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David Oyelowo Replaces Alfred Molina For Celebrity Introduction of Shakespeare by the Sea's Screening of Kenneth Branagh's "As You Like It" *"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.*

June 24, 2009, SAN PEDRO, CA - Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS), in association with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, is thrilled to announce that **David Oyelowo** will introduce a rare screening of Kenneth Branagh's **"As You Like It,"** at the Warner Grand Theatre in Downtown San Pedro on Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Due to an extended film schedule for the upcoming Jerry Bruckheimer film, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Alfred Molina will be unable to introduce the special screening of "As You Like It" for the Shakespeare by the Sea benefit event on July 8, 2009. Shakespeare by the Sea has secured stage and film star David Oyelowo to introduce the film. Molina and Oyelowo star together in the Kenneth Branagh adaptation as Touchstone and Orlando respectively.

David was born in Oxford, the son of a Nigerian prince; he attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He made history at age 24 when he was the first black actor to play a British monarch in a major stage production of Henry VI for the Royal Shakespeare Company. David is well known in the UK as a star on the BAFTA award-winning BBC TV series Spooks, about agents in Britain's legendary MI5 spy service. Recent credits include; THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND, the HBO miniseries FIVE DAYS, ABC's critically acclaimed A RAISIN IN THE SUN, Anthony Minghella's last project NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY, and WHO DO YOU LOVE, where he plays the historic blues icon "Muddy Waters."

David most recently wrapped shooting a lead role in the feature RED TAILS. Produced by George Lucas with a cast including Terrence Howard, Bryan Cranston, and Nate Parker, RED TAILS is a dramatic retelling of the Tuskegee Airmen experience.

"As You Like It" was originally made for HBO Films and only shown in the United States on HBO, with a limited release in Europe theatrically.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 Theatre. The film stars 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.

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.

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