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**Baltimore Center Stage Announces *Shakespeare in Love*  
Cast and Artistic Team**

***Center Stage Continues its "Season of Community" with a Boisterous, Joyful  
Production of the Blockbuster Movie***

Baltimore—October 4, 2017. Baltimore Center Stage is pleased to announce the cast and artistic team for *Shakespeare In Love*.

Continuing a "Season of Community" at Baltimore Center Stage, where every program and production explores the role of artists and institutions in building community, *Shakespeare in Love* embraces the theme of "joy". The language, love story and luxurious scenery aim directly at the joy in the connectedness of the human spirit. It is a moving examination of the relationship between art and love.

"This joyful romp celebrates every aspect of theater, from the words on the page to the actors on stage. It is a charming tale of love, the English language, and theater itself," said Baltimore Center Stage Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah. "It is simply the joy that this theater can provide in turbulent times."

*Shakespeare in Love* is the most produced play in the 2017/18 theater season. Baltimore Center Stage is its only production in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. area. Based on the Oscar-winning film of the same name, *Shakespeare in Love* was adapted for the stage by Lee Hall from Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard's screenplay. It is directed by Blake Robison, Artistic Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

KWAME KWEI-ARMAH, OBE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
MICHAEL ROSS MANAGING DIRECTOR

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THE STATE THEATER OF MARYLAND

The cast includes **Nicholas Carriere\*** (William Shakespeare), **Avery Glypmh\*** (Marlowe/Priest/Ensemble), **John Plumpis\*** (Fennyman/Catling?ensemble), **David Whalen\*** (Ned Alleyn/Lambert/Ensemble), **Michael Fajardo\*** (Frees/Wabash/Heavy 1/Ensemble), **Barzin Akhavan\*** (Henslowe/Ensemble), **Brent Harris\*** (Burbage/Barman/Ensemble), **Liz Daingerfield** (Mistress Quickly/Waitress/Kate/Abraham/Ensemble), **Marquis D. Gibson** (Adam/Heavy 2/Ensemble), **Wynn Harmon\*** (Tifney/Sir Robert de Lesseps/Ensemble), **Naomi Jacobsen\*** (Queen Elizabeth/Molly/Ensemble), **Bari Robinson\*** (Nol/Valentine/Ensemble), **Taha Mandviwala** (Peter/Proteus/Guard 2/Ensemble), **Emily Trask\*** (Viola de Lesseps/Ensemble), **Laura Gordon\*** (Nurse/Ensemble), **Jefferson A. Russell\*** (Ralph/Ensemble), **Jamal James\*** (Robin/Guard 1/Boatman/Ensemble) **Clark Furlong** (Webster), **Michael Brusasco\*** (Wessex/Ensemble), and **Richard Buchanan** (Sam/Ensemble). There's also a featured appearance by **Meatball**, a Chihuahua (Spot).

The artistic team includes director **Robison, Tim Mackabee** (Scenic Designer), **Kathleen Geldard** (Costume Designer), **Michelle Habeck** (Lighting Designer), **Matt Nielson** (Sound Designer), **Diane Lala** (Choreographer), **Rick Sordelet and Christian Kelly-Sordelet** (fight directors).

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association.

*Shakespeare in Love* opens Thursday, October 26, with previews October 19–25, and closes Sunday, November 26. Press night is Opening Night, October 26. For more information, visit [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org) or call the box office at 410.332.0033.

*Shakespeare in Love* is made possible by T. Rowe Price. This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). Center Stage's Season Sponsor is M&T Bank and the season is also made possible by The Shubert Foundation and the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences.

#### **About Baltimore Center Stage**

Baltimore Center Stage is a professional, nonprofit institution committed to entertaining, engaging and enriching audiences through bold, innovative and thought-provoking

classical and contemporary theater. Named the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage has steadily grown as a leader in the national regional theater scene. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE and Managing Director Michael Ross, Baltimore Center Stage is committed to creating and presenting a diverse array of world premieres and exhilarating interpretations of established works.

Baltimore Center Stage believes in access for all—creating a welcoming environment for everyone who enters its theater doors and, at the same time, striving to meet audiences where they are. In addition to its Mainstage and Off Center productions in the historic Mount Vernon neighborhood, Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations among a global audience through digital initiatives, which explore how technology and the arts intersect. The theater also nurtures the next generation of artists and theater-goers through the Young Playwrights Festival, Student Matinee Series and many other educational programs for students, families and educators.