



DATE
5.22.19

N E W S
R E L E A S E

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Barbara Opitz, Executive Director
518.428.2703 or 518.587.2166
bopitz@skidmore.edu

David Girard, Associate Artistic Director
518.528.1677
david@davidmgirard.com

For Immediate Release

SARATOGA SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Announces their 2019 *SEASON OF REDEMPTION*

This summer, Saratoga Shakespeare Company will celebrate its 19th season with two of Shakespeare's greatest works in two different venues:

**KING LEAR in Historic Congress Park
and THE TEMPEST (co-sponsored by SPAC and Radial Arts) on the SPAC grounds.**

The Saratoga Shakespeare Company of Saratoga Springs, NY, is once again presenting two summer productions with professional actors: Shakespeare's *The Tempest* directed by Marcus Dean Fuller, and Shakespeare's *King Lear*, directed by Wesley Broulik. Both productions deal with themes of stormy family relationships, human frailty, revenge, and redemption. The company is thrilled to celebrate its nineteenth summer season of free outdoor theater on SPAC grounds and in beautiful Congress Park in downtown Saratoga Springs, New York.

Building on last year's successful collaboration, Saratoga Shakespeare begins the season joining forces with SPAC and Radial Arts to present *Poetry in the Pines*, bringing a new, innovative and music-filled production of *THE TEMPEST* on the SPAC grounds. Performances will take place at the Reflecting Pool on Friday, July 19th at 2:00pm and 5:00pm and on Saturday, July 20th at 11:00am. The production will be directed by Marcus Dean Fuller, a writer, director and producer with twenty years of experience working in film, television and stage. Marcus is the President of Compass Entertainment. He currently teaches and directs at Union College. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of Yale School of Drama, the Nantucket Theater Institute, and Saratoga Shakespeare.

KING LEAR opens the following week with performances on Tuesday, July 23rd through Saturday, July 27th and Tuesday, July 30th through Saturday, August 3rd (there are no Sunday or Monday performances). All performances will be at 6:00pm in Congress Park, Saratoga Springs, on the Alfred Z. Solomon Stage. We are excited to welcome back Wesley Broulik as director of *KING LEAR*. Wesley directed our mesmerizing *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* and last year his performance as Touchstone in *AS YOU LIKE IT* received show-stopping applause every evening. Wesley is a director, writer, actor, and educator. His work has been seen off-Broadway, regionally, and on television and film. He currently serves as the head of acting at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska.

Admission is always free of charge for both productions and Congress Park and SPAC grounds are entirely accessible. Both young and old, as well as family groups, are strongly encouraged to attend – with or without picnics – for what has become a beloved summer tradition in Saratoga.

As Saratoga's longest running professional theatre company, both productions will feature several experienced members of Actors' Equity Association, the stage actors' professional union. These thirteen actors have extensive New York City and national stage, film and television credits. In addition, a talented group of non-union professional actors and members of Saratoga Shakespeare's Young Theatre Professional Company will round out the casts.

Since 2000, the productions of Saratoga's longest running professional theatre company have become a beloved Saratoga tradition, and many regional children have grown up watching Saratoga Shakespeare every summer. The Company takes pride in presenting Shakespeare's work with great clarity and continues to develop a visually arresting and audience immersive aesthetic.

The Saratoga Shakespeare Company is grateful to Skidmore College for their generosity, as well as continued support from Skidmore's Office of Special Programs and the Department of Theater. The Company was the recipient of a 2019 Community Arts Grant from Saratoga Arts.

The Company certainly hopes that someone can be made available to review both productions early in their runs. We have been extremely grateful for your past coverage of our productions, as well as your overall commitment to solid arts coverage. For further information, visit www.saratogashakespeare.com or Saratoga Shakespeare's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SaratogaShakespeare. You can contact our Executive Director, Barbara Opitz, at 518-587-2166 (bopitz@skidmore.edu) or our Associate Artistic Director of PR and Audience Engagement, David Girard, at 518-528-1677 (david@davidmgirard.com).

ENDS