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The National Building Museum, Folger Shakespeare Library and Folger Theatre present engaging programs throughout the run of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the National Building Museum

Unique daytime and evening performances and activities to take place
inside *The Playhouse* at the National Building Museum

(Washington, DC) – The **National Building Museum** and the **Folger Shakespeare Library** are creating a summer of engaging performances, hands-on activities, and exciting events as part of the summer-long run of **Folger Theatre's** production of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. A full slate of performances, talks, music, tours, and interactive workshops are being presented during the day and prior to performances of *Midsummer* inside the majestic Great Hall of the **National Building Museum**, home to ***The Playhouse*** this summer.

The Playhouse serves as home for the National Building Museum's **Summer Block Party**, providing visitors with lively theater-related experiences throughout the day. Behind-the-scenes tours, face-painting, scavenger hunts, storytime, interactive workshops, and more captivating activities will be offered daily beginning **Friday, July 1 and run through August 28, 2022**. A full schedule of the Museum's daytime programming can be found at www.nbm.org/exhibition/the-playhouse.

Tony Cisek (production designer for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) directed the creation of ***The Playhouse***, which was developed in collaboration with **Jim Hunter**, Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the **University of South Carolina** and **South Side Design and Building**, responsible for the design and fabrication of the *Midsummer Forest*, an immersive installation in the Museum's West Court.

In the evenings, ***The Playhouse*** transforms into the enchanting setting for Folger Theatre's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. The Folger and the National Building Museum will host a variety of pre-show events, including performances by the celebrated **Frontera Project**, poetry workshops, free musical performances on the Museum's lawn, free lunchtime readings, workshops on **Hip Hop and Shakespeare**, artist talks, behind-the-scenes tours, a staged reading of ***Call Me Olivia***, and more.

Folger Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is on stage at the National Building Museum, **July 12 – August 28, 2022.**

The Playhouse Programming and Special Events:

Beginning July 1, visitors to the Museum will enter this summer's experience through *A Midsummer Forest*, an immersive installation based on **Joanna Robson's *A Knavish Lad***, a double-concertina artists' book from the Folger collection that visually narrates every scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The book was completed in 2016 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Brought to life by **Southside Design & Building**, adults and children alike will be transported into the world of *Midsummer*, allowing them to step into the magic of Shakespeare's beloved play.

Everyday guests will discover the characters of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through an interactive **Scavenger Hunt**, and crafts inspired by the play, while **Shakespeare Mad Libs, Costumes & Crowns** will provide inspiration for guests as they explore backstage. Guests will design Elizabethan London in a Shakespearean-inspired **City by Design** urban planning activity and construct their own **Globe Theater** to take home. Free with Museum admission.

Each morning at 11:30am, a **Storytime and Activity** will be offered and on weekends, **Face Painting** (1pm – 4pm, Saturdays and Sundays) will get guests into the *Midsummer* spirit. Free with Museum admission.

Paper artist **Josefina Hernandez** offers art workshops exploring patterns found within the National Building Museum and the illustrative history of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on **July 9 and 10**. Sessions run at 11:30am and 1:30pm both days. Free with Museum admission.

Beginning **Monday, July 11**, behind-the-scenes **Backstage Tours** are led daily at 1pm and 2pm (Thursdays – Mondays). This 45-minute guided experience takes you through the magical *Midsummer Forest* installation of *The Playhouse* and pulls back the curtain on the playmaking process right on the set of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, where visitors can take center stage through interactive theater exercises. Free with Museum admission.

A **Pre-Performance Conversation** with Folger Director **Michael Witmore** about Shakespeare's madcap comedy takes place on **Wednesday, July 13 at 6:30pm**. \$20, with discounts available for Folger Shakespeare Library and National Building Museum members.

The **O.B. Hardison Poetry Series** at the Folger presents the **Brown Bag Poetry** "But A Dream" series at **12pm on July 14, July 21, and July 28**. These readings will explore predominant themes of *Midsummer*—love, dreams, magic, and fantasy. Free with Museum admission.

- On Thursday, July 14, a reading on "love" will be presented by DC poet and historian **Kim Roberts**
- **Sally Kindred Rosen** will present a reading on fairies and mythology on Thursday, July 21
- **Annie Finch** concludes the series on Thursday, July 28 with a reading on the moon

Folger Theatre's **Stage Director Talk** happens on **Thursday, July 14 at 6:30pm**. Learn about the creative process, staging, and vision of *Midsummer* with director **Victor Malana Maog** in conversation with Folger Theatre Artistic Director **Karen Ann Daniels**. \$20, with discounts available for Folger and National Building Museum members.

Creating *The Playhouse: Setting the Stage for A Midsummer Night's Dream* on **Monday, July 18 at 6:30pm**, with National Building Museum Executive Director **Aileen Fuchs** and Folger Theatre Artistic Director **Karen Ann Daniels** leading a lively conversation about the creation and activation of the theater space with stage designer **Jim Hunter** and offering insights into the unique challenges and exciting opportunities afforded by the project. \$10 for National Building Museum members/\$15 for non-members/free student admission.

Join knowledgeable Folger docents for a lively plunge into Shakespeare and his magical comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in **Education Workshops** on **Thursday July 21 and Friday, July 22 at 2pm**. Whether you're a Shakespeare scholar or just being introduced to the Bard, this high-action—and loud!—workshop is for all visitors. Free with Museum admission.

Two **Poetry Workshops** led by Folger Poetry Coordinator **Teri Cross Davis** are on **Friday, July 22 and Friday, August 5 at 6:00pm**. Using the themes of dreams and dreaming, participants will study and discuss provided poems in these rich, in-person workshop sessions, and then be guided in the creation of their own work. \$45, with discounts available.

Before taking in the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, sit outside and enjoy the sounds of **Music on the Lawn** (on 5th Street, between F & G). Live performances take place on **Thursdays July 28, August 4, August 11, and August 18 from 6:30pm-7:30pm**.

- July 28: longtime DC Latin band **Sol y Rumba** founded by Maria Isolina performs
- August 4: Hip Hop artist **Malik Work** debuts an original spoken word piece, *That Purple Juice*, inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- August 11: **Justin Trawick leads his four-piece folk/bluegrass ensemble, The Common Good**
- August 18: **Kristen "Drum Lady" Arant's** intergenerational all-women drumming ensemble, **Bele Bele Rhythm Collective**, plays

Acclaimed artists of **The Frontera Project** will perform on the festival stage **July 29, 30, and 31 at 12pm**. The Frontera Project brings Mexican and U.S. artists together in a unique, bi-lingual, interactive performance that fuses elements of theater, movement, and music. The Frontera Project, with its specific focus on Tijuana/San Diego, celebrates the richness, complexity, and humanity of Fronterizo life. Free with Museum admission.

The Frontera Project will also be offering lively and interactive workshops in the classroom at the National Building Museum on **Thursday, July 28 at 2pm and July 29, 30, and 31 at 2:30pm**.

On **Monday, August 1**, **The Frontera Project** will perform on the festival stage during a special **Late Night at NBM** at 8pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm and admission includes Museum exhibitions, including *The Wall/El Muro: What is a Border Wall?*, light bites, and drinks. \$25; \$10 for NBM and Folger members; \$5 students.

Audience members are encouraged to stay and take part in our **Post-Show Discussion with the cast** of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on **Thursday, August 4**. This interactive discussion, led by Folger's Resident Dramaturg **Michele Osherow**, will follow the 8:00pm performance.

Actor, writer, and musician **Malik Work** leads **Hip Hop Shakespeare**, an interactive workshop designed to unveil the tools of theater and storytelling using the celebrated work of the Bard and the innovative and relevant work of contemporary Hip Hop. These free workshops will be held on the *Midsummer* stage on **Friday, August 5 at 2pm and August 6 and 7 at 12:30pm**.

Spotlight on Design: Renovation of the Folger will take place on **Monday, August 8 at 6:30pm**. Folger Shakespeare Library Director **Michael Witmore** and architect **Stephen Kieran** will discuss the Folger Shakespeare Library's multi-year renovation project currently underway. They will examine what it takes to bring a historically listed 1930s building into the 21st-century. \$10 for National Building Museum members/\$15 for non-members/free student admission.

Family members of all ages can join comic book maker **Evan Keeling** and Folger staff in **Evan's Story-Making Workshops** on **Thursday, August 11 and Friday, August 12**. Participants will capture a favorite story and learn how to make a mini 8-page book out of a single sheet of paper, creating their very own comic book. Free with museum admission.

Folger Theatre's popular **Brews & Banter Pre-Show Talk** will be held on **Friday, August 12 at 6:30pm**. Join in on this off-the-cuff pre-show conversation with *Midsummer* cast members **Bryan Barbarin** (Demetrius) and **Renea S. Brown** (Helena). Ticket includes complimentary craft beer, available for tasting at 6pm. \$15, with discounts for Folger Shakespeare Library and National Building Museum members.

An **Open-Captioned performance** of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will take place on **Sunday, August 14 at 7pm**.

Please check the Folger website at www.folger.edu/events/midsummer-nights-dream-2022, and the National Building Museum website at www.nbm.org/exhibition/the-playhouse, as events continue to be added to the performance calendars.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is produced in association with the **National Building Museum** and the **University of South Carolina**.

[A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) **[Ticketing Information & Performance Dates:](#)**

A Midsummer Night's Dream plays at the National Building Museum from **July 12 through August 28, 2022**. Please [check the Folger website](#) for a full performance schedule.

Tickets are \$20 - \$85, and may be purchased from the Folger Theatre Box Office at www.folger.edu/theatre or **(202) 544-7077**. Tickets are also on sale at the National Building Museum Visitor's Center Thursday through Monday from 11am – 4pm.

The Playhouse at the **National Building Museum** can be explored **July 1 – August 28, 2022**, Thursday – Monday, 11am – 4pm. The Museum is located at 401 F St., NW in Washington, DC.

Visiting ***The Playhouse*** during the day and participating in all of the hands-on activities is included with admission to the National Building Museum. Tickets to performances of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and other evening programs are a separate purchase.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols:

The safety and health of our community are of utmost importance to us. There will be no vaccination checks for all daytime programming inside *The Playhouse*. However, well-fitted masks are recommended for all visitors.

Evening programs, including pre-performance talks, and performances of Folger Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will require the following of audience members to ensure a safe venue for patrons and our artists:

- Provide proof of vaccination with either an original vaccination card or a clear photo.
- Wear a well-fitting mask that covers both the nose and mouth at all times.

All Folger performers and staff are vaccinated. Folger staff and volunteers on site will be masked at all times.

About Folger Theatre and Folger Shakespeare Library:

Folger Shakespeare Library is the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the ultimate resource for exploring Shakespeare and his world. The Folger welcomes millions of visitors online and in person. It provides unparalleled access to a huge array of resources, from original sources to modern interpretations. With the Folger, you can experience the power of performance, the wonder of exhibitions, and the excitement of path-breaking research. The Folger offers the opportunity to see and even work with early modern sources, driving discovery and transforming education for students of all ages.

The award-winning **Folger Theatre** in our nation's capital bridges the arts and humanities through transformational performances and programming that speak inclusively to the human experience. Now under the leadership of Artistic Director Karen Ann Daniels, Folger Theatre continues its legacy through exciting interpretations and adaptations of Shakespeare and expands the classical canon through cultivating today's artists and commissioning new work that is in dialogue with the concerns and issues of our time. Folger Theatre thrives both on its historical stage and in the community, engaging audiences wherever they happen to be.

During a multiyear building renovation, join the Folger online and on the road. Learn more at folger.edu.

About the National Building Museum:

The **National Building Museum** inspires curiosity about the world we design and build. We believe that understanding the history and impact of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, construction, and design is important for all ages. Through exhibitions and educational programs, we show how the built world has power to shape our lives, communities, and futures. Public inquiries: 202.272.2448 or visit www.nbm.org. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Learn more about the **University of South Carolina** at www.sc.edu.

Sponsors:

Folger Theatre's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** is supported by the Share Fund, the William Abell Foundation, with additional funding from the University of South Carolina Excellence Initiative, a grant program that promotes transformative teaching, research, creative activity, and community engagement.

Season Sponsors — **Maygene and Steve Daniels, Helen and David Kenney and Family**, and the late **Neal T. Turtell**

Contributing Sponsor — **Gail Kern Paster**

The Playhouse at the National Building Museum is generously supported by presenting sponsor **AARP** and lead sponsor **CoStar**.

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