



**SEATTLE
SHAKESPEARE**

Seattle Shakespeare Company Announces *Twelfth Night* at ACT Contemporary Theatre

*Memorandum of Understanding signed between organizations
regarding their first joint production playing June 2025*

SEATTLE, WA (October 10, 2024) – ACT Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company (SSC) today announced a joint production of *Twelfth Night*, presented in ACT's Falls Theatre June 7-22, 2025. This joint production is the next step in the exploration process of merging the two theatres into an entity that serves both missions under one roof at ACT's current home at 700 Union Street. ACT's previously announced *An Enemy of the People* is postponed for inclusion in a future season.

This new production of *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare's gender-fluid romp and treasured comedy, is set in a hopeful post-WWII Italy with director **Annie Lareau** exploring the diversity of love, reminding us how relevant Shakespeare remains in our time. Tickets are available today to ACT and SSC subscribers, and will be available to the public on Wednesday, November 20 at noon via acttheatre.org/twelfth-night or at 206-292-7676.

"We are excited to join forces with ACT on this production of *Twelfth Night*, and we are especially thrilled to have Annie Lareau, one of the leading directors in Seattle, at the helm," said **Seattle Shakespeare Executive Director John Bradshaw**. "For Seattle Shakespeare, Annie created a wonderful and magical *The Tempest* in our 2019-2020 Season as well as two joyous outdoor productions for Wooden O, our free Shakespeare in the Parks, with *As You Like It* and *Pericles*. I feel she's the perfect director for this production."

"ACT is looking forward to welcoming Seattle Shakespeare to our venue this spring as a first step toward making this their permanent home," said **Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland, Interim Producing Artistic Director of ACT Contemporary Theatre**. "In bringing this contemporary take on *Twelfth Night* to the Falls stage, we can introduce both of our audiences to a world where the classic canon and contemporary work can intersect to tell a new story."

The announcement comes soon after the Boards of both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding moving forward with this joint production.

Cynthia Huffman, Board Chair of ACT Contemporary Theatre, said "The joint production of *Twelfth Night* in ACT's historic landmark building will offer a first look at what the merger of these two iconic theatres will look like and signal the promise it holds for revitalizing our arts center in the heart of downtown Seattle."

Ariel Rosemond, President of Seattle Shakespeare Company Board of Directors, said "The merger exploration process has underscored both companies' shared commitment to growing together in service to the Pacific Northwest theatre community. The joint Seattle Shakespeare and ACT Theatre production of *Twelfth Night* presents an exciting opportunity to bring this vision to life."

As discussions continue, leaders from ACT Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company continue to work toward a finalized agreement with a goal to be completed in summer 2025. They invite feedback at feedback@acttheatre.org or feedback@seattleshakespeare.org.

ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 59 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Currently led by Interim Producing Artistic Director [Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland](#), ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit acttheatre.org.

ABOUT SEATTLE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

With the plays of William Shakespeare at our core, Seattle Shakespeare Company engages our audiences, our artists, and our community in the universal human experience inherent in classic drama. SSC is committed to "Shakespeare for everybody." As the Puget Sound region's year-round, professional, classical theatre, the company's growing success stems from a deep belief in the power and vibrancy of the time-tested words and ideas of Shakespeare and other classical playwrights. SSC is committed to artistic excellence on stage, and accessibility through education outreach programs, state-wide touring, and free Wooden O performances in regional parks. The results have been provocative performances that both challenge and delight audiences while fostering an appreciation for great stage works. For more information on Seattle Shakespeare Company, please visit seattleshakespeare.org.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Shane Regan, Michelle Sanders Communications
(253) 241-4407
shane@michellesanderspr.com