

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Malaga Bank Saves Shakespeare by the Sea's Free Performance in Rancho Palos Verdes *After City pulls funding for free performance of AS YOU LIKE IT*

May 29, 2009, LOS ANGELES, CA - "Malaga Bank has saved the day!" says Producing Artistic Director for Shakespeare by the Sea, Lisa Coffi. Last week Lisa Coffi was notified by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes that they had cut funding for a free performance of *As You Like It* scheduled to take place at Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park on July 8, 2009. "We really wanted the show to go on, so we put the word out hoping to find a sponsor. I was contacted by Aaron Aalcides, Senior Vice President of Malaga Bank and he said Malaga Bank would like to support our free performance in Rancho Palos Verdes by matching our funds for the show dollar for dollar. That means the show will go on!"

Shakespeare by the Sea experienced a drop in corporate and municipal support while fundraising for its twelfth season. In response the budget was tightened, a benefit planned and proceeds from their performance of *Hamlet II* will go to support their free performances, which will be presented in parks throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties this summer. When the City of Irvine pulled the funding for the admission-free performances this season the shows had to be cancelled. Thanks to the support from Malaga Bank the free performance of *As You Like It* will be presented as scheduled.

Malaga Financial Corporation is the holding company of Malaga Bank, a full service community bank located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula that has served the financial needs of this affluent community for over 20 years. Malaga Bank offers competitive real estate, business and consumer loans, and a wide array of business and individual deposit products and services that compete directly with larger financial institutions. Malaga Bank remains committed to its standard of excellence in customer service and strong relationship-based banking philosophy. Malaga Bank is the largest community bank in the South Bay.

Since 1998, Shakespeare by the Sea has presented quality admission-free Shakespeare performances in dozens of communities throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. The free summer festival has become a tradition for thousands of South Bay families. Last year's attendance reached a record breaking 23,000 total audience members.

Shakespeare by the Sea's mission is to bring new, contemporary and classic works to underserved, culturally diverse audience in order to ignite imagination, promote literacy and encourage artistic expression. Partnerships with local city organizations, as well as generous donations, make these free performances possible

For audiences seeking quality, family entertainment, Shakespeare by the Sea's free performances cannot be beat. The comedies are timeless, the admission ticketless, and the experience priceless.

Production schedules, locations and further information can be found online at www.shakespearebythesea.org or by calling 310-217-7596.

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