



by A.A. Cristi Jul. 25, 2022

## Hip to Hip Theatre Company Celebrates 15 Years of Free Shakespeare in The Parks

Audiences will have a chance to enjoy one of Shakespeare's most popular plays and one of his least known.

From July 27 to August 21, the romantic comedy *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (directed by Hip to Hip's co-founder Joy Marr) and the epic romance *THE ADVENTURES OF PERICLES* (directed by Hip to Hip's founding Artistic Director Jason Marr) will tour in repertory to twelve parks throughout Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, The Bronx, Long Island and New Jersey.

Hip to Hip will treat its audiences to a full theatrical experience, including sumptuous costumes by Nancy Nichols (*MUCH ADO*) and Sarah Constable (*PERICLES*). The productions, which feature songs, dances and swordfights, truly have something for everyone.

Audience members are encouraged to bring a blanket or low chair and picnic fare, and enjoy a Shakespeare play in the open air. No tickets are necessary. Seating is first come, first served.

Regarding *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, director Joy Marr shared: "It's the original Romantic Comedy, and yet seems completely contemporary. With a will-they-or-won't-they main couple, a series of comic misunderstandings that escalate into drama and a bumbling policeman trying to maintain order, Shakespeare's play feels fresh even in its familiarity. With themes of wit, honor, power, gossip, and even toxic masculinity, the play stands as a testament to what we gain as individuals when we allow ourselves to love and be loved."



Speaking about THE ADVENTURES OF PERICLES, director Jason Marr said: "It's a wild and rather experimental play. It was Shakespeare's first foray into "Romance"-a genre he would master with plays like THE TEMPEST, CYMBELINE and THE WINTER'S TALE. I thought the play was a curiosity, but I've discovered its brilliance while working on it. I've fallen in love with its fairy-tale story of a shipwrecked king who loses everything before making a triumphant return. The play's central message of keeping hope alive in the midst of unfortunate circumstances has particular resonance today."

The repertory cast includes: Chaunice Chapman\*, Marco Antonio Cunha, Michael Darby, John DeFilippo, Erick González\*, Dessalines Hayden, Will Hodgdon, Shonita Joshi\*, Steven Lamont, Bree Marr, Jason Marr\*, Joy Marr\*, Debra Nguyen, Logan Schmucker, Avery Lauren Thomas, Kiana Wilson and Colin Wulff\* (\*appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association)