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UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL OFFERS A MIDSUMMER OF DRAMATIC DELIGHTS

By Anthony L. Solis, Trib Connect

CEDAR CITY — Every summer, the Utah Shakespeare Festival transforms Cedar City into a hub of theatrical brilliance, attracting theater enthusiasts from all over to immerse themselves in a world of dramatic tales and Shakespearean performances. Nestled at 13 S 300 W, this festival offers a rich tapestry of classic plays, educational seminars, and enchanting nightly performances, all set within the grandeur of its three theaters.

The festival schedule is robust, featuring matinees at 2 p.m. and evening shows at 8 p.m. For those seeking a taste of the festival atmosphere without the commitment of a

full performance, the free nightly Greenshow at 7:10 p.m. during the summer months is a perfect choice. This event, along with backstage tours, production seminars, and play orientations, ensures that every visitor can find something to enrich their theatrical experience.

2024 Play Lineup: A Blend of Classic and Contemporary

This year's lineup at the Engelstad Shakespeare Theatre kicks off with "Henry VIII" from June 17 to September 5, a dramatic exploration of political intrigue and royal legacies. Following closely is "The Winter's Tale" from June 18 to September 6, a story of jealousy and

redemption, and "The Taming of the Shrew" from June 19 to September 7, which delves into the complexities of relationships and social norms.

The Randall L. Jones Theatre will host "Much Ado About Nothing" from June 21 to October 5, showcasing Shakespeare's adeptness at weaving humor and wit into romantic entanglements. Alongside it, "The 39 Steps," running from June 22 to October 5, offers a thrilling, fast-paced play adapted from John Buchan's novel and Alfred Hitchcock's film.

At the Eileen & Allen Anes Studio Theatre, attendees can experience "Silent Sky" from July 12 to October 5, a poignant narrative about the women astronomers who mapped the stars. "The Mountaintop," from July 13 to October 5, offers a gripping reimagining of Martin Luther King Jr.'s final hours.

Special Feature: RADA 2021 Production

Adding a special flair to this season, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from July 30 to August 3. This production, staged by one of the most prestigious acting schools in the world, promises to be a fresh and vibrant take on one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.

For tickets and further information about the Utah Shakespeare Festival, call 1-800-PLAYTIX or visit www.bard.org.

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