

BURBAGE THEATRE CO

249 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org

Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeff Church, *Artistic Director*

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Burbage Theatre Co opens their Eighth Season with the Rhode Island Premiere of *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE*

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 11, 2018)_ The Burbage Theatre Co announces the first production of their eighth season (2018-2019) with the **Rhode Island premiere of *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE***, adapted for the stage by **Lee Hall**, based on the **Academy Award-winning screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard**, directed by Jeff Church, which opens for previews on August 24th and closing on September 16.

"*Shakespeare in Love* is the most succinct, accessible, and absolutely delightful love letter to the theatre that has graced the stage in recent years," says Artistic Director Jeff Church, **"But this play is so much more than a story of love triumphant and a bit with a dog. *Shakespeare in Love* is about art's ability to transcend the power of our oppressors and deliver salvation, if only for a moment. How our passion and sheer strength of will, through the theatre, may rise above the reality of our circumstances and, with the spark of imagination, yield the indelible. Much like Shakespeare's own work, *Shakespeare in Love* cannot be confined to any one genre, it contains multitudes. It is at once hysterical, hopeful, and tragic; rich with history and speculation; full of passion, imagination and love - love above all."**

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE runs from August 24 to September 16 at TEN31 Productions.

Tickets are \$25 (General admission), \$15 (Students); preview performances are \$15.

Buy online at www.burbagetheatre.org.

For more information, info@burbagetheatre.org or leave a message at (401)484-0355.

*Members of the Press are invited to either our PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN Performance on Friday August 25
or our PRESS Preview matinee on Saturday August 26 at 2pm.*

ABOUT *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE*

"An absolute joy from beginning to end!" -Daily Express

Young Will Shakespeare is suffering a severe case of writer's block as the deadline fast approaches to deliver his new play, *Romeo and Ethel, The Pirate's Daughter*. Enter Viola, a headstrong noblewoman and admirer of Will's, who disguises herself as a boy so she can skirt the law and appear (as a girl) in his play. But when the playwright and his muse fall in love, the plot undergoes some surprising rewrites. Mistaken identities, courtly intrigue, and backstage bickering are all part of the fun in this raucous romantic comedy of errors that reminds us that all the world's a stage and love is unrehearsed.

"There's the elating sense that the material--with its rivalry between the public playhouses echoing between the Montagues and the Capulets--is reveling in its natural elements in the theatre...It makes you feel grateful to be alive." - The Independent

"Funny, often genuinely moving, and generates a glow you could warm your hands by...The best British comedy since One Man, Two Guvnors and deserves equal success." - Daily Telegraph

"Marvelously fluid, riotously funny, and often intensely, even startlingly poignant...This may be, in part at least, a comedy about Shakespeare falling in love; but joking aside, it could just make you fall, all over again, in love with Shakespeare." - Chicago Tribune

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard

directed by Jeff Church

CAST

Will	Dillon Medina
Viola	Alison Russo
Marlowe	Jeff Church
Mr. Henslowe	Roger Lemelin
Fennyman	Andrew Stigler
Nurse	Cassidy McCartan
Mr. Tilney	Aaron Blanck
Burbage	Nicolas Menna
Queen Elizabeth	Rae Mancini
Wessex	James Lucey
Ned Alleyn	Patrick Keeffe
Ralph	Brian McGuirk
Sam	Gabe McCauley
Webster	Nick Griffin
Wabash	Jack Clark
Kate	Gabrielle McCauley
Molly	Helena Tafuri
Adam	Brian Kozak
Nol	Andrew Iacovelli

PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Management/Lighting Design, Jessica Winward

Set Design, Trevor Elliot

Operations Manager, Andrew Iacovelli

Costume Coordination, Morgan Clark

Production Assistant, Liz Hallenbeck

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Friday, August 24 at 8pm Preview Performance

Saturday, August 25 at 8pm PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN Performance/ PRESS Performance

Sunday, August 26 at 2pm PRESS Preview Performance

Friday, August 31 at 8pm

Saturday, September 1 at 8pm

Sunday, September 2 at 2pm

Friday, September 7 at 8pm

Saturday, September 8 at 8pm

Sunday, September 9 at 2pm

Friday, September 14 at 8pm

Saturday, September 15 at 8pm

Sunday, September 16 at 2pm

ABOUT THE BURBAGE THEATRE CO

Founded in 2010, Burbage is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to excite and engage a new generation of theatre-goer with socially relevant and compelling stories, both classic and contemporary, told by an inventive and expert ensemble of actors.

We believe in the importance of irreverence. We believe that acting comes first. We believe the theatre's continued relevance as a civil institution is best perpetuated by building productions and their aesthetic around the collaboration of an expert ensemble of storytellers. We believe it is the actor's job to activate thought and inner movement in his audience.

In collaboration with TEN31 Productions, Burbage's theatrical residence in downtown Pawtucket, Burbage is dedicated to the growing and cultivating of the diverse artistic community in Rhode Island by providing affordable access to the performing arts and perpetuating a discourse about, not only content, but the actor's role as storyteller in today's world. Burbage is an ideal and sustainable arts model for the 21st Century.