FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: Isabel Siragusa, Assoc. Director of Digital Marketing & Communications
press@calshakes.org

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE WINTER’S TALE

Cal Shakes’ first live production since 2019 features an all-local cast

Orinda, CA, July 27, 2021 - California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) returns to the Bruns Amphitheater with The Winter’s Tale by William Shakespeare, adapted by Artistic Director Eric Ting and Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly, and directed by Ting, playing September 1-26, 2021 at the Bruns Amphitheater.

"The Winter’s Tale brings us back to the Bruns after the long winter of this past year," says Ting. “I’m humbled to be joined by such extraordinary Bay Area artists as we navigate Shakespeare’s profound examination of jealousy and love, friendship and suspicion, loss and reunion, and the lengths we’ll go to to avoid the hard—and liberating—truths. This will be a grand collaboration, filled with music and dance and laughter and tears and maybe—just maybe—a codpiece or two.”

The Winter’s Tale is part of Cal Shakes’ ongoing Season of Shared Light that included performances from Destiny Arts and Bandaloop, West Edge Opera, Papermoon Presents, and Good Medicine: A Night of Native Stand-Up Comedy, among others.

The new adaptation features an entirely local Bay Area cast of actors initially contracted to perform in Cal Shakes’ cancelled 2020 Season including Bruns veterans: Safiya Fredericks (she/her; black odyssey, 2016’s Much Ado About Nothing at Cal Shakes; most recently Hieroglyph with San Francisco Playhouse and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre; 2019 Company Member at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; among many other local and regional credits), Dean Linnard (he/him; 2019’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Good Person of Szechwan at Cal Shakes; Twelfth Night, Love’s Labour’s Lost at Marin Shakespeare Company; Hand to God, Bad Jews at Left Edge Theatre; Groundhog Day: The Musical at San Francisco Playhouse—San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award; The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, and Taming of the Shrew at Vermont Shakespeare Festival; among others around the Bay and regionally), Craig Marker (he/him; 2017’s As You Like It, 2015’s King Lear, 2010’s Macbeth, 2009’s Romeo and Juliet...
at Cal Shakes; Sovereignty, Anne Boleyn, Invisible Hand at Marin Theatre Company; Noises Off at San Francisco Playhouse; and The Liar at Center REPertory Company; among many others in the Bay and abroad), Sharon Shao (she/her; The Good Person of Szechwan at Cal Shakes; Hamlet at Oakland Theater Project, Iron Shoes at Shotgun Players, Utopia at Cutting Ball Theater, among other Bay Area credits), Victor Talmadge (he/him; Everybody and The Good Person of Szechwan at Cal Shakes; Long Day’s Journey into the Night at Oakland Theater Project; Broadway’s November; National Tour of The King and I; LA Production of The Lion King; among many other regional and local credits), dane troy (he/him; 2019’s Macbeth at Cal Shakes; Native Son and Jazz at Marin Theatre Company, Cardboard Piano at New Conservatory Theatre Company), and Phil Wong (he/him; The Good Person of Szechwan at Cal Shakes, among many Bay Area credits; co-founder of Bay Area Theatre Cypher, a collective of artists and activists who live at the crossfader of Theatre and Hip Hop).

Making their Cal Shakes debuts are Regina Morones (she/her; Retablos at Word for Word; Utopia at Cutting Ball Theater; As You Like It at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival where she is a resident artist; and Women Laughing Alone with Salad at Shotgun Players) and Cathleen Riddley (she/her; Bay Area credits: Tree and Man of La Mancha at San Francisco Playhouse, The Time of Your Life at American Conservatory Theater, To Kill a Mockingbird at TheatreWorks, Pericles at Marin Shakespeare Company; Hamlet and brownsville song at Shotgun Players, among others).

The Winter’s Tale creative team includes Scenic Designer Tanya Orellana (she/her; the world premiere of Sweet Land at the Industry in L.A.; the Mexico premiere of Angels in America; the world premiere of The Heath at Merrimack Repertory Theatre; member of Campo Santo), Costume Designer Ulises Alcala (he/him; Quixote Nuevo, The Good Person of Szechwan at Cal Shakes; Oedipus, el Rey at Magic Theatre; Actually, Bull in a China Shop at Aurora Theatre Company; Sweat at American Conservatory Theater; White at Shotgun Players; The Abduction from the Seraglio at Opera San Jose; The Merry Wives of Windsor at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Don Pasquale at the San Francisco Opera Center; Don Giovanni at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and The Winter’s Tale at Santa Cruz Shakespeare), Lighting Designer Wen-Ling Liao (she/her; Quixote Nuevo and House of Joy at Cal Shakes; Gloria and Vietgone at American Conservatory Theater; The Catastrophist, The Who and The What, The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley, and I and You at Marin Theatre Company), Sound Designer Michael Kelly (he/him; Audio Supervisor at Cal Shakes since 2017; multidisciplinary artist who has worked at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Shotgun Players, Magic Theatre, St. Mary’s College, among others locally and abroad), Fight Director Dave Maier (he/him; Cal Shakes’ Resident Fight Director since 2006, winning TBA Award for Quixote Nuevo; worked at San Francisco Opera, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse, Center REPertory Company, Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, SF Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Shotgun Players, and Oakland Theatre Project), Movement Director Kendra Kimbrough Barnes (she/her; co-choreographer of black odyssey at Cal Shakes; for colored girls at African American Shakespeare Company; co-founder K*STAR*PRODUCTION and Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble), Music Director/Accompanist Phil Wong, and Vocal/Text Coach Lisa Anne.
Porter (she/her; dialect for black odyssey and Viola in 2015’s Twelfth Night at Cal Shakes; Head of Acting and Dialects at American Conservatory Theater, Co-Head of Voice and Dialects for SF production of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child; Recent Bay Area acting credits: Eureka Day at Aurora Theatre Company, The Eva Trilogy and A Bright Half Life at Magic Theatre).

Adapter/Director Eric Ting (he/they) is an Obie Award-winning director and Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater. Recent directing credits include The 1491s’ Between Two Knees (world prem, Oregon Shakespeare Theater); Gloria (American Conservatory Theater) and An Octoroon (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins; The Good Person of Szechwan (Cal Shakes); and Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower: The Opera adapted by Toshi Reagon (world prem, International Tour). New York: Manhattan Theatre Club, Public Theater Under the Radar, Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave, Soho Repertory Theatre. Regional: Long Wharf Theatre, Hartford Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Denver Center, Center Theatre Group, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. International: Singapore, France, UAE, Holland, Canada, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bali. Upcoming: Bina’s Six Apples by Lloyd Suh (world prem, CTC / Alliance); Between Two Knees (Yale Repertory Theatre).

Adapter/Dramaturg Dr. Philippa Kelly (she/her) is Cal Shakes’ Resident Dramaturg. She has been awarded fellowships from many foundations, including the Fulbright, Rockefeller, and Walter and Eliza Hall. A Bly Creative Capacity Award from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas enabled her, with co-recipient Amrita Ramanan, to complete Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation in Contemporary Dramaturgy: Case Studies from the Field (Routledge, 2020). Philippa also received a 2020 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support her work with Cal Shakes. Her Arden book, The King and I, illuminates King Lear through the lens of Australia’s history of outcasting.

Single tickets for The Winter’s Tale range from $30 to $65 marking a lower average ticket price across sections than previous seasons. Prices, dates, titles, and artists are subject to change. For information or to charge tickets by phone with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 (Tuesday- Friday 2-6 pm). Additional information and online ticketing are available at 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.

Fast Facts about The Winter’s Tale

WHAT
California Shakespeare Theater’s The Winter’s Tale by William Shakespeare
Adapted by Eric Ting & Philippa Kelly
Directed by Eric Ting

Designed by Tanya Orellana (scenic designer), Ulises Alcala (costume designer), Wen-Ling Liao (lighting designer), Michael Kelly (sound designer), Dave Maier (fight director), Kendra Kimbrough Barnes (movement choreographer), Phil Wong (music director/accompanist), Lisa Anne Porter, (vocal/text coach), Philippa Kelly (dramaturg)

Featuring: Safiya Fredericks, Dean Linnard, Craig Marker, Regina Morones, Cathleen Riddley, Sharon Shao, Victor Talmadge, dane troy, Phil Wong

WHEN
September 1 - 26, 2021
Previews September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7
Press opening Wednesday, September 8
Evenings at 7:30 pm
Matinees (Sun) at 3 pm; select Saturdays at 2 pm

Grounds open two hours prior to show time for picnicking. Café and full bar are available on site.

WHERE
Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563
(just off Highway 24 at the California Shakespeare Theater Way/Wilder Rd. exit, one mile east of the Caldecott Tunnel.)

Complimentary shuttle from Orinda BART beginning 2 hours before curtain. Complimentary parking onsite.

TICKETS
Single tickets start at $30. Prices subject to change.
All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office by phone at 510.548.9666 (between 2-6 pm Tuesday-Friday), online at www.calshakes.org, or at the Bruns box office on the day of the performance (pending availability).

SAFETY

INFO
www.calshakes.org

###
The Winter's Tale Special Events

Community Previews, September 1 & 2, 7:30 pm
The first two previews are invite-only events reserved for community service organizations, artists, first responders, large school groups, or other non-profit organizations. If you’d like to learn more please reach out to boxoffice@calshakes.org.

Pay-What-You-Can Preview, September 3 & 4, 7:30 pm
Tickets are first-come, first-served, and available two weeks prior to the performances. To purchase, visit todaytix.com, download the TodayTix app or call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit the Bruns Amphitheater Box Office.

InSight Matinee, Sunday, September 12, following the 3 pm matinee
Explore the world of the play through an informal dialogue with Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly Free.

Meet the Artists, Sunday September 19, following the 3 pm performance
Audience members enjoy an opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about the production with cast. Free.

Grove Talks, 45 minutes before each performance
Free, informal 20-minute talks are held on site 45 minutes before each and every performance in the ADA-accessible Grove Talk grove, offering invaluable insight into the play and the production.

# # #