

 **Lensic**
PRESENTS

MAY 29, 2018

EVER THE TWAIN

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IN MARK TWAIN'S AMERICA

A Revel Devised by Lois Rudnick & Jonathan Richards



A benefit for The Lensic Performing Arts Center,
Shakespeare in the Garden, and Santa Fe Botanical Garden

The
Lensic
Performing Arts Center
Santa Fe, New Mexico



EVER THE TWAIN

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IN MARK TWAIN'S AMERICA

A Revel Devised by Lois Rudnick & Jonathan Richards

DIRECTED BY
Jonathan Richards

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Lois Rudnick

PANEL MODERATOR
John Andrews

THE PLAYERS

Jonathan Richards
as William Shakespeare

Forrest Fyre
as Mark Twain

Valerie Plame
as the MC

Leslie Harrell Dillen

John Helfrich

Vaughn Irving

Geoffrey Pomeroy

Tallis Rose

MUSIC BY
Michael Collins

PROGRAM NOTE

Ever the Twain brings William Shakespeare and Mark Twain to the Lentic stage for the second time, where we invite you to celebrate their achievements, explore with us Shakespeare's extraordinary impact on Twain's America, and enjoy some of the comedic fruits of Twain's rivalry with his eminent predecessor.

Shakespeare was wildly popular in 19th-century America. He was read, memorized, and performed everywhere, from brothels to Broadway, from Western mining camps to Boston tea parties. He was celebrated by desperadoes and deacons, by raucous Irish stevedores and by cultivated college boys. He even started a riot.

Mark Twain was determined to be for the United States what Shakespeare was for England. He devoted considerable energy to competing with his illustrious predecessor. He adapted, distorted, twisted, and parodied the Bard. What's more, he was among the earliest to question whether Shakespeare was the real author of the works attributed to him.

Both men came from similar backgrounds. Born to modest circumstances in small towns, they received limited educations before setting out to make names for themselves. Each rose to the pinnacle of his literary world by dint of special genius and voracious reading. Each was fascinated by the human condition, and each explored it from multiple angles: moral, political, philosophical, and theological.

In our day, Shakespeare is too often relegated to the lonely confines of highbrow, elitist entertainment. In his own day, and later in Twain's, he was an artist of the people. We hope tonight's revelry will help nudge the Immortal Bard off his pedestal, and bring him back to the real world, where he belongs.

BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN ANDREWS (PANEL MODERATOR) is president of the Shakespeare Guild. In June 2011, he helped arrange a Lensic event in which Santa Fe Pro Musica joined hands with Sir Derek Jacobi and Richard Clifford for a special production of *The Tempest*, a script that Shakespeare was producing at the time our Governor's Palace was being constructed.

TOM MICHAEL COLLINS (MUSICIAN) is a writer and musician who has lived and worked in northern New Mexico for over four decades.

LESLIE HARRELL DILLEN (PLAYER) is best known locally for her solo show *The Passions of Mabel Dodge Luhan*, which has had productions in Santa Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque. Her other four solo shows have been performed throughout the United States, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and The New York Fringe Festival. She has worked in television and film, as well as in theater in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. She recently completed her first novel, *The Second Act of Kelsey*.

FORREST FYRE (TOM FORREST BROADLEY) (TWAIN) has been in the Santa Fe acting community since 1984, after 14 years abroad. Family and business concerns led him to leave the stage in the 1990s to concentrate on film projects. A member of the Screen Actors Guild for 34 years, Forrest has appeared in many supporting roles in films, including *3:10 to Yuma*, *Tiger Eyes*, *Furthest Witness*, and *Only The Brave*. He most recently starred in the short film *Rex*, which won Best Short Film at the New York International Film Festival. A devoted family man with three daughters and five grandchildren, he is a passionate tree-planting landscape gardener, avid dancer, and gemologist/owner of Earthfire Gems Gallery in downtown Santa Fe. Forrest is extremely grateful for the wonderful opportunity to "tread the boards" again.

JOHN HELFRICH (PLAYER) is a junior at New Mexico School for the Arts. He has been acting since he was five years old, in plays such as *El Baile*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Mary Poppins*, *Grease*, *Peter Pan*, *Marco Polo Sings a Solo*, and *Henry IV Part 1*, among others. He has done theater on the more experimental side, with shows such as *4X8*, *A Pop-up Platform Picture Show*, and the 2015, 2016, and 2017 *One Acts* with NMSA, and he has assistant directed the show *6 Characters in Search of an Author*. John has been a fan of both William Shakespeare and Mark Twain from a young age, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

VAUGHN IRVING (PLAYER) is Artistic Director at the Santa Fe Playhouse, as well as an actor, director, playwright, and composer. Originally from Santa Fe, he has appeared in over 50 professional plays and musicals in eight states and the District of Columbia. His local acting credits include *Lobby Hero* (Adobe Rose Theatre), 1984 and *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (Santa Fe Playhouse), *The Glass Menagerie* (New Mexico Actor's Lab), and *The Good Doctor* (Oasis Theatre Company). During his time at the Santa Fe Playhouse, Vaughn has directed many shows, including *Unnecessary Farce*, *The Last Five Years*, *The Fiesta Melodrama*, and *Cabaret*.

GEOFFREY POMEROY (PLAYER) is thrilled to be returning to the Lensic in tonight's performance. Geoffrey has a B.S. with Honors from Skidmore College and is an honors graduate of the British-American Drama Academy in London. His New York and California theater credits include *Rabbit Hole*, *Cowboy Mouth*, *Two Days 'Til Dawn*, *How I Learned To Drive*, *The Hostage*, *Macbeth*, *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*, *Henry V*, *A Thurbur Carnival*, *Twelfth Night*, *Arcadia*, *Oedipus*, and *Verklarte Nacht*. Here in Santa Fe, Geoffrey has appeared in *Salome's Dance* and NMAL's productions of *Proof* and *The Glass Menagerie*. His television and film credits include *War On Everyone*, *Better Call Saul*, *Manhattan*, *Monsters Vs. Aliens*, *Over The Hedge*, and

Death's Door. Geoffrey wrote the short film *Hypothetically*, which debuted at the Cannes Film Festival and has won several awards for Best Comedic Short at film festivals nationwide.

JONATHAN RICHARDS (SHAKESPEARE, CO-AUTHOR) is a writer, actor, and cartoonist. His latest novel, *Nick & Jake*, is an epistolary comic novel set in the McCarthy era. His political cartoons have appeared in the *Santa Fe Reporter*, *Albuquerque Journal North*, and *Huffington Post*. His movie and book reviews appear in the *Santa Fe New Mexican's Pasatiempo* magazine. He has performed frequently on the Santa Fe stage in leading roles, most recently in *The Gin Game* with the New Mexico Actors Lab. He has been seen in the television series *Breaking Bad* and *Manhattan*. Film work includes *Independence Day: Reckoning*, Alan Arkin's short film *Blood: Thicker than Water*, and the narration of Terry Sanders's Oscar-nominated short *Never Give Up: the 20th Century Odyssey of Herbert Zipper*.

TALLIS ROSE (PLAYER) attended the Santa Fe University of Art and Design and graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in theater. Since then she has worked with the New Mexico Actor's Lab on two very special productions, *Proof* and A.R. Gurney's *Sylvia*, as well as acting in 1984 for the Santa Fe Playhouse and in the 2017 Santa Fe Fiesta Melodrama. Most recently she appeared with Oasis Theater Company in *The Water Engine* by David Mamet and *The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon. She just made her directorial debut on *Talking With...* by Jane Martin. Tallis is very honored to revive her roles in this evening's performance of *Ever the Twain*.

LOIS RUDNICK (PRODUCER, CO-AUTHOR) is a retired professor of American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she taught for 36 years, including a course on Mark Twain, one of her favorite American authors. She is best known for her books on Mabel Dodge Luhan and her circle, including *Mabel Dodge Luhan: New Woman, New Worlds*. *Ever the Twain* is the first dramatic production she has had a hand in and she has greatly enjoyed working with Jonathan Richards on the script.

VALERIE PLAME is a former career covert CIA operations officer who managed top-secret covert programs designed to keep terrorists and rogue nation states from acquiring nuclear weapons. She has written for many publications including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian* and *O* magazine. She has appeared on all the networks as well as on CNN, MSNBC, FOX, Al-Jazeera, NPR, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Valerie is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling memoir *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*, which became a major motion picture starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts. Along with Sarah Lovett, she has published the well-received fictional spy thrillers *Blowback* and *Burned*. She is currently in talks to turn the series into a feature film. She also served as the narrator and appeared as an expert in the film *Countdown to Zero*, a documentary on the threat of nuclear war.

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