

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Village of Bentleyville will host the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival production of Shakespeare's Hamlet. The performance will be on Saturday June 25th at 7pm at the Village of Bentleyville's River View Community Park. The Riverview Park is located on Solon Road in the Village of Bentleyville.

The performance is in part sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Jaycees and is open to all and admission is FREE! So bring a blanket, lawn chairs, and a cooler, and watch the live performance of Hamlet under the stars. Parking will be available at the Community Park, Quarry Rock picnic area, Bentleyville Village Hall, and St Martin's church both located at the intersection of Solon Rd and Chagrin River Rd. In case of inclement weather the performance will be held at St Martin's Episcopal Church.

The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival brings live theater back to the beautiful parks of Northeast Ohio for FREE this summer! CSF performances are free, live, and outside—the perfect family-friendly entertainment for summer! This year marks the Festival's 25th season, and they're returning to a full season with 2 touring productions (HAMLET and THE LEARNED LADIES) and 6 weekends of performances.

HAMLET, directed by CSF's new Artistic Director, Dusten A. Welch, stars a host of local actors and runs June 24 through July 10. This production marks only the second time the Festival has produced Shakespeare's iconic tragedy in their 25 years. The first CSF production of HAMLET (2008) saw Welch play Prince Hamlet. Bringing HAMLET back to the CSF stage, now as director, "is both a personal and artistic achievement," says Welch, "performing Hamlet was one of the most profound experiences of my life. I want to honor the show that introduced me to the Cleveland stage, and give a new breath of life into this amazing play". Fellow actors Allen Branstein and John Lynch have also returned from CSF's inaugural production of HAMLET to join the current cast. (Branstein as both the Gravedigger and Ghost of Hamlet's father, and Lynch reprising his role as Polonius.)

Actress Emily Wirthwein takes on the role of Prince Hamlet in this summer's production. Wirthwein was last seen as Juliet in the Festival's 2021 production of ROMEO AND JULIET. Her intelligent and inventive energy is perfect for embodying the role of Hamlet. In addition to Wirthwein, the full cast and company include local actors and artists: Bennie Bender, Chris Bizub, Allen Branstein, Aislyn Clark, Zoe Rose Davidson, Rachel Gold, John Lynch, Joe Milan, Jasmine Renee, Cody Swanson and Katie Wells.

The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival's production of HAMLET tours at parks throughout Greater Cleveland and performs for FREE June 24 – July 10 (Fri-Sun @ 7pm). THE LEARNED LADIES runs July 24 – August 7. Visit <www.cleveshakes.org> for more information and a full list of performance venues. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic, and come get your Shakespeare on!

The Chagrin Valley Jaycees is a nonprofit organization serving the entire Chagrin Valley with events such as Holiday lighting in Chagrin Falls, Easter egg hunt, The Blossom Time festival and many other community events. Proceeds from events supports many sponsorships of programs such as Hamlet in Bentleyville and provides funding to many charities that serve the Chagrin Valley. To learn more about the Chagrin Valley Jaycees or to support its charitable mission visit www.CVJC.org.

For additional information regarding the event contact Ken Kvacek at KKvacek@villageofbentleyville.com

For additional information regarding The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival contact Dustin Welch at dusten.a.welch@cleveshakes.org

HAMLET

June 24 - July 10

Directed by Dusten A. Welch

THE LEARNED LADIES

July 22 - August 7

Directed by Keira McDonald



Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
2134 Lee Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
cleveshakes.org

Dusten A. Welch
Artistic Director