

CLASSICAL · ACTORS · ENSEMBLE



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS IMAGE (available late May): classicalactorsensemble.org/press/

Classical Actors Ensemble returns to parks this summer with *Much Ado About Nothing*

Free, Family-Friendly Performances June 16 – July 16

(Minneapolis, MN)—Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE) announces a 9th season of Shakespeare in Our Parks with a new production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke, this comedy will be performed in parks across the Twin Cities, June 16 – July 16, 2023, including partnership performances with Franconia Sculpture Park and the MN Humanities Center.

"We're very excited to once again share these plays with thousands of Minnesotans in their local parks," said Joseph Papke. "For many of them it will be their only Shakespeare in the year, and for some, their only play."

Written circa 1599, *Much Ado About Nothing* is considered a stylistic precursor to both comedy of manners and modern romantic comedy. A Prince and his soldiers return from a civil war and bring excitement, intrigue, and passion to a rural town. Callow youths and jaded exes both have their romantic lives complicated by gossip and all is lost—before it's won again. CAE's production will be set in the south of France during the late 19th Century. CAE last staged *Much Ado* in the fall of 2019 in repertory with *Arden of Faversham* at the LAB Theater in Minneapolis.

CAE honors Shakespeare's work by making high-quality entertainment available for all at no charge through its annual Shakespeare in Our Parks program. CAE encourages audiences to bring a picnic to enjoy this free outdoor entertainment for the entire family. In keeping with CAE's aesthetic, this production will include live, modern music performed by the cast.

Previous Shakespeare in Our Parks productions: *Love's Labors Lost* (2022, 2014), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2021, 2016), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2019), *Romeo & Juliet* (2018), *The Comedy of Errors* (2017), and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2015).

THE ARTISTS

The skilled cast is led by CAE stalwarts Tom Conry as Benedick, Alan Tilson as Leonato, and current U of M/Guthrie BFA students Charlotte McDaniel as Beatrice and Nate Turcotte as Claudio. Completing the cast are Jim Ahrens, Amy Bittner, Dominic DeLong-Rodgers, Bridget Foy, Garrett Hildebrandt, Tim Perfect, Dietrich Poppen, M. Smith Fraser, Jin Suh, and Hannah Twitchell.

Scenic design is by Dietrich Poppen, costumes by Lolly Foy and Molly Smith. The production is directed by Joseph Papke.

(continued)

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, June 16, 7pm: [Lyndale Park Rose Garden](#), 4124 Roseway Rd, Mpls, MN 55409

Saturday, June 17, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles](#) (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

Sunday, June 18, 7pm: [Matthews Park](#), 2318 29th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55406

Thursday, June 22, 7pm: [Tony Schmidt Park](#), 3500 Lake Johanna Blvd, Arden Hills, MN 55112

Friday, June 23, 7pm: [Harriet Island Target Stage](#), 110 Harriet Island Rd, St. Paul, MN 55107

Saturday, June 24, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles](#) (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

Sunday, June 25, **3pm**: [Cedar Lake East Beach](#), 2000 S Upton Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Thursday, June 29, 7pm: [Franconia Sculpture Park](#), 29836 St Croix Trail N, Shafer, MN 55074

Friday, June 30, 7pm: [Newell Park](#), 900 Fairview Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104

Saturday, June 1, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles](#) (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

Sunday, June 2, 7pm: [Water Works Park](#), 333 S 1st St, Mpls, MN 55401

Thursday, July 6, 7pm: [Town Green Park](#), 7991 Main St, Maple Grove, MN 55369

Friday, July 7, 7pm: [Como Park Lakeside Pavilion](#), 1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St. Paul, MN 55103

Saturday, July 8, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles](#) (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

Sunday, July 9, **4pm**: [Normandale Lake Bandshell](#), 5901 W 84th St, Bloomington, MN 55438

Thursday, July 13 7pm: [St. Clement's Church](#), 901 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

Friday, July 14, 7pm: [Wolfe Park Amphitheater](#), 3700 Monterey Dr, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Saturday, July 15, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles](#) (Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls)

Sunday, July 16, 7pm: [MN Humanities Center](#), 987 Ivy Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55106

Runtime: ~two hours

TICKETS

FREE and non-ticketed

Online pre-registration recommended for weather updates. Donations encouraged.

More information is available at classicalactorsensemble.org.

Questions may be directed to the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

ACCESSIBILITY

Contact the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

ABOUT CLASSICAL ACTORS ENSEMBLE

Classical Actors Ensemble is a Twin Cities theater company that performs plays of the English Renaissance as they were originally intended: as popular entertainment for everyone. Since its founding by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke in 2009, CAE has presented 27 works by Shakespeare, Ford, Middleton, Dekker, Webster, Jonson, and Marlowe. CAE annually produces a Shakespeare in Our Schools tour to secondary schools and the free Shakespeare in Our Parks summer tour. Recent indoor productions include *Othello* at Elision Playhouse in autumn 2022. CAE's goal is to demonstrate why these works of art are considered classics and to freshly prove their relevance in today's world.

To learn more about the company, please visit classicalactorsensemble.org.

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