

For Immediate Release:
November 2, 2009

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**HOLLYWOOD MEETS SHAKESPEARE IN
THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
PRODUCTION OF *AS YOU LIKE IT*
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY MARIA AITKEN**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — All the world's... a movie set! Guided by Director **Maria Aitken's** (*The 39 Steps*) unprecedented vision, the Shakespeare Theatre Company will transform its stage at **Sidney Harman Hall** into a busy Hollywood sound stage with the opening of ***As You Like It***, which runs **November 17-December 20, 2009**. In Aitken's fresh take on this Shakespearean classic, the characters' journeys take them through American history as seen by Hollywood and depicted in classic films of the past century. A musical score by renowned composer **Michael John LaChiusa** (*Giant, The Wild Party*) will feature several musical numbers in this innovative adaptation of Shakespeare's familiar play this holiday season.

In the Forest of Arden, exiles from a tyrannical kingdom search for freedom, just as so many immigrants have traveled to America for similar sanctuary. As characters dream of possibility, the irrepressible Rosalind, Shakespeare's most fully realized female character, finds freedom of her own as she pursues love in disguise.

Aitken, who directed the Tony Award-winning production *The 39 Steps*, sees a symbolic connection between America and the Forest of Arden. "Arden is a place of refuge and a place of promise, which is how many an immigrant has seen America," said Aitken. "And since America has always mythologized its history in film, this production will take place on a movie set in the Golden Age of Hollywood. This is my love letter to America."

Aitken's singular vision for this production visits a variety of film genres, from silent film to black and white, from Westerns to the musical spectacular. Across this collage of film genres, characters are simultaneously transported through American history, from Puritan England to the American frontier, the Antebellum South and 1930s Hollywood.

***As You Like It* Cast**

John Behlmann will make his STC debut as Orlando and has performed on Broadway in *Journey's End*. Off-Broadway credits include *Ghosts, 365 Plays* and *Obstruction Plays*. Behlmann's regional credits include Guild Hall, Portland Center Stage, Magic Theatre, Kennedy Center, NY Stage and Film, Denver Center Theatre Company and Eastman Theatre. Television credits include *All My Children, Guiding Light* and *3 Lbs*. Behlmann's film credits include *Revolutionary Road, Pretty Bird* and *Unstoppable*. Behlmann is a trained trapeze artist and studied at Wesleyan University and National Theatre Conservatory.

Francesca Faridany will return to STC as Rosalind, where she previously performed in *Don Juan*. Faridany's Broadway credits include *The 39 Steps* and *The Homecoming*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *The Stronger* (with Marthe Keller) and *Uncle Jack*. Faridany's regional credits include The Getty Villa, Sundance Institute Theatre Lab, McCarter Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Bay Street Theatre, Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Chester Theater Company, Magic Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Marin Theatre Company. Her film credits include *Conceiving Ada*, and television credits include *E.R.*, *Deadline*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: SVU* and *Law and Order: CI*.

Floyd King will return to STC as Touchstone, where he is a Company Member and most recently performed as Old Counsellor in *Ion* and Feste in *Twelfth Night*. King's regional credits include Ford's Theatre, Wilma Theater, Signature Theatre, Folger Theatre, Woolly Mammoth and Studio Theatre. King has taught at The Juilliard School, British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England, and Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University.

Andrew Long will return to STC as Jacques, where he is a Company Member and most recently performed as Albany in *King Lear*. His Off-Broadway credits include the Summer Play Festival. Long's regional credits include the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Guthrie Theater, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Signature Theatre, Studio Theatre, Arena Stage, Olney Theatre, Chautauqua Theater Company, Round House Theatre, Theater J Folger Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and others.

Miriam Silverman will return to STC as Celia, where she previously performed in *The Dog in the Manger*. New York credits include NYSF/Public Theater, EST/Stillpoint Productions and Babel Theater Project. Her regional credits include Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, Folger Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, Triad Stage, SpeakEasy Stage Company and Studio Arena Theatre. Silverman's television credits include *Law and Order: CI*, and she trained at Brown/Trinity Consortium.

As You Like It also features **Anjali Bhimani** as Phoebe; **Mark Capri** as Duke Senior/Duke Frederick; **Barnaby Carpenter** as Oliver; **Elliot Dash** as Charles/William; **Aubrey Deeker** as Silvius; **Beth Glover** as Audrey; **James Konicek** as Amiens; **Lawrence Redmond** as First Lord; **Todd Scofield** as Le Beau; **Raphael Nash Thompson** as Corin; **Ted van Griethuysen** as Adam/Sir Oliver Mar-Text with **Meredith Burns**, **McKennah Edmunds**, **Julia Ferrara**, **Catherine LeFrere**, **Sarah Mollo-Christensen**, **Charlie Francis Murphy**, **Adam Navarro**, **Todd Quick**, **David Joseph Regelmann**, **Jon Reynolds** and **Patrick Vaill**.

The Director

Maria Aitken has enjoyed a successful career as a director, actress and teacher with various theatres in America and the U.K. She is perhaps best known for her Tony Award-winning production of *The 39 Steps* on Broadway, and for her film performance as Wendy in *A Fish Called Wanda*. Off-Broadway credits include *Lady Bracknell's Confinement* at the Vineyard Theatre NY. Aitken's U.S. regional directing credits include the Court Theatre Chicago, Sag Harbour Bay Street Theatre and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Her U.K. regional credits include Chichester Festival, Oxford Playhouse, Clwyd Theatre. Other international credits

include productions in London's West End and Australia. She has adapted and directed many plays and classic serials for BBC radio. In 2005 she won the gold Sony Award, radio's Oscar, for her production of an adaptation of Nabokov's *Laughter in the Dark*. Most recently she directed Sir Ian McKellen in Edmund White's play *Terre Haute* for BBC 3. Aitken played many leading roles in the West End, with the Royal Shakespeare Company and with the Royal National Theatre, and has performed in numerous film and television roles. She has taught at the British American Drama Academy, the Royal National Theatre Studio, The London Actors' Centre, The Juilliard School, Yale School of Drama and The George Washington University Academy for Classical Acting. Aitken has also written two books: *A Girdle Round the Earth* and *Style: Acting in High Comedy*.

The Designers

The design team for *As You Like It* features Set Designer **Derek McLane**, Costume Designer **Martin Pakledinaz**, Lighting Designer **Japhy Weideman**, Composer **Michael John LaChiusa**, Sound Designer **Martin Desjardins**, Projection Designer **Jeff Sugg**, Choreographer **Daniel Pelzig**, Voice and Dialect Coach **Gary Logan**, Music Director **Barbara Irvine** and Fight Director **Brad Waller**.

Production Sponsor

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased that The HRH Foundation is generously sponsoring *As You Like It*. Founded in 1997 by Helen Ruth Henderson to support the visual and performing arts and education, The HRH Foundation of Washington has become a leading underwriter of the arts in the nation's capital. The Foundation has previously supported the Company's productions of *Richard III*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Design for Living*.

A Washingtonian since 1995, the Foundation's Executive Director Helen Lee Henderson shares her mother's founding mission of being an active advocate for the arts as well as an influential benefactor. The Company is especially appreciative that The HRH Foundation shares its vision for the future of Washington as a cultural destination and was a major donor to the Campaign to build the Harman Center for the Arts.

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased to acknowledge the additional support provided by **KPMG LLP**. This partnership marks the seventh successive production KPMG LLP has sponsored, and STC is deeply grateful for KPMG's dedication and commitment to the Company and its work.

KPMG LLP has maintained a continuous commitment throughout its history to providing leadership, integrity and quality. The Big Four Firm with the strongest growth record over the past decade, KPMG turns knowledge into value for the benefit of its clients, people, communities and the capital markets. Its professionals work together to provide clients access to global support, industry insights and a multidisciplinary range of services. KPMG LLP, the audit, tax and advisory firm (www.us.kpmg.com), is the U.S. member of KPMG International. KPMG International's member firms have 113,000 professionals, including 6,800 partners in 148 countries.

Media Partner

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased to acknowledge **WAMU 88.5**, American University Radio, as media partner for *As You Like It*. WAMU 88.5 has offered special media support to the Shakespeare Theatre Company for past productions of *Twelfth Night*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pericles*, *The Rivals* and *Romeo and Juliet* (2001). Media partners provide vital promotional support to the Company's efforts in promoting its productions and expanding its audience.

WAMU 88.5 is the member-supported, NPR™-affiliate station in the nation's capital, delivering national and local news, talk and cultural programming. More than 650,000 people in the Washington, D.C., metro area tune in to WAMU 88.5 each week, giving it a public radio audience among the top three largest in the nation.

WAMU 88.5 is proud to support local arts and cultural organizations like the Shakespeare Theatre Company. In 2003, WAMU 88.5's Metro Connection produced a one-hour documentary that chronicled the journey of the Shakespeare Theatre Company when it traveled to Greece to stage an African *Oedipus* in Athens. Both the documentary and producer David Furst received the regional Edward R. Murrow Award for best feature reporting in 2004.

WAMU 88.5 invites you to rediscover your NPR news station in the nation's capital—all day, every day— at 88.5 FM, on HD Radio™ at 88.5-1 and online at www.wamu.org.

Special Performances and Free Events

Press night for *As You Like It* will be on Sunday, November 22, at 7:30 p.m. Opening night will be on Monday, November 23, at 7:45 p.m.

There will be an audio-described performance for *As You Like It* on Saturday, December 5, at 2 p.m. A sign-interpreted performance will be on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The Windows discussion for *As You Like It* will be held on Sunday, November 22, which gives audience members a chance to learn more about the play on the cusp of opening night, led by the artistic staff of *As You Like It*, a local scholar and Literary Associate Akiva Fox, starting at 5 p.m. in The Forum at Sidney Harman Hall. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

On Wednesday, December 2, members of the acting company will engage in a Post-Performance Discussion of *As You Like It* with the audience immediately following the 7:30 p.m. performance at Sidney Harman Hall, led by Literary Associate Akiva Fox. Those attending the evening's performance are guaranteed seats. Limited additional seating is available on a first-come basis. Call 202.547.1122 for the approximate start time. No reservations required.

As part of the Classics in Context series, the audience engages in dialogue with noted community members in a round-table discussion of *As You Like It* with Director of Education Gregory Smith at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, in The Forum at Sidney Harman Hall. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

FACT SHEET: *As You Like It*
by William Shakespeare
directed by Maria Aitken

DATES: November 17-December 20, 2009
Press Night: Sunday, November 22, 2009
Opening Night: Monday, November 23, 2009

LOCATION: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F Street NW

TIMES: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.; no performances November 25-26; 8 p.m. performance on November 29; matinee at noon on December 16.

TICKETS: Starting at \$10 with discounts available for students, seniors and members of the military.

ACCESSIBILITY: Sidney Harman Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair-accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement, and Braille and large print programs.

- An audio-described performance of *As You Like It* will be on Saturday, December 5, at 2 p.m. A sign-interpreted performance will be on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m.

PARKING: Paid parking is available at the PMI parking garage on D Street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, and the Colonial Parking Garage in the Lansburgh building (at 450 7th Street between D and E streets).

METRO: Archives-Navy Mem'l- Penn Quarter station (Yellow and Green Lines) is one and one-half blocks south of the Lansburgh Theatre. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is one block north of the Lansburgh Theatre at the Verizon Center. For Further information, call Metro at 202.637.7000.

Box Office: 202.547.1122 (voice) TTY: 202.638.3863 Toll Free: 877.487.8849

ShakespeareTheatre.org