

MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS TO PRESENT TWO SHAKESPEAREAN CLASSICS

HAMLET and TWELFTH NIGHT TO BE FEATURED IN THE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

(Bozeman, MT) In June, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will open its 40th season of providing exceptional entertainment throughout the region with two of Shakespeare's most popular plays, *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night*. The summer season, which begins June 20th with eight initial performances in Bozeman, will be hitting the road on July 2nd and will include 75 performances in 59 communities prior to its conclusion on September 9th.

One of the summer's most anticipated events all across the region, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks brings professional productions **at no cost to the public** to communities throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho, western North Dakota and, eastern Washington. Remarkably self-sufficient, the company features 10 professional actors selected by national audition who tour without technical assistance to bring live theatre to communities primarily in rural areas. This summer, with new communities including Columbus, Whitehall and two days in Butte, the anticipated audience of over 30,000 will be treated to two wonderful performances that encompass the broad perspective of Shakespeare's genius as a playwright.

Beginning the 40th season will be *Hamlet* which is almost universally hailed as the greatest play ever written in the English language; Shakespeare's action packed tragedy begins with a restless ghost, a dispossessed prince and a hasty royal wedding. Hamlet, the prince who has come home to a ghost father and a re-married mother, struggles to enact his revenge, going a bit mad in the process. Much mayhem and rich language ensues while Hamlet contemplates his place in the universe, his deep love for his doomed mistress Ophelia, and his duty to revenge his murdered King. Artistic Director, Joel Jahnke, says about the place he will be setting the play, "So I want to create a Denmark that is royal, classy and also full of decadence, a Denmark in the late twenties where all these beautiful people must tragically die. It's a beautiful Denmark but unfortunately, it's rotten."

In juxtaposition to this tragedy, Associate Artistic Director, William Brown has chosen to direct *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare's delightful comedy of wild infatuation and mistaken identities. Shipwrecked on the rocky coast of Illyria, the beautiful and daring Viola disguises herself as a man to protect her honor in this strange land, and finds employment as a page in the court of the lovesick Duke Orsino. Meanwhile, the servant Maria and the drunken Sir Toby Belch conspire to enact a riotous revenge on the hilariously pompous servant Malvolio. Filled with Shakespeare's most memorable comedic characters and sweet romantic longings, this magical comedy will be patterned after *Pirates of the Caribbean...the ride*. "I feel Illyria must be a dangerous place or why else would Viola feel the need to disguise herself as a man?" says director, William Brown. "It must be a beautiful place and it must be a place where ships are wrecked and sailors rule and people begin again. Sounds like pirates to me!"

For more information on the plays and a complete tour schedule visit the company's newly designed website at www.shakespeareintheparks.org

ATTENDING A PERFORMANCE

All performances, with the exception of the Sweet Pea Festival are free and tickets are not needed for admission. The first 8 days in Bozeman will have a special events going on each day prior to the performances and all are free (opening itinerary follows). Audiences are encouraged to show up prior to the appointed curtain time with blankets or chairs, a picnic supper, and plenty of friends and family to enjoy the evening.

MAJOR SUMMER SPONSORS

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is an outreach program of Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture. Performances this summer are supported by grants and corporate sponsorships as well as hundreds of individual donors who give what they can to keep the performances free and available to everyone in the touring area. Major Sponsors include the National Endowment for the Arts, NorthWestern Energy, Stillwater Mining, Barrick Foundation JTech Communications, Montana Cultural Trust and the Montana Arts Council.

PERFORMANCES IN BOZEMAN

June 20-23, 2012 at 8pm

Hamlet

MSU Grove, East of the Duck Pond

June 27-30, 2012 at 8pm

Twelfth Night

MSU Grove, East of the Duck Pond

August 3, 2012 at 4:30 pm

Twelfth Night

Sweet Pea Festival- Lindley Park

August 5, 2012 at 5:00 pm

Hamlet

Sweet Pea Festival- Lindley Park

September 9, 2012 at 1:00 pm

Hamlet

FINAL DAY OF THE TOUR

Ellen Theater, *free indoor performance*

BOZEMAN 40TH ANNIVERSARY OPENING EVENTS- for full details go to
www.shakespeareintheparks.org

Wednesday - June 20

Opening Night, *HAMLET*, special guests MSIP Artistic Director Joel Jahnke, MSU President Cruzado and Exec. Director of MAC, Arni Fishbaugh.

Thursday - June 21

Thursday Talks with the Director- play discussion prior to the performance with the director and members of the acting company

Friday - June 22

Business Partners Night- All Business partners will be thanked on-stage by the MSIP acting company.

Saturday - June 23

Alumni Night – welcome to all MSIP alumni

Wednesday - June 27

Opening Night, *TWELFTH NIGHT*- opening remarks by Associate Artistic Director William Brown.

Thursday - June 28

Thursday Talks with the Director -- play discussion prior to the performance with the director and members of the acting company.

Friday - June 29 -Special IN KIND Recognition and Award given prior to performance.

Saturday - June 30

Kids Day 1-3pm - Bring your kids to a free “mini-festival” at the duck pond.

MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS 2012 TOUR FACT SHEET

WHAT: FREE professional productions

SHOWS: HAMLET
by William Shakespeare
directed by Joel Jahnke
costumes designed by Alex Wren Meadows
scenery designed by Tom Watson

TWELFTH NIGHT
by William Shakespeare
directed by William Brown
costumes designed by Claudia Boddy
scenery designed by Tom Watson

CAST: (for both productions)
MARK KUNTZ - Company manager- 17th tour
CHRISTOPHER PELTIER- 4th tour
STEVE PEEBLES- 4th tour
TYLER RICH- 3rd tour
JOSE NATERAS- 1st tour
NILE HAWVER- 1st tour
GLEN WALL- 1st tour
ELIZA STOUGHTON- 5th tour
COURTNEY JONES- 2nd tour
CARLY CORNELIUS- 1st tour

WHERE: 75 performances in
59 different venues throughout Montana, northern
Wyoming, eastern Idaho, western North Dakota and eastern Washington
10 week tour commences June 20, 2012 ends September 9, 2012

MORE INFO: Contact Kathy Jahnke
406-994-1220
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2012 TOUR SCHEDULE

June 20, Wednesday, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 21, Thursday, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 22, Friday, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 23, Saturday, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 27, Wednesday, Bozeman, *Twelfth Night*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 28, Thursday, Bozeman, *Twelfth Night*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 29, Friday, Bozeman, *Twelfth Night*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
June 30, Saturday, Bozeman, *Twelfth Night*, 8:00 p.m., MSU-Grove
July 1, Sunday, Bozeman, OFF
July 2, Monday, Dillon, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., JayCee Park
July 3, Tuesday, Big Timber, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., City Park
July 4, Wednesday, Hobson, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Utica Clubhouse Lawn
July 5, Thursday, Lewistown, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Fergus County Fairgrounds-Gazebo
July 6, Friday, Forsyth, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Rosebud County Courthouse Lawn- East Lawn
July 7, Saturday, Sidney, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Veteran's Park
July 8, Sunday, Beach, ND, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Beach Swimming Pool Park
July 9, Monday, Wolf Point, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Bridge Park
July 10, Tuesday, Glendive, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Makoshika State Park
July 11, Wednesday, Ekalaka, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Dahl Memorial Lawn
July 12, Thursday, Miles City, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Pumping Plant Park
July 13, Friday, Birney, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Poker Jim Butte
July 14, Saturday, Colstrip, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Rye Park Pavilion
July 15, Sunday, Sheridan, WY, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Kendrick Park
July 16, Monday, Billings, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Pioneer Park
July 17, Tuesday, Billings, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Pioneer Park
July 18, Wednesday, Hardin, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., South Park (Corner of Lewis and Division)
July 19, Thursday, Worland, WY, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Sanders Park
July 20, Friday, Roundup, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., City Park
July 21, Saturday, Billings, OFF
July 22, Sunday, Red Lodge, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Lions Park
July 23, Monday, Powell, WY, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Washington Park
July 24, Tuesday, Cody, WY, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Canal Park
July 25, Wednesday, Absarokee, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Fishtail Family Park
July 26, Thursday, Columbus, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Park
July 27, Friday: Cooke City/ Silver Gate, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Silver Gate Park
July 28, Saturday, Gardiner, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Arch Park
July 29, Sunday, Pocatello, ID, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Idaho State University Quad (South end)
July 30, Monday, Pocatello, ID, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Idaho State University Quad (South end)
July 31, Tuesday, Star Valley Ranch, WY, *Hamlet*, 6:30 p.m., Star Valley Ranch
August 1, Wednesday, Driggs, ID, *Twelfth Night*, 6:30 p.m., Driggs City Park
August 2, Thursday, West Yellowstone, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Union Pacific Building-220 West Yellowstone Ave. **this is an indoor venue*
August 3, Friday, Sweet Pea, Bozeman, *Twelfth Night*, 4:30 p.m., Lindley Park
**Admission is charged to attend the Sweet Pea Festival*
August 4, Saturday, Bozeman, OFF
August 5, Sunday, Sweet Pea, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 5:00 p.m., Lindley Park
**admission is charges to attend the Sweet Pea Festival*
August 6, Monday, Great Falls, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., UGF Theater
August 7, Tuesday, Great Falls, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., UGF Theater
August 8, Wednesday, Cut Bank, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Cut Bank City Park
August 9, Thursday, Ft. Benton, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Ft. Benton City Park
August 10, Friday, Choteau, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Lawn@ Skyline Lodge
August 11, Saturday, Deer Lodge, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Old Montana Prison Yard
August 12, Sunday, Boulder, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Jefferson County Fairgrounds

August 13, Monday, Helena, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Pioneer Park- next to L&C Library
August 14, Tuesday, Helena, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Pioneer Park- next to L&C Library
August 15, Wednesday, Philipsburg, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Philipsburg City Park
August 16, Thursday, St Ignatius, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., St. Ignatius Amphitheater
August 17, Friday, Plains, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Sanders County Fairgrounds
August 18, Saturday, Heron, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., MT Time, Heron Ballfield
August 19, Sunday, Libby, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Middle School Amphitheater
August 20, Monday, Eureka, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Historic Village
August 21, Tuesday, Kalispell, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Flathead Valley Community College
August 22, Wednesday: Superior, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Behind High School
August 23, Thursday, Seeley Lake, OFF
August 24, Friday, Seeley Lake, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Double Arrow Lodge Grounds
August 25, Saturday, Liberty Lake, WA, *Twelfth Night*, 5:00 p.m., Pavillion Park
August 26, Sunday, Charlo, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Palmer Park
August 27, Monday, Missoula, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., University of Montana Oval
August 28, Tuesday, Missoula, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., University of Montana Oval
August 29, Wednesday, Hamilton, *TBD*, 6:00 p.m., Daly Mansion
August 30, Thursday, Salmon, ID, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Sacajawea Center
August 31, Friday, Butte, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Mural Park
September 1, Saturday, Butte, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Mural Park
September 2, Sunday, Manhattan, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Alterbrand Park
September 3, Monday, Anaconda, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Washoe Park
September 4, Tuesday, Townsend, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Fun Park
September 5, Wednesday, Whitehall, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Whitehall School Lawn
September 6, Thursday, Chico, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Main Lawn
September 7, Friday, Big Sky, *Hamlet*, 6:00 p.m., Town Center
September 8, Saturday, Laurel, *Twelfth Night*, 6:00 p.m., Laurel Practice Football Field
September 9, Sunday, Bozeman, *Hamlet*, 1:00 p.m., Ellen Theater