



The New Orleans
SHAKESPEARE
Festival at Tulane

NEWS RELEASE

May 15, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Mr. Chaney Tullos
(504) 314-7788 office
ctullos@tulane.edu

***Cymbeline* to open 2015 New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane Shakespeare's action-adventure romance staged by acclaimed director**

NEW ORLEANS (May 15, 2015) –Inaugurating the 22nd season is a special production of the Bard's epic romance *Cymbeline*, led by veteran British director Rob Clare. Members of the stellar cast have appeared in feature films and television shows, won numerous awards, graced the stages of Broadway, and performed around the world.

"We are delighted to bring to our audiences and actors this opportunity to share in Rob Clare's artistic vision for *Cymbeline*," said Clare Moncrief, the Festival's Managing Director. "This season we aim to provide high-caliber shows to the people of New Orleans by pairing local talent with internationally known artists," said Chaney Tullos, the Festival's Director of Operations.

Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* tells the story of an ancient British king and his lovely daughter, Princess Imogen. Wronged by her evil stepmother and torn from her true love, she flees from the palace into the woods. But things aren't as they seem in this world. Magic and wonder take center stage in this intriguing fantasy.

Rob Clare, *Cymbeline*'s director, is internationally recognized. First an actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company, then a Staff Director at the U.K.'s National Theatre, he holds a doctorate from Oxford University, where he also taught. Mr. Clare has directed, performed with and coached some of the most respected classical actors of our time.

The show's stars include Liann Pattison, local award-winning actress and Broadway veteran; Christopher Kelly, New York based actor who has performed Shakespeare at some of the country's top theatres (including the role of Prince Hal at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC); and Silas Cooper, local favorite and head of NOCCA's Drama Department.

The entire cast can be found at <http://neworleansshakespeare.org/performers/>

“However flawed we may be, human beings are extraordinary creatures, capable in crisis of extraordinary things - at our best, for the better; at other times, for the worse. This is the central truth of *Cymbeline*...” says Rob Clare, the show’s director. He continues, “Produced far less often than some of Shakespeare’s more popular works, it’s an elusive play, but a wonderful one, which deserves to be better known. One of Shakespeare’s last, written when he was absolutely at the height of his powers, it is a roller-coaster story of remarkable yet recognizably human characters who are tested in the extreme, but for whom faith and perseverance - for some, at least! - is in the end rewarded. It is at once magical, frightening and funny - potentially heart-breaking, but yet inspiring - and, we hope, ultimately affirmative, and uplifting. It requires actors of heart, wit, generosity and intelligence, and I’m delighted to be working with those whom we’ve cast. Here in the intimacy of the Lupin Theater, we don’t need overelaborate design or outlandish production concepts, but simply a bold and heartfelt commitment to the central themes and ideas of the play.”

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

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.

Follow us on:

Twitter twitter.com/NOLAShakes

Facebook www.facebook.com/nolashakespeare

Instagram www.instagram.com/nolashakes

###