

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2009



CONTACT:
CHRIS PFINGSTEN
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT
chris@baltimoreshakespeare.org
410.366.8594

BALTIMORE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2009-2010 SEASON

Baltimore – Baltimore Shakespeare Festival, celebrating its **16th** year of bringing professional, classical theatre to Baltimore, is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 season. From a free holiday reading of Shakespeare's long, lost "original" manuscript of *A Christmas Carol*, to our summer of two classic comedies, Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and Moliere's *Scapin!*, playing in repertory in the Meadow at Evergreen Museum & Library, the new season will offer something for everyone.

The season begins on December 18th, for one night only, with *William Shakespeare's A Christmas Carol*, a free reading of a rare manuscript, thought to be lost for centuries - Shakespeare's original Christmas masterpiece before that cad Dickens got hold of it!

This February, the young actors of our Teen Performance Program explore the themes of justice and mercy in *Measure for Measure*. In March, we'll present the Baltimore premiere of *Mrs. Kemble's Tempest*, a fascinating exploration of the life of actress Fanny Kemble, early feminist and abolitionist.

Throughout the year we will continue our *Portrait of the Artist* series, which brings playwrights and painters together with public readings of new plays about Picasso, Bonnard, and Modigliani, artists on permanent display in the Evergreen Museum & Library collection.

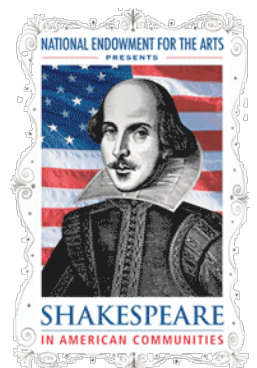
Our summer season in the Meadow at Evergreen includes Shakespeare's classic comedy of mistaken identity, *The Comedy of Errors*, and Moliere's fast paced and equally hilarious *Scapin!*

Also included in the season is an encore production of last summer's critically acclaimed and audience favorite, *Hamlet*. This year BSF was chosen by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **Arts Midwest** as one of only 37 theatre companies to participate in the *Shakespeare for a New Generation Program*. Through this initiative, in April, we will bring over 1,000 school students to our theatre to experience *Hamlet* for free. We will also include four public performances of the show for those that may have missed it or would like to see it again.

Tickets for Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's 16th season go on sale January 4, 2010. Individual ticket prices are \$25 for Adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Season ticket packages and group rates will also be available. Call the box office at 410-366-8596 or visit the website, baltimoreshakespeare.org, for more information.

<more>

Baltimore Shakespeare Festival is sponsored by:



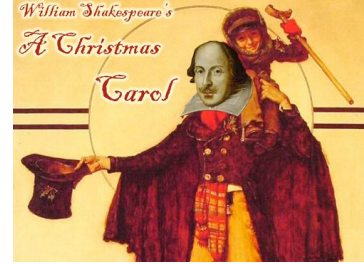
Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's 2009-2010 Season

William Shakespeare's *A Christmas Carol*

Adapted by Will Ditterline

December 18 One Night Only!

A reading of Shakespeare's original Christmas masterpiece before that cad Dickens got hold of it!



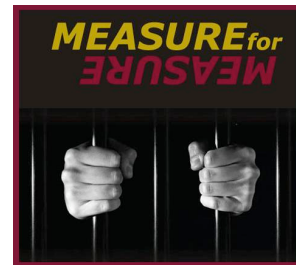
Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare

Feb 12 - 21

BSF's Teen Performance Program returns with Shakespeare's classic of mercy, justice, and truth.

Directed by Tony Tsendeas



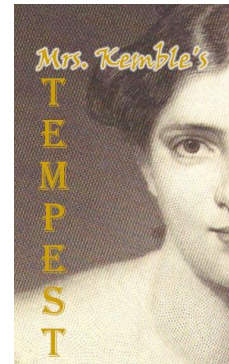
Mrs. Kemble's Tempest

By Tom Ziegler

March 4 - 28

The Grande dame of the American stage, Fanny Kemble, is giving her final performance. Her extraordinary solo performance of the Tempest interweaves with episodes from her own tempestuous life.

Directed by Lee Mikeska-Gardner



Hamlet

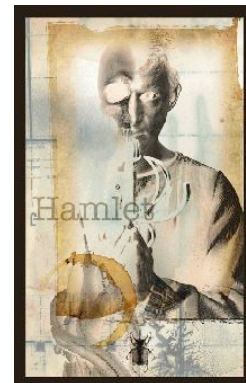
By William Shakespeare

April 12 - 23

Shakespeare for a New Generation Program, sponsored by the NEA/Arts Midwest.

BSF will present an encore production of last summer's Hamlet, with 2 weeks of student matinees and 4 public performances!

Directed by Michael Carleton



Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*

&

Moliere's *Scapin!*

June 23 - August 1 in repertory

Two classic comedies that will keep your head spinning and your sides aching. Mistaken identities, identical twins, scheming servants - all the ingredients for an hilarious summer! Join us under the stars in the Meadow at Evergreen!

