



For Immediate Release

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THE NASHVILLE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PRESENTS
SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK 2010: *LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST*

NASHVILLE, July 20, 2010 — The Nashville Shakespeare Festival's 23rd annual Shakespeare in the Park offers delightfully witty comic theatre under the stars with this summer's production of *Love's Labor's Lost* from Aug. 19 through Sept. 12 at Centennial Park. Performances run Thursday through Sunday evenings and Labor Day Monday, with a sign-interpreted performance Aug. 21. Shows are open to the public; however, there is a \$5 suggested donation.

This year, NSF artistic director Denice Hicks presents her interpretation of Shakespeare's *Love's Labor's Lost*, a witty romantic comedy of almost-fairy tale proportions about Cupid, courtship and confusion. The play begins as four young men take an oath to dedicate the next three years to strict study—renouncing the distractions of love on the same day that four beautiful women arrive in town.

Love's Labor's Lost is rarely produced because of its unconventional, reality-based ending. "One of the male characters actually says, 'Our wooing doth not end like an old play.' As a director, that makes this story fresh and fun to tell," Hicks said.

To highlight the play's themes of repressed impulses and restrictive rules about interaction with the opposite sex, the play will be set in the 19th century, complete with bustles and tail coats, gloves, fans and whimsical hats. For this humorous play about the birds and the bees, the actors have studied the courtship rituals of birds to incorporate their distinctive bobbing, fluttering and strutting into their performances and add a layer of physical comedy to the play. Adding to the production's lightheartedness, a musician playing an original score takes on the role of Cupid.

Hicks promises *Love's Labor's Lost* will resonate with audience members of all ages. She adds, "Children should be entranced by the colorful, animated characters. The antics of the clowns should keep the youth entertained, and the romance and irony of the lovers' plights will be something every adult will understand."

Pre-show entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m., while *Love's Labor's Lost* begins at 7:30 p.m. Food and drink will be available onsite from vendors such as Moose Head Kettle

Corn, Project J.O.Y., Tin Can Treats and Cha Chah. In addition, the NSF will provide t-shirts and Mardi Gras masks for purchase.

The Nashville Shakespeare Festival is a non-profit theatre company established in 1998. Its mission is to educate and entertain the Mid-South community through professional Shakespearean experiences, including shows, workshops and readings. The NSF stages two annual Shakespearean performances, Shakespeare in the Park and Winter Shakespeare, and conducts educational and business workshops. For more information, visit www.nashvilleshakes.org.

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