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**CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER
ANNOUNCES *ROMEO Y JULIET* AND
MARCUS GARDLEY'S *LEAR*
FOR 48th SEASON**

Cal Shakes will produce two world premiere Shakespearean adaptations including *Romeo y Juliet* originally slated for the canceled 2020 season and Marcus Gardley's *Lear* in partnership with Oakland Theater Project and with support from Play On Shakespeare.

December 20, 2021— (Orinda, CA) California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) is pleased to announce its 2022 season at the Bruns Amphitheater featuring two world premiere Shakespearean adaptations: the bilingual *Romeo y Juliet* adapted by **Karen Zacarias and directed by **KJ Sanchez**, running May 25-June 19; and *Lear*, a modern verse translation by **Marcus Gardley** and co-directed by **Eric Ting** and **Dawn Monique Williams**, running September 7-October 2 in partnership with **Oakland Theater Project** and with support from **Play On Shakespeare**.**

Following a successful 2021 Season of Shared Light that opened the Bruns Amphitheater to 25 other performing arts organizations and community groups before culminating in a production of *The Winter's Tale*, Cal Shakes will continue the **Shared Light Initiative** in 2022 with a variety of concerts, dance performances, and special events throughout the summer and fall.

"A year without theater challenged us to ask hard questions about our role as a cultural touchstone of our community. And the success of our Season of Shared Light has inspired us to continue a practice of opening our remarkable space to thrilling artists and arts organizations from across the Bay," says Artistic Director **Eric Ting**. "Anchored by two vital re-imaginings of iconic classics with beloved Cal Shakes artists familiar and new, next summer is sure to be a dynamic return to live performance under the stars."

First up, the season opens with *Romeo y Juliet*, Shakespeare's most iconic tale of young love presented in a bilingual adaptation by **Karen Zacarias**. Director **KJ Sanchez** returns to the Bruns after a national

tour of Cal Shakes' 2018 hit *Quixote Nuevo* to imagine these star-crossed lovers as two daughters of before the backdrop of Alta California, as California was known during Spanish Colonial and Mexican rule. Originally scheduled for Cal Shakes' 2020 Season but cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the production returns with many of the original cast members.

"I have been longing to work with Cal Shakes again, longing to make art again, longing to be back on that beautiful stage," says director KJ Sanchez, who has loved the play since she played Juliet in the early nineties. "I've been a huge fan of Karen Zacarías for years and years. The fact that we get to play with a bilingual R Y J makes this production even more dear to my heart. For me, this is the play. This production, this collaborator and this theater is a dream come true. And it keeps me hanging on each and every day, knowing what we will bring to Bay Area audiences in the spring."

In the fall, playwright and Oakland-native **Marcus Gardley**, known for his critically-acclaimed *black odyssey* at Cal Shakes, returns with **Lear**, a modern verse translation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. The production will be co-directed by Cal Shakes' Artistic Director **Eric Ting** and Aurora Theater Company's Associate Artistic Director, **Dawn Monique Williams**, in partnership with **Oakland Theater Project** and with support from **Play On Shakespeare**. Set in San Francisco's Fillmore District from the eminent domain crisis through to the subsequent displacement of the 1960s, and infused with a jazz score, Gardley's deeply personal *Lear* reckons with uncomfortable legacies, with the consequences of our actions, and with the vulnerability and ultimate resilience of the human heart to find its way back again.

"Play On Shakespeare is delighted to be part of Marcus Gardley's homecoming back to the Bay and on the Bruns stage," says Play On Shakespeare President **Lue Douthit**. "We are honored to be in partnership with Cal Shakes and the Oakland Theatre Project. Marcus is the Bard of our times, and his translation is astounding."

Tickets will go on sale to the public in the spring. Cast, creative teams, and Shared Light partners will be announced at a later date. Dates are subject to change based on COVID-19 protocols and restrictions.

For information visit www.calshakes.org.

ABOUT CAL SHAKES

California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), under the leadership of Artistic Director Eric Ting and Managing Director Sarah Williams, just wrapped their 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.

California Shakespeare Theater's 2022 season is supported in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, Building Bridges Program, and The Sidney E. Frank Foundation.

ABOUT OAKLAND THEATER PROJECT

Oakland Theater Project's mission is to create exquisite theatrical experiences to inspire compassion and forge bonds across socio-economic and racial barriers. The Oakland Theater Project was founded in 2012 by Michael Socrates Moran, William Hodgson, and Colin Mandlin in Oakland, CA. Formerly named Ubuntu Theater Project, we were founded on the value of Ubuntu, which means "I am because we are" and therein "my humanity is tied to yours." Our work seeks to explore the ways in which theater can act as a vehicle to reveal and invigorate the latent interconnectedness in society. For more information, visit oaklandtheaterproject.org.

ABOUT PLAY ON SHAKESPEARE

Play On Shakespeare is a non-profit company promoting and creating contemporary modern translations of Shakespeare's plays. Since its inception in 2015, Play On has commissioned dozens of contemporary playwrights and translators to translate 39 Shakespeare plays into modern English, with a majority of the commissions being helmed by BIPOC and womxn playwrights. Far from a paraphrasing exercise, each playwright was tasked with matching Shakespeare's linguistic rigor as they approached the text, preserving rhyme, rhythm, metaphor, meter, imagery, symbolism, rhetoric, and the structure that make Shakespeare's plays engaging and accessible to today's audience. Play On partners with artists and organizations across the globe to deliver and advocate for these translations through different channels, including theatrical productions, podcasts, publications, and film. For more information, visit playonshakespeare.org.

Play On Shakespeare is made possible through generous support of the Hitz Foundation.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

Romeo y Juliet

from the play by William Shakespeare

adapted by Karen Zacarías

directed by KJ Sanchez

May 25 - June 19, 2022

Previews May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 31
Press opening June 1, 2022

Lear

in partnership with Oakland Theater Project
from the play by William Shakespeare
a modern verse translation by Marcus Gardley
co-directed by Eric Ting and Dawn Monique Williams
September 7 - October 2, 2022
Previews September 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 13
Press opening September 14, 2022

Performance Times: Evenings at 7:30 pm
Matinees (Sunday) at 4 pm; select Saturdays at 2 pm

Venue: Bruns Amphitheater
100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Tickets: Will go on sale in Spring 2022

COVID-19 Protocols: <https://calshakes.org/cal-shakes-2021-covid-19-safety-precautions/>

Box Office: boxoffice@calshakes.org

Website: www.calshakes.org

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