



**SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS CREATES AN ORIGINAL  
WORK OF THEATRE INSPIRED BY SCENES FROM ICONIC  
SHAKESPEARE PLAYS ABOUT LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS**

With performances held at Pulitzer Arts Foundation, *Love's Labor* combines the performing and visual arts by dynamically staging the play within the context of three art exhibitions

**ST. LOUIS, MO, July 22, 2016**—This August, Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Shakespeare Festival St. Louis present *Love's Labor*, an original work of theatre exploring the question of what makes and breaks a home. Using a combination of scenes from some of Shakespeare's most iconic works such as *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this play tells the modern-day story of a married couple on the brink of divorce, looking back at their thirty-year history together. Performed within three exhibitions on view at the Pulitzer—each relating to the material aspects of everyday life through radically different styles and mediums—the play unfolds gallery by gallery, bringing new life to the artwork on view.

Finding creative inspiration in the complexities of romantic relationships, Bruce Longworth, associate artistic director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis stated, "Long-term relationships require work, commitment and the ability to deal with what life throws you. Sometimes there is success, sometimes not, and sometimes success can come in surprising ways and at surprising times. That's what the title — *Love's Labor* — is all about." *Love's Labor* is conceived, written, and directed by Mr. Longworth.

This interactive performance combines the visual and performing arts, drawing connections between the fictional world and the art on view. Audiences will progress from gallery to gallery for each scene and experience three exhibitions that draw on themes of domesticity: *The Ordinary Must Not Be Dull: Claes Oldenburg's Soft Sculptures*, including boldly-colored sculptures of commonplace items such as a three-way plug, a fried egg, and a folding chair; *Exquisite Everyday: 18th-Century Decorative Arts Objects from the J. Paul Getty Museum*, presenting an intimate display of eighteenth-century French and Italian decorative arts objects, among them a chamber pot, a potpourri vase, and an armchair;

and a large-scale, site-specific installation, *raumlaborberlin: 4562 Enright Avenue*, by the Berlin-based architecture collective raumlaborberlin that transforms an abandoned, structurally unsound house in St. Louis by bringing its building materials, objects, and history into the gallery, exploring the ways we inhabit the urban landscape and how this, in turn, shapes our ideas of “home.” The exhibitions will be on view at the Pulitzer from July 29 – October 15, 2016.

“At the Pulitzer, we have a long history of experimental and multidisciplinary projects that bring the visual arts together with other art forms such as music, poetry, and the performing arts,” said Cara Starke, director of Pulitzer Arts Foundation. “We are pleased to be collaborating with Shakespeare Festival St. Louis on this original production, inviting new experiences of the exhibitions on view.”

*Love’s Labor* is a collaborative project by Shakespeare Festival St. Louis and the Pulitzer. Performances will be held on Friday, August 19th at 7:30 pm; Saturday, August 20th at 6:15 pm and 7:30 pm; and matinee performances on Sunday, August 21st at 2:00 pm and 3:15 pm. Performances are free to attend, but tickets are required. Register now at <https://www.sfstl.com/loves-labor/>.

### **About Shakespeare Festival St. Louis**

In the past 16 years, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis has attracted more than 670,000 people to its annual free performances In the Park. The organization has reached 290,000 students In the Schools through its educational programming and, in 2010, launched SHAKE 38, a marathon participatory presentation of Shakespeare’s entire 38-play canon community wide. In 2012, the Festival shut down its first street, Cherokee, to present a community-based play In the Streets. Shakespeare Festival St. Louis receives generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, and the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis. For more information, please visit [sfstl.com](http://sfstl.com) or call 314-531-9800.

### **About Pulitzer Arts Foundation**

Pulitzer Arts Foundation is a non-collecting arts institution that presents experimental, progressive, and multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs, encompassing both historic and contemporary art from across the globe. Founded in 2001, the Pulitzer is dedicated to utilizing the naturally lit, contemplative spaces of its Tadao Ando-designed building—one of the country’s most celebrated examples of contemporary museum

architecture—to create multilayered experiences that link the visual arts with other cultural forms and heighten audience understanding and enjoyment. Through diverse exhibitions and public programming, the Pulitzer seeks to deepen community engagement with art, and to inspire audiences to think differently about art and its relationship to their lives. Deeply committed to serving the broader St. Louis community, the Pulitzer is an integral part of the Grand Center arts district and the wider cultural and civic landscape in St. Louis.

The Pulitzer is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday. Hours are 10am–5pm on Wednesday and Saturday, 10am–8pm on Thursday and Friday. For more information, please visit [pulitzerarts.org](http://pulitzerarts.org) or call 314-754-1850.

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