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**POLITICIANS AND MEDIA PERSONALITIES
TO TAKE THE STAGE IN
SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
WILL ON THE HILL
ON MAY 4, 2009**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Where else but in the nation's capital can you see politicians and news reporters performing live Shakespeare? At Shakespeare Theatre Company's annual *Will on the Hill* performance, Washington insiders, members of Congress and media personalities will take the stage to perform scenes from Shakespeare infused with comedic references to contemporary politics. This year's cast is comprised of 17 Senators and Representatives, and eight notable Washington VIPs, including ABC's Gordon Peterson, CNN's Jessica Yellin and NBC's Chuck Todd. The all-star troupe will perform *A Midsession Night's Dream*, which follows the path of a young Senate page who falls asleep during a filibuster and is visited by the spirit of William Shakespeare. Together, like a modern-day Puck and Oberon, the two travel throughout the capital, using Shakespeare's imagination and the page's insider savvy to resolve conflicts, expose hypocrisy and magically transform Washington into a Shakespearean utopia. The script, based upon Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is created by Peter Byrne and directed by David Muse. *The Hill* newspaper and *Capitol File* magazine are participating as media sponsors for the event along with lead sponsor Time Warner. One of Washington's most-anticipated annual events, Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Will on the Hill* will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW).

Proceeds from *Will on the Hill* benefit the Company's education, artistic and community outreach programs. The Shakespeare Theatre Company is committed to introducing new and varied audiences to the universality of classical theatre while serving the community through extensive and innovative educational programs. Student programs like **Text Alive!** and **SHAKESPEARIENCE** provide area school students the



opportunity to experience the art of live theatre for free. **ShakesPEERS** invites underserved teens from Southeast DC to work with playwriting, theatre games and in performance, giving them resources to develop new skills and build self-confidence while exploring their creative voices.

Will on the Hill festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails followed by the performance at 7:30 p.m. A buffet dinner reception will be held immediately following the performance.

Performance-only tickets for *Will on the Hill* are available for \$50 by calling the box office at (202) 547-1122. For more information on tickets to the cocktail reception, performance, and buffet dinner as well as sponsorship opportunities please contact WillontheHill@ShakespeareTheatre.org or call 202.547.3230 ext 2715. **Press wishing to attend this event should contact Amy Scott-Douglass at 202.547.3230 ext. 2312.**