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“SOME HAVE GREATNESS THRUST UPON THEM” SHAKESPEARE'S TWELFTH NIGHT ARRIVES IN 1942, SANTA MONICA ON JULY 29

(Santa Monica) On July 29, 2016, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles' professional company will captivate audiences again after a successful 30 years of award-winning Shakespearean performances with the comedy, Twelfth Night. Hosted at Santa Monica College, the production runs through August 21, 2016 and is directed by one-time Royal Shakespeare Company member, Kenn Sabberton. With inspiration drawn from the real life events of the “Great Los Angeles Air Raid of 1942” and alien-invasion hysteria, Twelfth Night is subtly immersed in the sights and sounds of the 1940’s, along with original music by composer and cast member Fred Sanders (Feste).

In this irresistible romantic comedy, Sabberton will transport audiences to 1940s Los Angeles, in an other dimension where everything is turned upside down and nothing is what it seems. Viola loves Orsino, who thinks he loves Olivia. Olivia thinks she loves Cesario who is really Viola, dressed as a man. Malvolio thinks he is a gentleman, but he is not. The foolish and foppish Sir Andrew thinks he is a fine match for the Lady Olivia, but he is far from it. And Sebastian is actually played by a woman! There is disguise and impersonation at every turn; even the language is turned upside down. Nobody really knows who they are or what they want. A case of bodysnatchers at its finest!

Director Kenn Sabberton has been an actor, director and teacher for over thirty years. Prior to training he was the youngest ever Artistic Director of the Enfield Youth Theatre and was invited to work with the renowned National Youth Theatre. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and achieved a B.A. degree in Theatre Studies and after many years working in London, Kenn was invited to join the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford Upon Avon and this lasted 10 years. Post the RSC, he has worked with London’s Royal National Theatre, the Aquila Theatre Company and as an associate artist teacher with NYU Center for Ancient Studies, studying, lecturing and researching Shakespeare. This will be Kenn’s fourth production with SCLA (previous shows include; As You Like It, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet). His notable film/ TV credits include Adrian Noble’s “A Midsummer Nights Dream,” “The Bill” and “The Lost World”.

All performances will be held in the intimate 266-seat theatre at Santa Monica College's Main Stage Theatre Arts Bldg. For ticket sales and information please call the box office at 213-481-2273 or purchase and print your tickets on the web at www.shakespearecenter.org.

Press photos are available upon request.

Reviewing Press is invited to attend the preview (Thursday July 28, 2016) or any performances over opening weekend (based on availability).

CALENDAR LISTING DETAILS

What: Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare and directed by Kenn Sabberton

Summary: In 1942, bright lights in the skies of L.A. could only mean one of two things -- a Pearl Harbor-style attack by Japan or an alien invasion. The Great Los Angeles Air Raid, as it's become known, provides the perfect SoCal backdrop for the Shakespeare Center's new production of *Twelfth Night*. The gender-bending comedy -- which tracks the misadventures of shipwrecked twins Viola and Sebastian -- is famously filled with unrequited love, mistaken identity, love triangles, lies and some of the Bard's wittiest wordplay, which makes the hysteria-based setting an intriguing one. Directed by former Royal Shakespeare Company member Kenn Sabberton and performed by some of today's top recognized film and television actors, the show is set to take the stage at Santa Monica College.

Where: Santa Monica College Main Stage on the Quad, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405

When: July 29 – Aug 21, Wed - Sat at 8pm, Sun at 2pm

Tickets: Tickets are \$40 for General Admission, \$70 for VIP Seats plus a box, picnic meal provided by Thyme Cafe. Student tickets are \$20 and FREE for Veterans. Tickets may be purchased online at www.shakespearecenter.org or by calling 213-481-2273. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Group organizers are encouraged to call the box office for pricing and availability.

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES AND SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Presents William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

Director: Kenn Sabberton

Artistic Director (SCLA): Ben Donenberg

Scenic Designer (SMC): Lacey Anzelc

Lighting Designer (SMC): Leigh Allen

Costume Designer (SMC): Kristie Mattsson

Prop Master (SMC): Kirk Graves

CAST

Orsino: Chris Butler*

Olivia: Tracey A. Leigh*

Maria: Kimberly Scott*

Sir Toby Belch: Stephen Caffrey*

Malvolio: Time Winters*

Viola: Therese Barbato*

Sebastian: Connor Kelly-Eiding*

Feste: Fred Sanders*

Sir Andrew Aguecheek: Christopher Rivera*

Antonio: Sheldon Donenberg

Valentine: Dustin Staff

* Indicates Actor's Equity Association

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES

The award-winning Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles (501(c)3) teams up with Santa Monica College's Theatre Arts, to expand access to its critically-acclaimed professional Shakespeare productions and maintain its free admission to active military, veterans, their families and caregivers. **The summer production** is a tradition throughout Los Angeles that annually attracts thousands of children, students, veterans, adults, and seniors. The new arts partnership combines the award-winning artistic excellence of SCLA's professional productions and the educational excellence of SMC, to offer theatre students opportunities to play a part in the new SMC Shakespeare Apprentice Company. **Veterans In Art**, SCLA's successful transitional veterans employment initiative provides unemployed veterans and vets enrolled at SMC transitional summer employment in tandem with college accredited technical theater training, with over 100 vets served to date. **Will Power to Youth**, 26 years strong over 1200 youth participants, employs and teaches underserved youth in LA communities by creating Shakespeare's works in collaboration with top professionals in the arts community. The program has expanded this year from 30 youth to 60, with expansion plans to 500 participants in the next 3 years in coordination with LAUSD. Following Twelfth Night, is the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles' **26th Annual Simply Shakespeare** benefit reading of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Freud Playhouse, UCLA Campus. Hosted by Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks, the hilarious evening of impromptu Shakespeare and song will feature a star-studded cast, such as Christina Applegate and William Shatner. Program, 8:00 pm; post performance reception with cast, 9:30 pm. Proceeds benefit The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles and its arts-based veterans and youth employment programs.