

NEWS RELEASE

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Kentlands Community Players
April 27, 2022

KENTLANDS COMMUNITY PLAYERS ANNOUNCES MAY PRODUCTION OF *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE*

Stage Adaptation of Oscar-Winning Film Will Be Presented Over Two Weekends

Gaithersburg, April 27 – Kentlands Community Players will produce *Shakespeare in Love*, based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard and adapted for the stage by Lee Hall, for a limited run May 6-8 and a special Memorial Day weekend reprise May 28 and 29. The show will be staged at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg.

The production, based on the 1998 film that won seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, features a cast of more than a dozen, as well as choreography and stage fighting. “I knew it would be a directing challenge, so when experienced director Bruce Hirsch expressed his interest in directing, I knew the production would be in fabulously capable hands,” said producer Meredith Fogle.

“This show has the largest cast I’ve ever worked with and just fitting them all on the Arts Barn stage is a challenge,” said Hirsch. “It also has elements I’ve never dealt with before: period costumes, stage sword fighting and period dancing. Fortunately, we found great people to work with us for this.”

Hirsch said that after local theatre’s two-year hiatus, the time is right for *Shakespeare in Love*: “It is a clever, funny script, and this seems like a good time to come to the theatre to have a lot of fun.”

Getting back into the swing of rehearsals after that two-year absence was easier than expected for Cecilia Lindgren, who plays Viola – Shakespeare’s love interest who is secretly aspiring to act herself. “I think the thing that surprised me the most is how easily it felt to slip back into rehearsal rooms and the mindset of doing a show,” Lindgren said. “Walking into that room with like-minded creative people always feels calming and exhilarating at the same time.”

Still, there have been challenges. Christopher Martin, who plays the young Will Shakespeare, said, “Working this show has reinforced something very important about acting: You need to learn a lot of different skills. Even in this one show, people have had to dance, sing, swordfight, and even do quick math.”

“I am a big fan of Shakespeare and especially love the stories about his life,” said Lindgren. “This one particularly is such a beautiful and heartbreaking story.”

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