



## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **Shakespeare in the Streets set for this Weekend (Sept. 15-17) in front of the St. Louis Public Library**

ST. LOUIS (Sept. 12, 2017) – Local step company, The Gentlemen of Vision, and a 60-person choir whose members represent area churches and high schools, will take to the stage with professional actors, including Joneal Joplin as King Louis, at the sixth annual Shakespeare in the Streets' production titled, *Blow, Winds*, a play artfully adapted from William Shakespeare's *King Lear*. The show, presented by Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, will be performed at 8 p.m. Fri. through Sun., Sept. 15-17, in front of the St. Louis Public Library's Central Library (1301 Olive St.).

Olive Street between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> will be closed to traffic from 6 to 10 p.m. each night. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to watch the show. Pre-show activities will include food trucks, live music and a family craft area. For event details and parking information, visit [www.sfstl.com](http://www.sfstl.com).

Highlights of the production will include original music composed by music director Lamar Harris; the choir, under the direction of Chris Watkins who is minister of music at the Central Baptist Church; and the Gentlemen of Vision step company playing the role of the army. In addition to Joplin, the cast includes 17 performers, eight of them representing the previous five Shakespeare in the Streets productions.

Since its inception in 2001, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis has surpassed the one million mark in attendance through its work In the Schools, In the Streets and In the Park with more than 710,000 people attending the free main stage productions at Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park. The organization has reached an additional 300,000 students In the Schools through its educational programming. In 2010, the Festival launched SHAKE 38, a marathon participatory presentation of Shakespeare's entire 38-play canon community wide. Leadership support for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis' 2017 season is provided by the Whitaker Foundation. The Festival is also funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, and the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis. In 2017, the Festival was named Arts Organization of the Year by the Missouri Arts Council. For more information, please visit [www.sfstl.com](http://www.sfstl.com) or call 314-531-9800.

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