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Alfred Molina* Scheduled to Introduce Special Screening of Kenneth Branagh's "As You Like It"

Shakespeare by the Sea's "As You Like Shakespeare by the Sea" benefit provides a rare opportunity to view this unique adaptation on the big screen. Proceeds to Support Shakespeare by the Sea 2009 Season.

May 8, 2009, SAN PEDRO, CA – Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS), in association with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, is excited to announce that stage and screen star, Alfred Molina will introduce a rare screening of Kenneth Branagh's "As You Like It," at the Warner Grand Theatre in Downtown San Pedro on a Wednesday, July 8, 2009.*

"As You Like It" was originally made for HBO Films and only shown in the United States on HBO, with a limited release in Europe theatrically. The film's director, Kenneth Branagh, upon hearing of Shakespeare by the Sea's need to raise funds for its 2009 season, made arrangements for the organization to be able to use one of only 2 print copies in existence for this special event.

The Department of Cultural Affairs has generously offered to provide a host venue at the Historic Warner Grand Theatre in downtown San Pedro - a beautifully restored art deco movie house designed by B. Marcus Priteca (who also designed the Pantages). It is the last of the 3 original Warner Bros picture palaces left intact in Los Angeles. The Warner Grand Theatre is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and will provide a magnificent backdrop for this film.

The event, scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2009, will begin with a pre-screening reception in the Grand Annex, hosted by the Grand Vision Foundation, followed by the screening of the movie at the Warner Grand starring Bryce Dallas Howard, Kevin Kline, David Oyelowo, Romola Garai and Alfred Molina.

Tickets are \$35 for the entire evening and \$10 for the film only (\$15 at the door). For more information see www.shakespearebythesea.org or call 310.217.7596.

Alfred Molina was born in 1953 in London, England. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His stage work includes the Royal National Theatre productions of Tennessee Williams' "The Night of the Iguana" and David Mamet's "Speed the Plow". In 1998 he made his Broadway debut in Yasmina Reza's "Art", for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He made his film debut in Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) Other notable films include Prick Up Your Ears, Enchanted April, The Perez Family, Anna Karenina, Chocolat, The Da Vinci Code and Spiderman II.

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.

*Celebrity introduction is subject to change.

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