



actors'
shakespeare
project



For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Joanne Barrett 617-834-6021
jbpr@comcast.net @jebpr

ACTORS' SHAKESPEARE PROJECT PRESENTS
CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE'S *EDWARD II* AT CHARLESTOWN WORKING THEATER
February 22 – March 19, 2017
Directed by David R. Gammons

CHARLESTOWN, MA (January 10, 2017) - Actors' Shakespeare Project kicks off 2017 with Christopher Marlowe's complex *Edward II*, England's notorious king who forsakes everything for his public and private passions--only to meet horrific ends at the hands of his queen and his conniving noblemen. ASP is fortunate to bring both the talents of its Resident Acting Company and director **David R. Gammons** to navigate the intricate theatrical landscape of this historically controversial and rarely seen play. Performances are February 22 – March 19, 2017 (**Press Performance: Saturday, February 25, 8 PM**) at the Charlestown Working Theater, 442 Bunker Hill St, Charlestown. For more information visit actorsshakespeareproject.org.

Marlowe uses the tumultuous history of 14th century England to share one man's struggle between self identity and the demands of his court and kingdom, presented in a taut new version that pares the work to eight characters to suit the intimate space of the CWT and the intensity of his script. In the wake of Edward I's death, his son Edward (Maurice Emmanuel Parent) has taken the throne as Edward II. His radical ideas around affairs of state, lack of military acumen, and loyalty to his ambitious lover Piers Gaveston (Eddie Shields) pit him against powerful nobles and his calculating queen (Jennie Israel). These conflicts lead to Gaveston's exile and murder, new and shifting romantic loyalties on all sides, and revenge and retribution that ultimately seal Edward's fate.

"I question what leader Edward wants to be, and the perspective of the characters on the disruptions to society that will result," says director Gammons. "*Edward II* was kept off the stage for more than 200 years, in large part because of the cultural ambivalence of its social matter and the spectre of male sexuality as a threat to the civilized order of society and power. It depicts a gay relationship in the 14th century, written in the 16th century, in a way that most stories and lives were not openly portrayed until the late 20th century."

Adds Gammons, “A great deal of inspiration for me with this production derives from the tensions of the 1980s around the AIDS crisis and the government’s often ambivalent and hostile responses to it. In some ways, not much has changed in six centuries. This production explores a world where, as then and today, battles are fought behind closed doors, political and intimate betrayals are ubiquitous, and responses to many challenges to convention are unwelcome and received in intense and **violent** ways.”

The cast features both members of the Resident Acting Company and guest artists. Resident Company Members include **Maurice Emmanuel Parent*** (Edward II) and **Jennie Israel*** (Isabella). Guest artists are **Nigel Gore*** (Lancaster), **Nile Hawver*** (Kent), **Alex Pollock*** (Mortimer), **Eddie Shields*** (Gaveston), Boston University student **David J. Castillo** (Prince Edward III), and **Stewart Evan Smith** (Spencer).

The production team includes **Sara Brown** (set), **Jeff Adelberg**** (lights), **Rachel Pudula-Shufelt** (costumes), **Dave Wilson**** (sound), and **Arkansas Light** (stage manager).

Performance & Education Project Schedule

Free Open Rehearsal Saturday, February 11 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Location TBD. Please RSVP to ASP’s Audience Services at 617.776.2200 x225 or @actorsshakespeareproject.org.

Preview performances: Wednesday, February 22, Thursday, February 23, and Friday, February 24 at 7:30 pm.

Official opening and press performance: Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 8 pm.

Regular Performances: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 pm; Saturdays at 3 pm & 8 pm; and Sundays at 2 pm with post-show conversation. No student matinees.

Post-Show Conversations: Sundays, February 26, March 5, 12, and 19, 2017. Immediately following the Sunday 2 pm mats.

Tickets

Tickets are \$30-\$50 (\$15 student rush) and can be purchased at actorsshakespeareproject.org, or OvationTix at 866.811.4111, or at the theater, although selection may be limited. Senior discount tickets are \$3 off of regular price. Groups of 10+ may reserve seats for select performances via ASP’s Audience Services at 617.776.2200 x225 or groups@actorsshakespeareproject.org.

About ASP

Actors' Shakespeare Project is an award-winning professional theater company with a Resident Acting Company and extensive education, youth and community programs. ASP performs and works in found spaces, schools, theaters and neighborhoods to present and explore the robust language, resonant stories, and deeply human characters in Shakespeare's plays and in works by other great playwrights. Our work is ensemble-based and focused on intimacy, storytelling, language, relationships, voice, risk and artistry within and throughout the Boston area. For more information visit actorsshakespeareproject.org.

*A Member of the Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

**Member of United Scenic Artists Local 82