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## **CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER ANNOUNCES A SHARED 47<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**

**The Season of Shared Light will include one Cal Shakes production and performances from a growing number of local arts and culture organizations**

**February 2, 2021— (Orinda, CA)** Responding to the ongoing pandemic and movement for racial equity, **California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes)** is honored to announce their 2021 **Season of Shared Light** that will open its outdoor Bruns Amphitheater to community groups, artists, and arts and culture organizations from across the Bay Area.

"At Cal Shakes, many of our performances take place—not in the relative anonymity of a dark theater—but under the sun," says Artistic Director Eric Ting explaining the meaning behind Shared Light. "It's a thing I've come to love (and miss dearly): actors and audience alike, in full view of one another, relinquishing the control we normally associate with the theater and instead navigating the complexity of each other's very real presence across the arc of a performance, cohabiting the shared light of our space."

"We've done a lot of reflection this past year, about the need to respond to these recent crises with compassion and humility; and have thought long and hard about how Cal Shakes might return in meaningful service of a more resilient community. How might we seek to share resources rather than amass them, to cultivate relationships rather than transact them?"

"Over the next few months we'll be sharing the fruits of that labor—a developing vision of mutual aid rooted in creative expression and collective action."

In order to share space, Cal Shakes will produce one play in their 47th season, ***The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare** and directed by Ting. In addition, they will continue to develop digital and in-person programming (safety permitting) throughout the year, including **Shakespeare In-Depth with Philippa Kelly**, its **Direct Address** series, and other performance and educational opportunities.

Throughout the summer, Cal Shakes will share its extraordinary open-air venue with an array of local arts organizations and community groups including **Destiny Arts, Bandaloop, West Edge Opera,** and other groups to be announced.

"We know that outdoor space will continue to be a premium in 2021, so sharing our grounds with our fellow arts and cultural organizations feels like exactly the thing we can and should be doing this year," says **Managing Director Sarah Williams**. "We are eagerly looking forward to the summer, and operating under the assumption that by May we will be able to responsibly return in some capacity. Above all, we will continue to be flexible and monitor the mandates around reopening to ensure the safety of our artists, staff, and community."

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties associated with it, Cal Shakes will hold off announcing specific dates and ticket sales for *The Winter's Tale* until there is more clarity around reopening, gathering, and social distancing guidelines. All events are subject to change.

Further artistic and community initiatives as part of the Season of Shared Light will be announced over the coming months.

For information visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## **ABOUT CAL SHAKES**

California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Ting and Managing Director Sarah Williams, is now in its 47th season as a nationally-recognized leader in drawing on the power of authentic, inclusive storytelling to create more vibrant communities. Serving more than 43,000 people annually, Cal Shakes invites people from all walks of life to make deeply-felt connections with our shared humanity through its work onstage, in schools, and with people in non-traditional settings throughout the Bay Area who have little or no access to theater. For more information, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

California Shakespeare Theater's 2021 season is supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and The Sidney E. Frank Foundation.

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