



The New Orleans  
**SHAKESPEARE**  
Festival at Tulane

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2015 New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane Lineup Announced**

**Action-adventure, romance, Oscar Wilde take center stage**  
*International and local talent star in an unrivaled 22<sup>nd</sup> season*

**NEW ORLEANS (January 19, 2015)** – Two classic plays, a daring new experiment and an assortment of international and local talent mark the 2015 season of the New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane, the city’s professional classical theatre company.

Inaugurating the 22<sup>nd</sup> season is a special production of the Bard’s epic romance *Cymbeline* directed by British director Rob Clare, followed by Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* directed by New Orleans’ own Jessica Podewell.

“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.

Unequivocally one of the funniest satires ever written, *The Importance of Being Earnest* follows two bachelors leading double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. The gallants must grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions, and with the formidable Lady Bracknell, played by Clare Moncrief. Ms. Moncrief has entertained audiences in New Orleans for more than 30 years,

earning multiple awards and accolades for her work including rave reviews for her recent Le Petit performance in the one-woman show *Golda's Balcony*.

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. New Orleans native Jessica Podewell, the daughter of Festival co-founder Buzz Podewell, will direct Wilde's brilliant comedy. An accomplished actor and director, she brings a youthful spirit and wit to the Festival.

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 *Incarinate*, fuses Shakespeare's words with live music, dance and visual art to tell a story of love, passion and devotion. Some of New Orleans' finest performers and artists will collaborate to create this living piece of art. 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. Other members of the team include composer/conductor Raul Gomez, actress Ruby Lou Smith and the Festival's Director of Operations Chaney Tullos.

Each year, as a part of its summer season, the Festival gives local high school students the opportunity to study Shakespeare under the guidance of theatre professionals and educators. This summer the "Gavin Mahlie All Things Shakespeare Training Program" will continue that tradition, culminating in a full production of the Bard's work. The show's title and director will be announced in the spring.

*Cymbeline* will run from June 13-27, *The Importance of Being Earnest* from July 11-25. Both productions will be staged in the Lupin Theater on the Tulane campus. *Incarinate* will run from July 15-22 in Tulane's Lab Theater and the All Things Shakespeare Program will run August 6-9 in the Lupin.

Special discounted season tickets are available now through April 1 on the Festival's website.

**The New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane** is committed to reimagining, rebuilding and engaging the Gulf South region through the works and words of William Shakespeare. By intermingling artistic and educational programs, the Festival seeks to create a center of entertainment and learning that speaks both through the greatest plays of the English language and one of the great cities of the United States.

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

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