistically but geographically. Our true home is in town.”

SCS is committed to producing the Shakespeare summer festival in a serene and accessible outdoor setting that will continue the traditions and artistry treasured in the summer Shakespeare Festival. Discussions with the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department are moving forward after exploring several sites within the city limits. SCS will be submitting a formal proposal to the City of Santa Cruz within the next week for a to-be-announced City Parks site.

“Moving the Festival to a new location will not change our mission, but rather will provide SCS the freedom and flexibility to thrive and grow,” says Bill Richter, SCS Board Chair. “There will be time to celebrate the Glen, as well as to amass ideas, efforts, and of course, capital, to take us together into our new home, but for now, what we want is for audiences to enjoy the 2015 season to its fullest, and to bring their friends and family – it’s going to be wickedly great.”

Tickets are currently on sale for the 2015 season, which features three outdoor productions, starting with the wickedly romantic Shakespeare comedy ***Much Ado About Nothing*, opening July 3**; followed by David Ives’s modern adaptation of the wickedly hilarious 17th century farce, ***The Liar*, opening July 24**; and Shakespeare’s wicked tragedy, ***Macbeth*, opening August 7**. Plus, SCS continues the tradition of its intern-showcasing **Fringe** production with four performances of the wickedly festive comedy ***The Rover*, starting August 18**.

To arrange an interview with Mike Ryan, Artistic Director, contact Cheryl Games at 831-460-6396, x. 6.

Santa Cruz Shakespeare (SCS), rooted in Santa Cruz, California, is celebrating its second season as an independent non-profit theatre company. Inspired by Shakespeare, SCS creates and strengthens community by bringing audiences and theater artists together to celebrate stories about our collective humanity.

www.santacruzshakespeare.org

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