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**Shakespeare Festival remounts hit production of
Cymbeline for schools across the Gulf South
Annual 'Performance for the Schools' brings Shakespeare to a new
audience**

NEW ORLEANS (December 7, 2015) – In January of 2016 the Festival will remount its hit production of the Bard's epic adventure *Cymbeline*. As the annual 'Performance for the Schools', this show will reach thousands of students through student matinee performances on Tulane's campus. There will also be a one-night-only public performance on January 15.

The summer run of the show earned accolades from audiences and critics.

"Shakespeare's 'Cymbeline' is a feast for the senses at Tulane" – The Times-Picayune

"...a thoroughly engaging and enjoyable production" – Gambit

The professional cast features not only local actors, but also talent from across the country. Some of them have appeared in feature films and television shows, won numerous awards, and graced the stages of Broadway. The entire cast can be found at

<http://neworleansshakespeare.org/performers/>

Rob Clare, *Cymbeline's* director, is an internationally recognized Shakespeare specialist. 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.

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.

“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.”

10:00 am student matinees will be held on January 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22 in Tulane’s Dixon Hall. There will also be one public performance on Friday January 15 at 7:30 pm, after which the Festival will hold a reception and announce its 2016 season. Runtime for the show is approximately two hours.

Tickets for the one-night-only performance on January 15 are \$25 for general admission and \$15 for student, seniors, and members of the Tulane community; but the Festival is offering a 20% discount on all tickets until January 1. Schools should contact the Festival for group rates.

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.

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