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***Incarnate*, an exciting interdisciplinary show, rounds
out the Shakespeare Festival season**

**Music, movement, and Shakespeare's words merge to tell a story of love,
devotion, and loss in this world premiere**

NEW ORLEANS (June 29, 2015) – After the success of last year's sold-out *Luna Series*, the Festival will again partner with members of Compleat Stage to present a unique, multidisciplinary artistic experience. This original show, entitled *Incarnate*, fuses Shakespeare's words with live music, soundscapes, song, and movement.

"*Incarnate* was born of a desire to further explore the depth and relevance of Shakespeare's poetry and his insight into the human condition," says Chaney Tullos, the show's director. "The Festival's goal with this show is to bring together artists of different mediums to tell a compelling and universal story in a unique way. We strove to give each artist equal weight in the piece, creating more of an experience than a play or a concert."

Visually stunning, moving and sensual, *Incarnate* tells the story of The Woman as she looks back on the love of her life. She is forced to reconcile with her memories, full of joy and pain, as they come rushing back to her. Humans yearn for love, but are passion and companionship worth the inevitable?

Some of New Orleans' finest performers and artists will collaborate to create this living piece of art. The show stars Cristine McMurdo-Wallis as The Woman. Ms. McMurdo-Wallis, a nationally known and respected stage actor, has appeared in many of the country's top theatres. Theatre and film actors Ruby Lou Smith and Jake Wynne-Wilson star as the young couple. Rounding out the cast is vocalist Keisha Slaughter and jazz pianist Oscar Rossignoli. Performers' biographies can be found at <http://neworleansshakespeare.org/performers/>.

Joining the team for the first time is award winning sound designer and musician Kevin O'Donnell, who has designed for some of America's top theatre companies. Additionally, he

tours regularly as a drummer with musician Andrew Bird. The show features original music by internationally known composer and conductor Raul Gomez.

Chaney Tullos, the show's director, is a Louisiana native who has worked nationally as an actor and director with companies including Ford's Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, The American Shakespeare Center, SITI Company, Compleat Stage and Swine Palace. He serves as Director of Operations for the Festival and is also an Adjunct Faculty member at Tulane. In 2014 he directed the Festival's interdisciplinary shows, in collaboration with Compleat Stage, entitled *The Luna Series*.

Incarnate will run from July 15-22 in Tulane's Lab Theater. Please note that *Incarnate*, an intimate story about love, contains mature themes and images and may not be appropriate for children under 13.

About The New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane

The mission of the New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane is to produce professional, classical theatre with a primary focus upon the works of William Shakespeare. Our commitment is to utilize local, national, and international talent to create dynamic, visceral, text-based performances celebrating Shakespeare's brilliant insight into the human condition. With this programming we will provide to the people of the Gulf South, both entertainment and educational resources of the highest quality, honoring Shakespeare's legacy.

Founded in 1993 by several Tulane Faculty members, the Festival has become one of the most significant theatre companies in the Gulf South. Each season typically consists of two mainstage productions, an intern production, and various lagniappe events. Programming is also taken to schools in the greater New Orleans area to awaken new generations to the power of language and literacy through live, professional performances of Shakespeare's plays.

For more information, interviews, pictures and other graphics call Chaney Tullos at (504) 314-7788 or visit neworleansshakespeare.org.

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