#### Press Contact: Jessica Hird

Email: Jessica@shakespearecenter.org

Phone: (702)807-8411

****

**The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles**

*presents a benefit staged reading of*

***William Shakespeare’s***

**“Love’s Labour’s Lost”**

**Directed by Louis Fantasia**

***Followed by the Announcement of Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles’***

***2019 Summer Shakespeare Production***

**Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3 p.m.**

**The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles
1238 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026**

LOS ANGELES, March 28, 2019 – It’s spring and everyone is in love! What could possibly go wrong? Just ask William Shakespeare,whose *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, sparkles with wit and romps including love letters delivered to the wrong lovers, Spanish swains, country maids, and really bad love poetry, courtesy of the Bard’s love-blind characters. The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles (SCLA) presents a staged reading of Shakespeare’s frolicking play *Love’s Labour’s Lost* on Sunday, April 28th, at 3 p.m. at The Shakespeare Center’s Studio at 1238 West 1st Street, LA, CA 90026 in downtown Los Angeles on the corner of 1st Street and Bixel. The reading of *Love’s Labour’s Lost* is 90 minutes without an intermission. Tickets are free for SCLA members and start at $30, for general admission, and $40 for VIP, which includes Valet Parking . Tickets are available <https://www.shakespearecenter.org/loves-labours-lost-reading>

Paid parking lots can be found on Beaudry at the corners of 1st Street, a short walk to The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles. Street parking is available on the weekends on 2nd Street. Valet parking is reserved for VIP ticket purchasers.

*Love’s Labour’s Lost* follows the exploits of the young King of Navarre and his three comrades who swear to abstain from wine and women, until they find both. *Love’s Labour’s Lost,* is directed by Louis Fantasia, a founding director and educator at The Shakespeare Globe Centre in London who has curated and directed SCLA’s BARD READS series of staged readings that have included *Antony & Cleopatra* (2019), *Coriolanus* (2018), *Titus Andronicus* (2018), and *Julius Caesar* (2018)at City Hall.

The cast of *Love’s Labour’s Lost* includes Joel Asher (*Coriolanus* Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles), Ben Atkinson (*Coriolanus* Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles), Christian Baskous (*Richard III* NY Shakespeare Festival, *The Tempest* La Jolla Playhouse), Mark Bramhall (*The Merchant of Venice* American Conservatory Theatre), Kelsey Deanne, Nora Eschenheimer (*As You Like It* The Gamm Theatre), Travis Goodman (*Cymbeline* Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum),

-more-

Atoki Ileka, Daniel Jimenez, Deseree Mee Jung (*As You Like It* Antaeus Company), Samantha Miller (*Comedy of Errors* Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Noah Naishtut (*Julius Caesar* Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles), Michael Naishtut (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Florida Shakespeare Festival), Don Deforest Paul (*Titus Andronicus* Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles),

Chris Rivera (*Henry IV* Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles), Noelle Dominique Rodriguez (*Taming of the Shrew* East Side Theatre Works), Paul David Story (*The Tempest* A Noise Within).

The *Love’s Labour’s Lost* reading will be followed by a discussion with Fantasia about his new book *Playing Shakespeare’s Lovers*, a compilation of articles examining Shakespeare’s lovers contributed by notable actors, directors, educators and scholars. A book signing and reception will take place in the lobby directly after the discussion.

All proceeds benefit SCLA’s Veterans In Art and the Will Power to Youth employment initiatives.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2019 SUMMER SHOW**

All event attendees are invited to arrive at 2:30PM, one half hour prior to the *Love’s Labour’s Lost* reading, to celebrate the official announcement of Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles’ summer production.

Shakespeare Center Members are invited to attend the announcement, reading of *Love’s Labour’s Lost,* post-show discussion and reception free of charge.

**BARD READS WEBINAR SERIES – 2019 Year of Beauty**

*Love’s Labour’s Lost* is the second in the Shakespeare Center’s 2019 BARD READS series. BARD, READS is a series of four Shakespeare plays directed by Louis Fantasia. This year’s theme is **The Year of Beauty** and the plays began with *Antony & Cleopatra* which was read to a sold-out audience on February 10th starring Harry Hamlin and Joely Fisher. Next up is *Love’s Labour’s Lost* on April 28, 2019, then *Cymbeline* on September 22, 2019, and finally *Twelfth Night* on December 8, 2019. Tickets for the readings can be purchased at <https://www.shakespearecenter.org/staged-readings>

**TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS ON THE PLAYS**

Day long, accredited professional development workshops for teachers interested in enriching their understanding and teaching of each of the plays are offered from 9:30am -3:30pm the Saturdays following each reading. Workshops can be attended by all. Middle and High School English and Drama educators may earn certificates for salary credits. Workshops are $25 each and include lunch, an approved certificate, and a deeply discounted ticket to the BARD READS staged reading the week before. For more information and to reserve a workshop seat <https://www.shakespearecenter.org/professional-development-workshops>

**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* directed by Tony-award winner Daniel Sullivan and starred Tom Hanks as Sir John Falstaff in his Los Angeles stage debut. In October, the Shakespeare Center immersed 1,200 students from inner-city schools in an intimate and thrilling immersive production of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* free of charge as part of its Will Power to Schools program. SCLA also offers arts employment programs such as the 25-year-old Will Power to Youth, a White House award-winning employment and enrichment program that combines hands-on artistic experience with paid job training for youth living at the poverty threshold; and Veterans In Art, which provides employment, training and educational opportunities for underemployed military veterans.

-more-

**Calendar Listing**

 **“Love’s Labour’s Lost” Reading**

**&
Shakespeare Center’s Summer Show Announcement**

**Date: Sunday, April 28, 2019**

**Schedule: 2:30pm** Announcement of Shakespeare Center’s summer production

 **3:00pm** Staged reading of *Love’s Labour’s Lost*

 **4:35pm** Louis Fantasia discusses his latest book

“Playing Shakespeare’s Lovers” moderated by Jessie Mills,

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance at Pomona College.

4**:50pm** Reception and book signing

**Theatre**: The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles Downtown Studio Theatre

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

**Ticket Prices:** Members: Free$30 General Admission; $49 VIP (Includes free valet parking)

$15 for students (at the door); Free for Veterans with ID (at the door)

**Run Time***: Love’s Labour’s Lost* runs 90 minutes without an intermission

**Tickets:** <https://www.shakespearecenter.org/loves-labours-lost-reading>

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

[www.facebook.com/shakescenter](http://www.facebook.com/shakescenter)

[www.twitter.com/shakescenterLA](http://www.twitter.com/shakescenterLA)

[www.instagram.com/shakespearecenterla/](http://www.instagram.com/shakespearecenterla/)

[www.youtube.com/TheShakespeareCenter](http://www.youtube.com/TheShakespeareCenter)

www.linkedin.com/company/the-shakespeare-center-of-los-angeles/

-end-