



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **American Shakespeare Center coming to the Sunset Theatre in Asheboro**

**ASHEBORO, NC** – The American Shakespeare Center will be making a two-day stop in Asheboro during its *2015/16 Dangerous Dreams Tour* in January 2016. This talented group of actors will be performing William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. As part of their appearance the group will also be conducting two interactive workshops. Performances and workshops will be hosted at the Sunset Theatre, located at 234 Sunset Avenue in downtown Asheboro, NC.

Since 1988, the American Shakespeare Center has toured the country with shows that incorporate Shakespeare's stage craft with modern sensibility. Based out of Staunton, VA, the company mission is to recover the joys and accessibility of Shakespeare's theatre, language, and humanity by exploring the English Renaissance stage and its practices through performance and education. The company uses Shakespeare's staging conditions including universal lighting, minimal sets, doubling, cross-gender casting, and music. In Shakespeare's day, the company couldn't turn the lights out on the audience; actors and audience shared the same light. Leaving the lights on allows for a type of audience contact rarely seen in modern day theatre.

#### **Show Performances:**

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> "Julius Caesar"**

In this profoundly moving, breathtaking, and deeply human play, Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men

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commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. *Julius Caesar* is a dazzling thrill ride of betrayal, violence, and perhaps most surprisingly – love.

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> “*The Importance of Being Earnest*”**

Oscar Wilde’s brilliant and wicked comic masterpiece defines wit and style. This “trivial comedy for serious people” is at once blissfully silly and outrageously shrewd. One hundred and twenty years after its first performance, *The Importance of Being Earnest* continues to delight audiences with its playful language, charming characters, and biting look at contemporary society.

**Performance Admission**

- Doors open & pre-show music starts at 7:00pm each night
- Performances start at 7:30pm
- 15 minute intermission
- Admission is \$20 for adults or \$30 for both shows and \$10 for students

**Workshops:**

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> “*Character Play*” – *Vocal Performance (Doubling and Repertory)***

The practice of casting a single actor in multiple roles, a staging condition engaged by Shakespeare’s company and the ASC, opens opportunities for physical and mental exploration. The actors will teach participants basic differences between the front and back vowels which leads to the connection and understanding of vocal placement (i.e. breath support, vocal range).

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> “*We live in an age of Ideals*” - *Staging High Comedy***

In this workshop, participants will explore theories and methods for addressing high comedy. By playing games and introducing some basic movement vocabulary and techniques, the education artists will introduce some rules that govern the creation of a play or creation of a troupe culture in the plays of Oscar Wilde.

**Workshop Admission**

- “*Character Play*” workshop starts at 10:00am
- “*We live in an age of Ideals*” workshop starts at 11:30am
- Each offering lasts for 1 hour

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- Each workshop is limited to 20 participants
- Admission is \$5 for each participant
- Pre-registration is required

For more information about the Sunset Theatre, please visit our website [www.sunsettheatre.org](http://www.sunsettheatre.org). If you would like to purchase or reserve tickets for, *Julius Caesar* or *The Importance of Being Earnest*, please call Asheboro Cultural & Recreation Services at (336) 626-1240. Want to learn more about the American Shakespeare Center? Log on to their website at [www.americanshakespearecenter.com](http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com).

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