



For Immediate Release:
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**SEE THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
STARRING SABRINA LEBEAUF OF THE COSBY SHOW
AT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
FREE FOR ALL
PRESENTED BY TARGET
AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 12, 2009**

**NINETEEN-YEAR TRADITION CONTINUES DESPITE NATIONAL ECONOMY
WITH 22 FREE PERFORMANCES,
TARGET FAMILY FUN FAIR AND LATE NIGHT JAZZ CONCERTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Shakespeare Theatre Company's annual Free For All is a much-loved Washington tradition, offering free performances of Shakespeare to the general public for the past 19 years. This year, despite the national recession, the tradition will continue uninterrupted. STC has more than doubled the number of Free For All performances, resulting in an unprecedented 22 free performances from August 27-September 12, 2009.

"We are pleased that, with the help of Target and many other generous sponsors, we are able to offer free Shakespeare productions to as wide of an audience as possible even during these challenging economic times," said Artistic Director Michael Kahn. "One of the major goals of the Free For All is to make Shakespeare accessible to diverse audiences—people who have never been to the theatre, people who are unable to pay for tickets or afford a babysitter, young people, students, people on fixed incomes. They all come to experience the magic of Shakespeare, to see how his words and ideas still resonate with us more than 400 years later."

This year's Free For All production is the hilarious farce *The Taming of the Shrew*, directed by David Muse (original direction by Rebecca Bayla Taichman) and starring Sabrina LeBeauf (Sondra, *The Cosby Show*). Set in Italy, the wealthy Baptista Minola declares that no one will marry his daughter Bianca until a husband is secured for her older, headstrong sister, Katherina. Fortunately, Petruchio is up to the challenge of "schooling" Kate—though she might have some lessons to teach him as well. When this production was performed at STC in 2007, under the direction of Taichman, Metro Weekly called it "a fun, frivolous and happy parody ... the cast in this wonderful, zany world is superb."

Previously hosted at Carter Barron Amphitheatre, this year's Free For All will be in STC's new state-of-the-art theatre Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW; Metro Stop: Gallery Place-Chinatown). Picnic space will be available just down the street, on the lawn of the National Building Museum, so that attendees can keep their pre-performance traditions alive.

Tickets to *The Taming of the Shrew* can be obtained in-person the day of the performance at STC's Box Offices two hours before curtain. Performances are August 27-29, September 3-5 and 10-12 at 8 p.m.; August 29 and September 9 at 12 p.m.; August 30 and September 5-6 and 12 at 2 p.m. and August 30 and September 1-2 and 6-8 at 7:30 p.m. 2009-2010 Season subscribers may reserve advance tickets to the Free For All. Friends of Free For All may reserve tickets in advance by making a tax-deductible contribution. Several special events have been added to this year's Free For All offerings. Designated "DC City Councilmember hosted performances" and opening musical acts will add to the festivities before the play performances.

Following Friday and Saturday evening performances, patrons have the option of attending the Jazz Outro concert series for just \$10 per ticket (limit two tickets per person). DC's leading jazz artists, including Ricky Padrón, Chuck Redd and Sunny Sumter, will headline the double-set performances, with seating beginning at 11 p.m. in The Forum of Sidney Harman Hall. Tickets to the Jazz Outro series are available at the door prior to the performance. Performances are August 28-29 and September 4-5 and 11-12 at 11 p.m. Wine, beverages and small plates will be available through waiter service.

On Saturday, August 29, Target will present the Target Family Fun Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with games, activities and free giveaways for the entire family. Sidney Harman Hall will be open to the public throughout the day and will provide family-friendly activities for children of all ages. Visitors can design their own costumes, walk the red carpet or snap a photo with Shakespeare himself. The 2009 Free For All is presented by Target with leadership support from Ameriprise Financial, KBR, Real Estate Community Partners, the Philip L. Graham Fund, Friends of Free For All and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities with additional support from The Washington Post, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and PEPCO.

THE CAST

Sabrina LeBeauf returns to STC to star as Katherina. Her previous STC performances include Rosaline in *Love's Labor's Lost* (mainstage, RSC and Free For All), Beatrice in *Much Ado about Nothing*, Helena in *All's Well that Ends Well*, Cordelia in *King Lear* and Rosalind in *As You Like It* (mainstage and Free For All). Off-Broadway she has played Olga in *Three Sisters* at the Classical Theatre of Harlem and Liza in *Eve-Ofution* at Cherry Lane Theatre. Her regional credits includes roles at Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, George Street Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, San Diego Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse, Arizona Theatre Company and San Jose Repertory. Her numerous television credits include *Fatherhood*, *The Cosby Show*, *Smart Gardening* and E! Style Televisions' *Homes with Style*. LeBeauf received her training and UCLA, at Yale School of Drama and under the tutelage of Bobby Lewis.

Ian Merrill Peakes makes his STC debut as Petruchio. His extensive regional credits include Glengarry Glen Ross (Ovation Award nomination, Denver Center); *Twelfth Night*, *The Crucible* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Much Ado about Nothing*, *The Tempest* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz); *Macbeth* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Game of Love and Chance* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Measure for Measure*, *Melissa Arctic* (Folger Theatre); *The False Servant* (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre); *Hamlet* (Boarshead Theatre); *Othello*, *Henry IV*, *As You Like It* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *Invention of Love* (Wilma Theater); world premieres of *Something Intangible* and *Molly's Delicious*, *R and G are Dead*, *All My Sons* (Barrymore Award), *Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Three Days of Rain* (Arden Theatre Company); *Of Mice and Men*, *Enchanted April* (Walnut Street Theater); *Romeo and Juliet* (Barrymore nomination, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival); *Red Light Winter* (Barrymore nomination, Theatre Exile) and *Sideman* (Barrymore Award, Philadelphia Theatre Company). Internationally, Peakes has played in *Great Expectations* (Derby Playhouse, UK). His screen credits include the films *Lebanon* and *Gentleman's Game* and the television shows *Still Standing*, *Hack* and *Homicide*. Peakes is also the recipient of the 2003 F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Artist in Philadelphia.

Nathan Baesel joins STC for the first time to play Lucentio. At South Coast Repertory he has performed in *Princess Marjorie*, *On The Mountain*, *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo* and *A Christmas Carol*. His screen credits include *CSI*, *CSI: Miami*, *Cold Case*, *Without A Trace*, *Invasion*, *Numbers*, *Women's Murder Club*, *Journeyman* and *Behind The Mask: The Rise Of Leslie Vernon*. Baesel studied at The Juilliard School and UCLA.

Christina Pumariega makes her STC debut as Bianca. Off-Broadway, she has performed in *Catch 22* (Lucille Lortel Theater); *All Eyes and Ears* (INTAR); *Illuminating Veronica* (dir. Michael Sexton); *The End* (NY Fringe Festival) and *Don Juan Does New Jersey* (Prospect Theatre). Her regional work includes David Grimm's *The Miracle at Naples* (Huntington Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hartford Stage); Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. Pumariega also starred in the short independent film *Notes on Being Young*. She is co-founder of The Regional Company and playground reading series and recipient of the Marcia Gay Harden Scholarship and McNamara Creative Arts Grant. She holds an MFA from the Graduate Acting Program at NYU.

The cast also includes Aubrey Deeker as Hortensio, John Shuman as Gremio, Bruce Nelson as Tranio, Drew Eshelman as a pedant of Mantua and a haberdasher, John Robert Tillotson as Vincentio and a tailor, Tom Bloom as Baptista Minola, Louis Butelli as Grumio, Erika Rose as Widow and Curtis, Todd Scofield as Biondello with Nathan Bennett, Sean Michael Fraser, Patricia Penn and Clark Young.

THE DIRECTORS

Director of the 2009 Free For All production of *The Taming of the Shrew* and Associate Artistic Director for the Shakespeare Theatre Company, **David Muse** has previously directed four productions for the Company including *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar* at Sidney Harman Hall, the inaugural Youth and Family Series production of *On the Eve of Friday Morning*, and the 2006 Free For All production of *Pericles*. Muse served as assistant director for the mainstage productions of *Othello*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *The Tempest*, *Pericles* and *Macbeth*. His regional credits include Studio Theatre's Secondstage production of *Frozen* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (Helen Hayes Nominations for Outstanding Director and Outstanding Resident Play), *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune* at Arena Stage and *The Bluest Eye* at Theatre Alliance, among others. Additional credits include *Swansong* by Patrick Page at the New York City Summer Play Festival and multiple events for the Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. Muse was recipient of a 2006 DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and the National Theatre Conference Emerging Artist Award. He is a graduate of Yale University and the Yale School of Drama.

Director of STC's original 2007 production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, **Rebecca Bayla Taichman** STC directorial credits also include *Twelfth Night*. Off-Broadway she has directed *The Scene* at Second Stage Theatre and *Menopausal Gentleman* (Obie Award) at the Ohio Theatre. Her Washington, DC credits include *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl (world premiere), *The Velvet Sky* by Roberto Aguirre-Sacassa and *The Clean House* (2006 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Resident Play) at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, and Round House Theatre's productions of *The Diary of Anne Frank* (winner of three Helen Hayes Awards) and *A Body of Water*. Taichman also has directed for the Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, Prince Music Theatre (her production of *The Green Violin* won four Barrymore Awards including Outstanding Direction of a Musical), Yale Repertory, Huntington Theatre, Market Theatre and Theatre Offensive. Through a grant from the Theatre Communications Group, Taichman served as Associate Artistic Director for Woolly Mammoth from 2004-2006. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, Taichman has taught at The O'Neill National Theater Institute, Yale University, MIT and the University of Maryland.

THE DESIGNERS

The design team includes Set Designer Narelle Sissons, Costume Designer Miranda Hoffman, Sound Designers Daniel Baker and Ryan Rumery, Lighting Designer Robert Wierzel, Voice and Text Coach Ursula Meyers, Choreographer Seán Curran and Fight Direction by Rick Sordelet. Original music by The Broken Chord Collective.

FREE FOR ALL SPECIAL EVENTS

TARGET FAMILY FUN FAIR

On Saturday, August 29 Free For All presenting sponsor Target will host the **Target Family Fun Fair** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Performances of *The Taming of the Shrew* will take place at 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 29 in order to accommodate the day's activities.

Sidney Harman Hall will be open to the public throughout the day and will feature family-friendly activities for children of all ages. Young people and their families can stop by for games, crafts, activities, giveaways, demonstrations. Guests can even snap a photo with Shakespeare himself!

Project Shakespeare: As You Like It, hosted by STC's Education Department, will include activity stations where young people can experience the excitement of theatre first-hand. Young people can audition, design sets and costumes, rehearse scenes and walk the red carpet. *Project Shakespeare: As You Like It* activities will be held in The Forum of Sidney Harman Hall.

"We would like to thank Target for supporting what promises to be a fun-filled day to be shared by the entire family," said Artistic Director Michael Kahn. Target's philanthropic record includes sponsoring 2,200 free events and reduced-price performances at more than 100 museums and cultural organizations across the US. In 2007 Target sponsored the Open House for the unveiling of Harman Hall.

JAZZ OUTROS SERIES

"Cool sounds" will chill the "hot nights" this year as the Shakespeare Theatre Company and Festivals DC launch their Jazz Outros series. Beginning at the Free For All in its first engagement in Sidney Harman Hall, DC's leading jazz artists, including Ricky Padrón, Chuck Redd and Sunny Sumter, blow the roof off of The Forum in intimate concerts that promise to bring the theatre down long after the curtain has fallen. For a limited engagement of only six performances, Festivals DC and the Shakespeare Theatre Company welcome audiences fresh from the Free For All or anywhere in the nation's capital to sit back, groove and let the melody linger on this summer at the inaugural Jazz Outros series.

All performances begin at 11 p.m. and will feature two sets per evening, ending around 1 a.m. Admission is \$10 each and tickets will be available at the door prior to the performance. Wine, beverages and small plates available through waiter service before each set begins and at intermission between sets from 11:45 p.m to 12:15 a.m.

Friday, August 28, 2009 at 11 p.m.

Sunny Sumter Trio—Jazz Vocals

One of the finest vocalists to come out of DC-scene, Sunny Sumter has performed at the Smithsonian's Baird Auditorium, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Aspen Institute, Wolf Trap and the Inn at Little Washington among other clubs and festival nationally and internationally. Additionally, Sumter has been the recipient of the DC Commission on the Arts Fellowship and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundations Emerging Artist Award.

Saturday, August 29 at 11 p.m.

Victor Provost and the DC Jazz Collaborative—Steel Pan

Victor Provost is giving a new voice to the steel pan, an instrument more often associated with Caribbean styles of music, by performing traditional and contemporary jazz. His unique approach has garnered praise amongst jazz musicians, critics and promoters alike, and led to performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival and Jazz at Lincoln Center, among others. Joining Provost will be members of the DC Jazz Collaborative: trombonist Reginald Cyntje, bassist Herman Burney, drummer Amin Gumbs and other special guests.

Friday, September 4, 2009 at 11 p.m.

Trio Caliente—Rhumba Trio

Trio Caliente performs gypsy rumba and Latin jazz grooves, spiced with Flamenco pop, bossa nova and salsa. Members include Deborah Benner on vocals, Michael Bard on guitar and Amilcar Cruz also on guitar. The group has a worldly perspective and a highly accessible approach to Latin-flavored jazz and pop.

Saturday, September 5, 2009 at 11 p.m.

Chuck Redd—Vibes Duo

Chuck Redd, a seasoned performer on both drums and vibraphone, has been featured with the prestigious "Milt Jackson Tribute Band," a stint with Bucky Pizzarelli and Ken Peplowski at Dizzy's Club (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and has headlined

with his own trio at The River Room of Harlem, tours with Dizzy Gillespie, Mel Torme, Tommy Flanagan, Ray Brown, Monty Alexander and others. Redd is featured on over 65 recordings and his recent releases include Arbors CD All This and Heaven Too, featuring Gene Bertoncini and George Mraz, and The Swing Kings, an all-star session featuring Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Ray Kennedy and Peplowski. He can also be heard on the sound track to the popular PBS television series The Great Chefs and the NPR broadcast Jazz Smithsonian.

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 11 p.m.

DC Bass Choir—Bass Trio: Herman Burney, Jr., Michael Bowie and James King

The late Keter Betts was a Washington icon; a master bassist who can be heard on hundreds of recordings with guitarist Charlie Byrd, vocalist Dina Washington and Ella Fitzgerald with whom he performed for nearly 30 years. Betts was also a generous mentor and teacher and in 2006, the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival commissioned Herman Burney, Jr., Michael Bowie and James King to form the DC Bass Choir in tribute to the man the musicians lovingly called "Papa." Each bassist brings his individual voice to the choir, with a common classical jazz thread reminiscent of Betts, incorporating a mix of down-home blues and finger popping swing into the repertoire.

Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 11 p.m.

Ricky Padrón—Guitar

Guitarist Richard Padrón breathes new life with an inventive approach to the guitar. A Cuban-native who now lives in New York, Padrón has recorded and performed with such artists as Paquito D’Rivera, Michael Phillip Mossman, Zé Luis Oliveira, Benny Reid, Antonio Hart, Mark Shine, Grupo Miguelito, Michele Rosewoman, Tony DeSare, Sambismo and other artists of varying genres. His versatility makes him a prominent in the New York music scene.

FACT SHEET: The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare
directed by David Muse • original direction by Rebecca Bayla Taichman

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LOCATION: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F Street NW

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES:

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August 29 and September 9 at 12 p.m.
August 30 and September 5-6 and 12 at 2 p.m.
August 30 and September 1-2 and 6-8 at 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Tickets to *The Taming of the Shrew* can be obtained in-person the day of the performance at STC's Box Offices two hours before curtain. 2009-2010 Season subscribers may reserve advance tickets to the Free For All. Friends of Free For All may reserve tickets in advance by making a tax-deductible contribution.

ACCESSIBILITY: Sidney Harman Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair-accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement, and Braille and large print programs. Audio described performance: September 10, 8 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Opening Musical Acts	Throughout the run
DC City Councilmember Hosted Performances	Throughout the run
Target Family Fun Fair	August 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jazz Outro Series	August 28-29, September 4-5 and 11-12 at 11 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.
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