

For Immediate Release:
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**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
2008-2009 SEASON CONTINUES WITH
Twelfth Night
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY REBECCA BAYLA TAICHMAN**

Production Presented in Association with McCarter Theatre Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Shakespeare Theatre Company continues its 2008-2009 season with Shakespeare's epically romantic *Twelfth Night* directed by **Rebecca Bayla Taichman** at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW) from **December 2, 2008**, to **January 4, 2009**. One of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, *Twelfth Night* ponders love lost and found. A shipwreck separates twins Viola and Sebastian, but tragedy quickly turns to comedy when they wash up in a land turned upside-down by love. Taichman directs a cast that includes **Samantha Soule** as Viola, **Veanne Cox** as Olivia, **Christopher Innvar** as Duke Orsino, **Floyd King** as Feste and **Ted van Griethuysen** as Malvolio. The production will play at Princeton's McCarter Theatre Center in March 2009.

"I've come to think of *Twelfth Night* as a Mozartian comedy," said Rebecca Bayla Taichman. "At the outset, Illyria seems like an isolated world surrounded by the implacable sea. But from the moment Viola washes up on its shores, Illyria begins to blossom into a wild and wonderfully ridiculous playground. The play is full of tremendous contradictions, and finding a tone that accommodates such opposites will be our great challenge. We will be on the hunt for how to unearth the play's requiem-sized sadness while detonating the humor and hijinks."

Twelfth Night is sponsored in part by **Arlene and Robert Kogod. WAMU 88.5** provides promotional support throughout the run.

TWELFTH NIGHT CAST

Samantha Soule returns to STC to play Viola. Soule last appeared as Petra in *An Enemy of the People* and as Miranda in *The Tempest* (2005). Soule's New York credits include performances with Lincoln Center Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Manhattan Theatre

Source and Pearl Theatre. She also has appeared in regional productions at Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, San Diego's Old Globe and Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Veanne Cox returns to STC to play Olivia. Cox's STC credits include Michael Kahn's productions of *The Way of the World* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*. Her Broadway credits include the roles of Rose Stopnick Gellman in *Caroline, or Change*, Yvonne Fouchet in *The Dinner Party*, Amy in *Company* (for which she received both Tony and Drama Desk nominations) and Sandra-Kay Macaffee in *Smile*. Her Off-Broadway credits include performances of *A Mother, A Daughter, and a Gun* (with Olympia Dukakis); *House/Garden*; *Last Easter* (Drama Desk Nomination); *The Vagina Monologues*; *The Altruists*; *Freedomland*; *Labor Day*; *The Batting Cage*; *A Question of Mercy*; *The Waiting Room*; *The Food Chain*; and *Flora, the Red Menace*. Other regional credits include performances with the Kennedy Center, Yale Repertory, Long Wharf Theatre, Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville and others.

Christopher Innvar returns to STC to play Duke Orsino. Innvar's STC roles include Mirabell in *The Way of the World*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Helen Hayes Award nomination) and Jack Archer in *The Beaux' Stratagem*. His Broadway credits include *110° in the Shade*, several years as Javert in *Les Misérables* and roles in *Victor/Victoria* and *The Threepenny Opera*. His many other New York credits include the title role in Adam Guettel's *Floyd Collins*, *The Fantasticks*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *A Hatful of Rain*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* and William Finn's *A New Brain*. Innvar also has performed at such regional theatres as Barrington Stage Company, Atlantic Theatre Company, Steppenwolf, Guthrie Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre and McCarter Theatre, among others.

Twelfth Night also features **Floyd King** as Feste, **Ted van Griethuysen** as Malvolio, **Tom Story** as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, **Rick Foucheux** as Sir Toby Belch, **Peter Katona** as Sebastian and **Nancy Robinette** as Maria with **Michael Sharon**, **J. Fred Shiffman**, **Nathan Bennett**, **Stacey Cabaj**, **Billy Finn**, **Lia LaCour**, **Dan Lawrence**, **Nia Medina**, **Todd Scofield**, **Jeffrey Scott** and **Amanda Tudor**.

THE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Bayla Taichman returns to STC for the first time since her critically acclaimed production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Taichman's directorial credits include the Off-Broadway productions of *The Scene* at Second Stage Theatre and *Menopausal Gentleman* (Obie Award) at the Ohio Theatre. Her Washington, D.C., 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

Taichman and her designers have created a mythic contemporary world for *Twelfth Night* with live music. **Riccardo Hernandez's** set design uses icy-cool cascading fabrics, a reflective silver floor and a playful second act adorned with larger-than-life rose blossom murals. Costume Designer **Miranda Hoffman** returns for the first time since *The Taming of the Shrew* with designs evoking a modern Victorian style including corseted dresses and masculine jackets and vests. The *Twelfth Night* design team also includes Composition and Sound Design by **Martin Desjardins**, Lighting Design by **Christopher Akerlind**, Fight Direction by **Rick Sordelet**, Choreography by **Daniel Pelzig**, Text Coaching by **Ellen O'Brien**, Stage Manager **M. William Shiner** and Assistant Stage Manager **Benjamin Royer**.

PRODUCTION SPONSORS

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased to recognize **Arlene and Robert Kogod** for their generous sponsorship of *Twelfth Night*. Longstanding supporters of the arts in the Washington area, the Kogods have shown the importance of the arts to the region while inspiring others to match their philanthropy to theatres across the District and in surrounding communities.

The Kogods recently directed their support of the performing arts toward the Shakespeare Theatre Company with an extremely generous contribution to the new Harman Center for the Arts. In recognition of their generosity, the ground floor of the new Sidney Harman Hall has been named in their honor as the "Arlene and Robert Kogod Lobby." In addition to their support of the Harman Center campaign, the Kogods have ensured that the Harman Center will continue to present world-class theatrical productions with a commitment to the Company's annual operations. Allocated toward production sponsorship for five years, the first year of this gift underwrote Michael Kahn's inaugural production of *Tamburlaine*.

STC is proud of the support that Arlene and Robert Kogod have given to the campaign and to *Twelfth Night*. Their involvement with the Company during this important time is vital, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company is extremely grateful for this support and for all that the Kogods do to advance theatre in this community.

MEDIA SPONSOR

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased to acknowledge **WAMU 88.5**, American University Radio, as media partner for *Twelfth Night*. WAMU 88.5 has offered special media support to the Shakespeare Theatre Company for past productions of *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 EVENTS

There will be audio-described performances of *Twelfth Night* on Thursday, December 18, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, January 2, at 2 p.m. Sign-Interpreted performances are Saturday, December 27, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, December 30, at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, December 7, at 1 p.m., members of STC's Artistic staff, Education Department and scholars will lead a lively *Windows* discussion on *Twelfth Night*, at Sidney Harman Hall. All are welcome. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

Following the evening performance of *Twelfth Night* on Wednesday, December 17, all are welcome to Sidney Harman Hall for a post-show discussion. Those attending the performance are guaranteed seats. Additional seating is available on a first-come basis. Call 202.547.1122 for the approximate start time. No reservations required.

On Saturday, January 3, following the 2 p.m. matinee, STC hosts a Classics in Context roundtable discussion at Sidney Harman Hall about *Twelfth Night* with local bloggers, scholars and artists. Panelists include: John Aravosis, Editor of AMERICAblog.com; Amanda Maddox, Assistant Curator of Photography and Media Arts at the Corcoran Gallery of Art; and Christopher K. Morgan, choreographer and arts facilitator. Call 202.547.1122, option 4, or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

FACT SHEET: *Twelfth Night*
By William Shakespeare * Directed by Rebecca Bayla Taichman

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DATES: December 2, 2008-January 4, 2009
Press Night: Sunday, December 7, 2008
Opening Night: Monday, December 8, 2008

LOCATION: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F Street NW

TIMES: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except December 9, 10 and 24); Thursdays, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. (except December 25); Sundays at 7:30 p.m. (except December 21); Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. (except December 7); matinee at noon on December 31.

TICKETS: \$23.50-\$79.75 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.

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PARKING:

Paid parking is available at the Interpark garage located directly beneath the Sidney Harman Hall and AARP Headquarters block; enter from E or F streets between Sixth and Seventh streets.

METRO: Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines): Patrons attending performances at Sidney Harman Hall should exit using the Arena/7th Street exit. Harman Hall is visible one block to your left. Judiciary Square station (Red Line): Take the F Street Exit toward the National Building Museum, turn left and walk one and one-half blocks along F Street to Sixth Street.

Box Office: 202. 547.1122 (voice) TTY: 202. 638. 3863 Toll Free: 877.487.8849
ShakespeareTheatre.org