



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DILDINE RETURNING TO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

Dildine will serve as Artistic and Executive Director

ST. LOUIS (March 5, 2015) -- Rick Dildine is returning to St. Louis to serve as Artistic and Executive Director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Dildine recently served as executive director of Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass.

“We are delighted to welcome Rick Dildine back to helm Shakespeare Festival St. Louis,” said Chuck Miller, Board Chair of the organization. “The Festival has received national attention for our stellar growth, our expanded reach in the community, our robust year-round programming and the quality of our performances. This is an exciting time for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, and Rick Dildine is the right person to continue our success.”

While with the Festival in his earlier tenure, Dildine developed popular new programming, expanding the Festival’s reach beyond Forest Park. This includes SHAKE 38, marathon performances of Shakespeare’s works, and Shakespeare in the Streets. Attendance also grew handsomely during his earlier five-year stint at Shakespeare Festival St. Louis.

“What I love about the Festival and what I know to be a part of my DNA is the excitement of the artistic role I play,” commented Dildine. “During my time at Shakespeare & Company, we were able to accomplish some monumental tasks towards its operational success; however, my skills and passions are directly related to producing theatre. I am so excited to be returning to my artistic roots.”

“Rick is part of a new generation of creative producers who understand how to invent innovative programming coupled with a strong, responsible financial structure,” said Peter Sargent, Dean of the Leigh Gerding College of Fine Arts at Webster University and Chair of the Search Committee. “Our search process involved candidates from around the world, but it was the Committee’s unanimous approval of Rick that was truly an exciting moment for our organization’s future.”

The 2015 Festival opens on May 22.

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About Shakespeare Festival St. Louis:

Celebrating its 15th season presenting free Shakespeare in Forest Park, and recognized this year with the Excellence in the Arts Award from the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis, the Festival has attracted more than 640,000 people to its annual free performances in Forest Park and has reached 270,000 students through its educational programs. Since 2011, Shakespeare in the Streets has invited St. Louis' residents to tell their unique stories, hosting an annual five-day citywide marathon of Shakespeare's 38 plays in the spring and shutting down a neighborhood street for performances in the fall.

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