#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES**

announces

***Look on Beauty:***

**Four Professional Development Workshops**

**for English and Drama educators for 2019**

February 14, 2019 – Promising to produce timely and relevant student conversations about values and managing complexity The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles’ (SCLA) starts off the first of four day-long workshops for middle and high school English and Drama educators will be held on February 16th at its Los Angeles Downtown Studio on First Street and Bixel. Each workshop will use four of Shakespeare’s lesser known plays – *ANTONY & CLEOPATRA, LOVE’S LABOURS LOST, CYMBELINE,*and*TWELFTH NIGHT –*to focus on concepts of beauty and aesthetics in public discourse, and how to present these issues (aesthetics, value judgements, and complexity) in the classroom.

The $25 workshops include lunch and will be led by distinguished educator and director, Louis Fantasia who also hosts the popular SCLA/UCLA *Summer Shakespeare Institute*at the Clark Memorial Library, also for educators. Anyone interested in attending may register for these workshops and find more information at shakesepearecenter.org. Workshops take place in February, May, September and December.

“Beauty” assumes the ability to make an “impact” on the viewer or listener, which assumes the viewer/listener is willing to stop, look, listen, and evaluate the “beautiful” event, text, image, person, etc. Classical concepts of beauty are often considered elitist or irrelevant, as well as symbols of an assumed cultural privilege. Post-modern judgements vie with hierarchies of status. “Shakespeare” – himself problematic when discussing the “beauty” of his verse, for example – shows us that these arguments and tensions are not new. How does one teach a concept of “beauty” without instilling a certain value system? What are the ways we learn to evaluate, discriminate and incorporate the “beautiful” in our lives today, in an era of public incivility? These are some of the questions raised in the context of the four plays studied.

Presenter: Louis Fantasia, Artistic Associate for Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles was also the Director of the Shakespeare Globe’s London *Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance* Institute from 1997-2002; and *Shakespeare at the Huntington*, the teacher training institute of the Huntington Library from 2005-2017.

Descriptions and registration information follow:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019: LOOK ON BEAUTY: *ANTONY & CLEOPATRA*

The workshop focuses on two conflicting world-views of “beauty” – the marble-chiseled masculinity of Rome, and the fluid femininity of Egypt. The last of Shakespeare’s Roman plays, *A & C* explores questions of age, gender roles, and the power dynamics put in pursuit of beauty… and love!

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019: LOOK ON BEAUTY: *LOVE’S LABOURS LOST*

We will look at one of Shakespeare’s earliest and most light-hearted comedies, which runs on the assumption that some lucky people are more beautiful, rich and powerful than others. Yet the young playwright turns this notion on its head, with a “coup de theatre” that reminds us that Death comes for us all – no matter how rich or beautiful we may be.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019: LOOK ON BEAUTY: *CYMBELINE*

One Shakespeare’s late Romances, Cymbeline looks at the beauty of fidelity and constancy in the face of utmost adversity, and puts forward the assumption that one’s “inner beauty” will shine forth in the times of most need. Moreover, Shakespeare seems to advocate that not only will this inner beauty be recognized and acknowledged, but that it has the power to transform other into doing good, rather than evil.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019: LOOK ON BEAUTY: *TWELFTH NIGHT*

Set in what critic Jan Kott called “Shakespeare’s bitter Arcadia,” Twelfth Night explores the assumptions of beauty in gender roles and status. Can a character (often a woman in Shakespeare) be “cruel” and “beautiful”? Does “Nature” have a “divine order” that values certain types of beauty or conduct over others? Who creates this order, and who benefits from it?

**Additional opportunity:**

Each workshop will hosted the Saturday following the live staged reading of the play including a cast of celebrities from TV and film. Tickets start at $18 for members and are open to the public to attend. Educators may attend the reading in advance of the workshop in order to have the play fresh in their minds.

READING DATES:

Sunday February 10, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Antony and Cleopatra*

Sunday, April 28, 2018; 3:00 pm – *Love’s Labours Lost*

Sunday, September 22, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Cymbeline*

Sunday, December 8, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Twelfth Night*

**About The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles**

The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles has over 30 years of award-winning history in Los Angeles. This past June, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles produced *Henry IV* with Harry Groener, Tom Hanks, Hamish Linklater, Joe Morton and Rondi Reed at The Japanese Garden on the West Los Angeles VA Campus. The theatre, set and other production elements were built by a veteran workforce. SCLA offers outreach programs such as Will Power to Youth, an employment and enrichment program that combines hands-on artistic experience with paid job training, specifically created to provide an arts immersion for at-risk youth; Will Power to Schools, a program providing free tickets to students to see Shakespeare as well as professional teacher training; and Veterans In Art, which provides employment, training and educational opportunities for underemployed military veterans.

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**Calendar Listing for Professional Development Workshops & Readings**

**Workshop Dates:**

Saturday, February 16, 2019; 9:30-3:30 pm – *Antony and Cleopatra*

Saturday, May 4, 2018; 9:30-3:30 pm – *Love’s Labours Lost*

Saturday, September 28, 2019; 9:30-3:30 pm – *Cymbeline*

Saturday, December 14, 2019; 9:30-3:30 pm – *Twelfth Night*

**Professional Staged Reading Dates:**

Sunday February 10, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Antony and Cleopatra*

Sunday, April 28, 2018; 3:00 pm – *Love’s Labours Lost*

Sunday, September 22, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Cymbeline*

Sunday, December 8, 2019; 3:00 pm – *Twelfth Night*

**Venue:**  The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles Building

 1238 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026

**Prices:** Workshops $25
Readings: Tickets start at $18 for Members

**Register:** www.shakespearecenter.org/professionaldevelopment

**Tickets for Readings:** www.shakespearecenter.org/

 Box Office (866)710-8942 M-F 6am -6pm

 (213) 481-2273 x18 Please leave a message

**Parking:** Paid self-park parking lots can be found on Beaudry on the corners of 1st Street, one-block to The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles.

**Questions about workshops:** contact Marina Oliva at (213)481-2273x15 or marina@shakespearecenter.org

**More Info:** www.shakespearecenter.org

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