RECENTLY I ATTENDED AN ENLIGHTENING LECTURE presented by our Dramaturg, Dr. Gretchen Minton. There, she introduced her upcoming book, Shakespeare in Montana, which provides readers with a chronicle of the Bard’s influence on our great state. It is a rich history indeed. During the lecture, she shared an image from another book entitled State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America that sums up Shakespeare’s impact on the Treasure State. There, on the screen, was an illustrated map of the United States taken from the inside cover of the book. Within the borders of each state is a graphic that represents what the state is best known for. For Missouri—Mark Twain, Arizona—a cactus, and Montana (can you guess it?)—an image of Shakespeare. We are honored to be a part of the history of bringing Shakespeare’s stories into your communities, and feel a great sense of pride in how we are able to contribute to our region’s history of placing value on great works of literature, all while bringing communities together to share in the experience of live theatre. Throughout the year, I have the great pleasure to visit universities across the country to work with students and spread the word of our unique and wonderful mission. Inevitably the best part of my trip is when I get the opportunity to talk about our history, reach, and impact. I share stories of how your communities welcome live theatre, how you embrace our actors and support what we do. These stories create an exciting energy amongst these students, and remind them why they chose a theatrical path. Our mission is grounded in the communal experience of putting aside the minutiae of daily life with you, our audience, as you come together with friends and family to create a one-of-a-kind community experience. But we are more than just the summer tour. Did you know that we performed 200 days last year? Our education programs continue to grow as we continue to investigate new and relevant ways to effect students with the Shakespeare in the Schools program, and Montana Shakes! We are proud to say that we celebrated yet another successful winter of producing engaging material here locally in the Gallatin Valley, and that our Shakespeare in the Parks program continues to develop by pursuing a mission of professional aesthetics, diversity, and community engagement. Every day, we set our sights to find new ways to bring you the best possible experience. As always, we value your commitment, enthusiasm, and support for our programming. Our hope is that you’ll continue to be proud of our achievements and that you will find our 2019 season to be as fulfilling as our last!

Sincerely,

KEVIN ASSELIN
EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks

INTRODUCING THE 2019 Summer Tour

For more information, please go to: www.ShakespeareInTheParks.org


INTERVIEW WITH

The Artistic Director

KEVIN ASSELIN

DISCUSSES THIS SEASON,
HOW HE TRIES TO KEEP SHAKESPEARE RELEVANT IN CHANGING TIMES,
AND HIS DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE.

This summer’s you’ve chosen to present Henry IV, Part I and The Merry Wives of Windsor. How do these plays and Shakespeare in the Parks fit into your bigger picture?

I got interested in doing because of the commercial anniversary of the close of WBO this year. We’ve had such a deep relationship with the Pants over the past few years. Shakespeare in the Parks is a perfect opportunity to incorporate them into a relevant world—it’s just too hard to pass up. My goal, as a director/founder, is to keep that incredible world of Shakespeare alive and vibrant. Whether we’re talking about a traditional history play, or a period piece, it’s all well and good to produce Shakespeare in what we would call a “period piece”—Elizabethan or Renaissance—but the opportunity we have to dissect these plays and bring a level of uniqueness that’s tied into her individual perspective into the way we’re going to build this world as a team. The world of the play is not inherently specific.”

Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Julius Caesar is entering its 47th season. What’s your vision for WBO in 2022? How will you be bringing the most revolutionary of Shakespeare’s productions to life?

There are two things that come immediately to mind. We continue the expansion of what we offer audiences. We want to offer them something fresh and exciting. But we’re incorporating an older text into the program which will be a chance for us to explore the material in a different way. Shakespeare in the Parks is a great way to bring the classic and the modern together. We’re also bringing on more opportunities for equality. Two of the artists in our company are women of color. We’re adding a new actor to Falstaff’s productions of Romeo and Juliet. We’re adding an older text to the repertoire the way that we always have. We’re increasing opportunities to come in more diverse, more authentic interpretations for our company and for the communities that we serve.

What are some big picture dreams you have for the company in the future? Do you want to bring Shakespeare to new corners of the world?

I would love to bring just the way that we do it here to smaller towns across the country. We would love to expand our technical staff and all of our resources. I don’t have the ability to do those things yet, but we’re looking to bring the plays to other communities and绺 lintillating; comedies, and social and political issues. Our theme is bringing to life, professional experiences to our communities. That’s the goal, then we need to be investing in ways in which we’re always pushing the envelope. On the other hand, we’re still looking for the excitement of the show. It’s a no-brainer to connect with new communities and more diverse audiences.

This summer you’ve chosen to present Henry IV, Part I and The Merry Wives of Windsor in Shakespeare in the Parks. Montana State University College of Arts & Architecture is proud to share our premiere outreach and encore programs for engaging performances designed to bring other theatrical productions with communities across the state. Mary M. Patrick, director of Visual Arts, and The Merry Wives of Windsor, directed by Matt Lyons, will entertain and engage audiences looking for a great time at this summer’s Shakespeare in the Parks.

DEAN’S LETTER

MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE 47TH SEASON OF SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS. MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & ARCHITECTURE IS PROUD TO SHARE OUR PREMIERE OUTREACH AND ENCORE PROGRAMS FOR ENGAGING PERFORMANCE DESIGNED TO BRING OTHER THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS WITH COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE. MARY M. PATRICK, DIRECTOR OF VISUAL ARTS, AND THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, DIRECTED BY MATT LYONS, WILL ENTERTAIN AND ENGAGE AUDIENCES LOOKING FOR A GREAT TIME AT THIS SUMMER’S SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS.

CLARION

TRAVEL LIKE AN ACTOR!

CLARION
**WHY DO PEOPLE WRITE HISTORY?**

No one today believes that Shakespeare wrote all of his plays. Most students learn early in their education that Shakespeare's contemporaries also wrote plays, and that he was not alone in writing history plays. But how did Shakespeare actually write these plays? How did he come to write them? What did he think about the history of England when he wrote them? Was he just an accurate historian, or did he have other goals in mind?

One way to understand Shakespeare's approach to history is to look at how he used the source material. In the case of *Henry V*, Shakespeare used a source text called *The Prologue to the Play of Henry V*, a work that was written in the late 16th century. This source text is a historical account of the events described in *Henry V*, along with some additional material that is not part of the historical events. Shakespeare's approach to the source material was to incorporate it into his play, but also to add his own interpretation and commentary. He used the source material as a starting point, but then developed his own ideas and themes. This is evident in the way he describes the relationship between Hal and Falstaff, for example. Hal is presented as a complex character, with a mix of strength and weakness, while Falstaff is seen as a foolish but lovable companion. By using the source material as a starting point, Shakespeare was able to create a unique and engaging story that resonated with his audience.

Another way to understand Shakespeare's approach to history is to look at how he used the source material to reflect on the issue of power and authority. *Henry V* is a play about a young man who is given the responsibility of becoming king, and the challenges that come with that role. Through his portrayal of Hal as a king, Shakespeare comments on the nature of leadership and the importance of personal qualities in the exercise of power. He also uses the play to explore the idea of democracy and the role of the people in determining their own fate. By using the source material to reflect on these issues, Shakespeare was able to create a play that was relevant to his audience and that continues to be relevant today.

In conclusion, Shakespeare's approach to history was to use the source material as a starting point, but then to develop his own ideas and themes. He used the source material to reflect on the issue of power and authority, and to create a play that was relevant to his audience and that continues to be relevant today. By using the source material in this way, Shakespeare was able to create a unique and engaging story that continues to resonate with modern audiences.

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**SPEEVEBELL**

*produced several times with Shakespeare in the Parks and is best known for his roles as Falstaff in both Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*.

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**Dramaturgical Notes**

by GRETCHEN E. MINTON, PH.D.

"HISTORY IS ENTIRELY CREATED BY THE PERSON WHO TELLS THE STORY." - LIN MANUEL MIRANDA

The relationship between Hal and Falstaff is foregrounded by two events: Hal's coronation and Falstaff's death. These events are the culmination of a long and complex relationship, and they are both pivotal moments in the play. In the case of Hal's coronation, Shakespeare uses the ceremony to emphasize the importance of tradition and the continuity of the monarchy. He also uses it to show the younger generation's readiness to assume the responsibilities of leadership. In the case of Falstaff's death, Shakespeare uses it to underline the importance of the relationship between Hal and Falstaff, and to show the impact of the death of a beloved companion on the new king. By foregrounding these events, Shakespeare is able to create a play that is both relevant to his audience and that continues to be relevant today.

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**Any favorite memories from previous tours?**

On my first tour in 2009, we did two tours in Gardiner and the wind started picking up. We were covering Francis around the park at the time so the audience asked if a ‘etr a Rat’ was happening. In the wind, it was so windy, the balcony was catching the wind like a sail and starting to rise—the world was going to end! But even through the storms, when it was the leader of the rebels, the show went on. The audience was completely engaged in the play and it was a thrilling experience. By the end of the tour, the world was saved and Hal became king. So, my favorite memory from the previous tour was seeing the world saved by Hal. During the tour, we had a unique light, and makes each performance a unique experience. The audience are indoors with a full audience, the tour is in full swing, and the tour coordinators that are still with the tour. Being able to catch up with them and see how they’re doing is great. So, my favorite memory is seeing the world saved by Hal.
**Educational Outreach**

**Shakespeare in the Schools**

**Romero and Juliet**

The birth of true love never did run smooth. That night middle and high school kids around Montana are going to feel at this fall William Brown returns to Shakespeare in the Schools to share what is perhaps Shakespeare’s most famous tragedy. This year we’ll be adding a month to the tour. Of course, producing mainstage Shakespeare on a schoolhouse stage is challenging, and we’ll call on all our skills to make sure that kids are viewing a high-quality production. The tour begins in October and ends on December 13. All middle and high school kids around Montana will have a chance to see the world’s most famous love story performed live on a stage in your school! Contact Susan Miller at susan@montana.edu to arrange to see a performance in a school near you!

**Montana Shakespeare in the Parks**

Since 2018, Montana’s youngest students have had a chance to experience Shakespeare in performance along with their older peers. Montana Shakespeare brings an original play that features scenes, stories, and characters from Shakespeare to 250 schools in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho in June and July. This highly participatory performance makes students’ first encounter with Shakespeare unforgettable, engaging, and fun. The performance is followed by tailor-made workshops for different age levels that drive home the themes of the play they’ve just seen.

**BECOME PART OF MONTANA’S FAVORITE SUMMERTIME TRADITION!**

Shakespeare in the Parks is a free performance and workshop program for students K-12 each year, with engaging performances and relevant workshops. If you would like to see one of our school shows, please contact Susan Miller at susan@montana.edu to arrange to see a performance in a school near you!

**TALK ABOUT US!**

**Join the Conversation! #msip2019**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**ELISE EVENT**

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND FOR THE 18TH ANNUAL ELISE EVENT. Founded by Elise Donohue and sustained by her children Sam and Elise Phares, the Elise event showcases our middle and high school tour and provides necessary funding for this program. Because the Black Box Theatre couldn’t accommodate everyone who wanted to attend last year, this year we’re extending the tour to include the Elise event. The Elise event offers a rare chance to see Shakespeare in the Schools’ productions of Romeo and Juliet and an opportunity to mingle with the cast and creative team afterwards. Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by calling Susan Miller at 406-794-1971 or by emailing susan@montana.edu.

**MT SHAKES!**

Since 2018, Montana’s youngest students have had a chance to experience Shakespeare in performance along with their older peers. Montana Shakespeare brings an original play that features scenes, stories, and characters from Shakespeare to 250 schools in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho in June and July. This highly participatory performance makes students’ first encounter with Shakespeare unforgettable, engaging, and fun. The performance is followed by tailor-made workshops for different age levels that drive home the themes of the play they’ve just seen.

**SHAKESPEARE IN THE SCHOOLS**

**One Night Only**

FREE PERFORMANCE AT THE EMERSON

If you’re not able to attend the Elise event at this special business space, don’t miss your chance to see Romeo and Juliet for free at the beautiful Great Falls Cultural Center. Shakespeare in the Parks is providing this opportunity for any Shakespeare fan immersed in a thank you for all your support each year. The show will begin at 7 pm and coincide with the Emerson’s Holiday Bazaar. Get some of your holiday shopping done and then see one of Shakespeare’s most famous tragedies. It’s a night not to be missed. Tickets are free, but reservations will be required.

**Noises Off**

**SIP KICKED OFF THE YEAR WITH A PRODUCTION OF Michael Frayn’s comedic gem, Noises Off. This play within a play delighted audiences and turned the two-hour interleaving stage into a technical marvel. Black Box Theatre fans know what the audience had to say: “5 star performance! Best laugh I’ve had in a long time.” Thank you for a top-notch production with the quality we come to expect from Shakespeare in the Parks.”

**2019 TOUR SPONSORS**

**The Gilhousen Family Foundation**

**Gianforte Family Foundation**

**Public Value Partners**

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**Montana Arts Council**

**Montana Cultural Trust**

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**ER Land**

**Edward Jones**

**Hargrave Mattress**

**Pheasant Farms**

**Join the Conversation! #msip2019**

**TALK ABOUT US!**

**WE’RE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Join the Artistic Director’s Circle by making an annual contribution of $1,000 or more, and receive special insider news updates and invitations to exclusive events.**

**Make a Planned Gift by including MSIP in your estate or other planned giving vehicle, such as a charitable remainder trust.**

**For more information about giving to MSIP, please contact Susan Miller at susan@montana.edu or 406-794-3303.**

**Mt.’s School Shakespeare Tour Dietary Allergies**

**Join Us On Facebook!**

**Elise Event**

**#msip2019**

**Romeo and Juliet**

**Shakespeare in the Parks’ Performances in Buffalo, Wyoming, and beyond get to see Shakespeare in performance, the way he was meant to be seen. Between the fall tour and Montana Shakes! program, we reach about 25,000 students K-12 each year, with engaging performances and relevant workshops. If you would like to see one of our school shows, please contact Susan Miller at susan@montana.edu to arrange to see a performance in a school near you!**

**susan@montana.edu**

For more information about giving to MSIP, please contact Susan Miller at susan@montana.edu or 406-794-3303.
2019 Tour Schedule

June
13 Bozeman Henry IV 8pm MSU Grove
14 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
15 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
16 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
17 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
18 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
19 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
20 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
21 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
22 Bozeman Merry Wives 8pm MSU Grove
24 Lewistown Henry IV 6:30pm Fred Day Park
25 Hobson/Utica Merry Wives 6:30pm Utica Clubhouse Lawn
26 Malta Merry Wives 6:30pm Courthouse Lawn
27 Wolf Point Merry Wives 6:30pm Faith Home Park
28 Sidney Merry Wives 6:30pm Veterans Memorial Park/ Malcolm Park Hall Amphitheater
30 Beach, ND Henry IV 6:30pm Beach Swimming Pool Park

July
1 Ekalaka Henry IV 6:30pm Dahl Memorial Nursing Home
2 Forsyth Merry Wives 6:00pm The Residency/ Riverside Park
3 Miles City Merry Wives 6:30pm The Residency/ Riverside Park
5 Sheridan, WY Merry Wives 6:30pm Ranchland County Courthouse Lawn
6 Chinook Henry IV 6pm Pioneer Park/Parker Bandshell
7 Big Timber Henry IV 6:30pm Lions Club Park
8 Hardin Merry Wives 6pm South Park
9 Roundup Merry Wives 6:30pm Roundup City Park
10 Red Lodge Merry Wives 6:30pm Lions Park
11 Billings Henry IV 6pm Pioneer Park
12 Billings Merry Wives 6:30pm Pioneer Park
13 Powell, WY Henry IV 6:30pm Washington Park
14 Cody, WY Merry Wives 6:30pm Canal Park
15 Wilsall, WY Merry Wives 6pm Sanders Park
16 Columbus Henry IV 6:30pm Heritage Park
17 Anaaroke Merry Wives 6pm Foothills Family Park
18 Driggs, ID Henry IV 6:30pm Driggs City Plaza
19 Pocatello, ID Merry Wives 6:30pm Idaho State University Quad
20 Pocatello, ID Henry IV 6:30pm Idaho State University Quad
21 Gardner Henry IV 6pm Arch Park
22 Chico Hot Springs Merry Wives 6:30pm Main Lawn
24 Superior Merry Wives 6pm Mineral County Fairgrounds
25 Plains Merry Wives 6pm Sanders County Fairgrounds
26 trust Creek Henry IV 6pm Trust Creek Park
27 Sandoval, ID Henry IV 6pm Memorial Field
28 Liberty Lake, WA Merry Wives 5pm Pavilion Park
29 Libby Henry IV 6pm Libby Elementary School Amphitheater
30 Eureka Merry Wives 6pm Historical Village
31 Kalispell Henry IV 6pm Woodland Park

August
1 Seeley Lake Merry Wives 6pm Double Arrow Resort
2 Sweet Pea Festival Henry IV 3:45pm Laclede Park
3 Sweet Pea Festival Merry Wives 5pm Laclede Park
4 Sweet Pea Festival Henry IV 3:45pm Laclede Park
5 Helena Henry IV 6:30pm Pioneer Park
6 Helena Merry Wives 6:30pm Pioneer Park
7 Cut Bank Henry IV 6:30pm Cut Bank City Park
8 Fort Benton Merry Wives 6pm Fort Benton City Park
9 Great Falls Henry IV 6pm University of Providence
10 Havre Merry Wives 6pm East Lawn MSUN
11 Conrad Henry IV 6pm Conrad City Park
12 Choteau Merry Wives 6pm Skyline Lodge
13 Townsend Henry IV 6pm Heritage Park
14 Bouliveri Merry Wives 6pm Jefferson County Fairgrounds
15 Salems, ID Merry Wives 6pm Island Park
16 Anaconda Merry Wives 6pm Wachoe Park
17 Butte Henry IV 6pm Stodton Park
18 Cooke City Silver Gate Merry Wives 6pm Silver Gate Park
19 Big Sky Merry Wives 5:30pm Town Center Park
20 Door Lodge Henry IV 6pm Old Prison Grounds
21 Hamilton Henry IV 6pm Sapphire Lutheran Homes
22 Philipsburg Henry IV 6pm Wessington Park
23 Charlo Henry IV 6pm Palmer Park
25 St. Ignatius Merry Wives 6pm Good Days Park
26 Missoula Merry Wives 6pm UM Oval
28 Dillon Merry Wives 6pm UM Western Legacy Plaza
29 Whitehall Merry Wives 6pm Whitehall Rodeo Grounds
30 Location and play to be determined
*Admission is charged to attend the Sweet Pea Festival for the Friday performance of Henry IV
*Please visit www.shakespeareintheparks.org for information

September
1 Missoula/ Grad Housing Henry IV 3:30pm Family/ Grad Housing Lawn
2 Belgrade Merry Wives 3:30pm Lewis & Clark Park
3 Manhattan Henry IV 6pm Afterstand Park

Please go to www.shakespeareintheparks.org FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE AND RAIN LOCATIONS