

**SIR IAN MCKELLEN RECEIVES  
SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S WILL AWARD  
AT HARMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS GALA  
OCTOBER 25, 2009  
AT SIDNEY HARMAN HALL**

**Heidi and Max Berry to receive Philanthropy Award**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Shakespeare Theatre Company has selected **Sir Ian McKellen** as the 2009 recipient of the **William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre**, where he will be honored at the **Harman Center for the Arts Gala** hosted by STC at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW) on Sunday, October 25, 2009, beginning at 6 p.m. **D.C.'s "most buzzed about" gala** will feature classical music, dance, musical and theatre performances themed after William Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The gala is hosted by honorary patrons His Excellency the British Ambassador and Lady Sheinwald and a host committee of 20 arts patrons from across Washington, DC.

The "**Will Award**" honors an artist whose accomplishments have made a lasting contribution to the field of classical theatre and widened the appreciation of Shakespeare across the world. In addition to his well-recognized roles in recent feature films, Sir Ian is widely celebrated as one of the leading classical actors of the modern age.

The **Sidney Harman Award for Philanthropy in the Arts** will be given to **Max Berry** to honor the contributions that he and his late wife, **Heidi Berry**, have made to the performing arts in Washington, D.C. Heidi Berry, who served as a Trustee of the Shakespeare Theatre Company for more than 10 years, passed away earlier this year.

Building on the success of the 2007 Harman Center Opening Gala, last year's Gala featured performances related to *Romeo and Juliet* by the New York City Ballet, soprano Elizabeth Futral and a surprise performance by renowned violinist Joshua Bell. The 2009 Gala will begin in Sidney Harman Hall with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by a performance spanning many artistic disciplines at 7 p.m. Following the performance, dinner and dancing will complete the evening at The National Building Museum (440 G Street NW).

**Sponsorship**

Proceeds from the Gala fund STC's artistic and educational programming, as well as the annual Free For All. Tables are available for \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000 and individual tickets may be purchased for \$1,000. Several of the top sponsorship levels

include the benefit of attending the exclusive event *An Evening with Helen Mirren* on Thursday, September 17, 2009, during the run of her performance in *Phèdre* at Sidney Harman Hall. A limited number of tickets to that event are available for individual sale.

**The Harman Center for the Arts 2009 Gala Host Committee**

Marla Allard  
Ashley Allen  
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For information regarding the Gala, please visit [ShakespeareTheatre.org](http://ShakespeareTheatre.org) or call 202.547.3230.

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