

Royal Shakespeare Company returns to Chicago
for the first time in 30 years with

Pericles

Direct from an acclaimed run in Stratford-upon-Avon and
part of a new, ongoing partnership with Chicago Shakespeare

RSC Co-Artistic Director Tamara Harvey stages Shakespeare's moving tale
October 20–December 7 in the Courtyard Theater



Photo by Johan Persson

Chicago—September 20, 2024—[Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#) (CST) presents the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)'s *Pericles*, direct from a “triumphant” (*The Telegraph*) run at the company's home in Stratford-upon-Avon, UK. One of the world's preeminent theater companies, the RSC returns to Chicago for the first time in 30 years as part of a new, ongoing partnership with CST.

Tamara Harvey directs this major new production of Shakespeare's moving tale in her and Daniel Evans' first season as the RSC's co-artistic directors. *The Guardian* raved about the UK premiere, “*Pericles* could not have been done better.” This exclusive engagement runs **October 20–December 7** in the Courtyard Theater, marking CST's 100th international production bringing the world's great artists to Chicago.

When Prince Pericles solves a riddle set by a neighboring King, he knows the answer could get him killed. Fleeing for safety, he finds himself swept away on an epic voyage that will see him battle princes, marry his true love, and become a father. But this is also a journey of storms and shipwrecks, abduction and devastating loss. Adrift in an ocean of grief, will Pericles ever see his family again?

“It is a huge pleasure to be bringing the Royal Shakespeare Company back to Chicago for the first time in 30 years with this most timely and beautiful production of *Pericles*,” said CST's artistic director Edward Hall. “The inaugural production as co-artistic director from Tamara Harvey is a rare opportunity for audiences to immerse themselves in this thought-provoking and wise story brought to life by an exceptionally talented company. This marks the beginning of a partnership between the RSC and CST in an expression of the shared passion for Shakespeare long held by us, Tamara Harvey, and Daniel Evans.”

Harvey shared, “As I stepped with excitement and trepidation into the rehearsal room to create this, my RSC debut, I wouldn't have dared hope that the experience could be so joyful and creatively exhilarating. This company of actors is extraordinary, and we are thrilled to welcome Zach Wyatt as Pericles for the next leg of our journey together, whose professional debut—a very *Pericles*-like note of connection and reunion—was with Ed Hall when he was artistic director of Hampstead Theatre in London.”

She continued, “Sharing this lesser-known Shakespeare with audiences in Stratford-upon-Avon has confirmed our belief that *Pericles*' perennial relevance is compelling, with its examination of leadership, endurance, loss, and hope. We can't wait to share this beautiful play with Chicago Shakespeare Theater's audiences as together we start to write the next chapter in the centuries-old story of collaboration between our two nations.”

Zach Wyatt leads the cast of the Chicago engagement in the title role of Prince Pericles. Wyatt has been seen onstage in the West End production of *A Little Life*, *Bartholomew Fair* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at The Globe, *Wild East* at the Young Vic, and *I And You* at Hampstead Theatre. His television and film credits include *The Witcher: Blood Origin*, *Timetalker*, and *Blithe Spirit*.

The company also includes **Miles Barrow** (Thaliard/Boult), **Philip Bird** (Helicanus), **Jacqueline Boatswain** (Cerimon/Bawd), **Rachelle Diedericks** (Marina), **Chyna-Rose Frederick** (Antiochus' Daughter/Lychorida/Diana), **Sasha Ghoshal** (Ensemble), **Leah Haile** (Thaisa), **Felix Hayes** (Anitochus/Pander), **Kel Matsena** (Lysimachus), **Miriam O'Brien** (Ensemble), **Emmanuel Olusanya** (Ensemble), **Chukwuma Omambala** (Cleon), **Sam Parks** (Escanes, Leonine), **Christian Patterson** (Simonides), and **Gabby Wong** (Dionyza).

Joining Harvey on the creative team are **Jonathan Fensom** (Set Designer), **Kinnetia Isidore** (Costume Designer), **Ryan Day** (Lighting Designer), **Claire van Kampen** (Composer), **Claire Windsor** (Sound Designer), **Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster** (Movement Director), **Charlotte Sutton CDG** (Casting Director), **Elinor Peregrin** (Music Director), **Tess Dignan** (Voice and Text), **Francesca Murray-Fuentes** (Associate Director), **Zoë Thomas-Webb** (Associate Costume Designer), and **Juliano Zaffino** (Textual Consultant).

The press opening for *Pericles* is scheduled for **Friday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

More information at www.chicagoshakes.com/pericles or on social media at [@chicagoshakes](https://twitter.com/chicagoshakes).

Pericles

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tamara Harvey

October 20–December 7, 2024

Courtyard Theater

PERFORMANCE LISTING

- Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (except November 12 and 19)
- Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (no matinee on October 23 and no evening on November 27)
- Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. (except November 28)
- Fridays at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (additional performances at 6:00 p.m. on October 20 and 7:00 p.m. on December 1)

Chicago Shakespeare strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all patrons. Accessible seating, assistive listening devices, large-print and Braille programs, and sensory tools are available at every performance. Enhanced performances include:

- **Audio-described performance with optional touch tour – Sunday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m.**
A program that provides spoken narration of a play's key visual elements for patrons who are blind or have low vision. Touch Tours provide patrons the opportunity to experience, firsthand, a production's design elements.
- **Open captioned performance – Wednesday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**
A text display of the words and sounds heard during a play, synced live with the action onstage
- **Projected Spanish translated performance – Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.**
A text display of the words of the play, translated into Spanish, synced live with the dialogue.
- **ASL interpreted performance – Friday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.**
All dialogue and lyrics are translated into American Sign Language by two certified interpreters

CREATIVE TEAM

Tamara Harvey - Director
Jonathan Fensom - Set Designer
Kinnetia Isidore - Costume Designer
Ryan Day - Lighting Designer
Claire van Kampen - Composer
Claire Windsor - Sound Designer
Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster - Movement Director
Charlotte Sutton CDG - Casting Director
Elinor Peregrin - Music Director
Tess Dignan - Voice and Text
Francesca Murray-Fuentes - Associate Director
Zoë Thomas-Webb - Associate Costume Designer
Juliano Zaffino - Textual Consultant

CAST

Miles Barrow
Philip Bird
Jacqueline Boatswain
Rachelle Diedericks
Chyna-Rose Frederick
Sasha Ghoshal
Leah Haile
Felix Hayes
Kel Matsena
Miriam O'Brien
Emmanuel Olusanya
Chukwuma Omambala
Sam Parks
Christian Patterson
Gabby Wong
Zach Wyatt

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)

A Regional Tony Award recipient, Chicago Shakespeare Theater produces a bold and innovative year-round season that includes Shakespeare, original plays, musicals, family programming, and international theatrical events. CST is committed to serving as a cultural center across its three stages—the 700+ seat Yard, 500 seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater, and the 200 seat Carl and Marilyn Thoma Theater Upstairs as well as in classrooms, neighborhoods, and venues around the world. CST has a deep commitment to education and lifelong learning with robust programming for students, teachers, and lifelong learners, and engagement with communities across the city. Onstage, in classrooms and neighborhoods across the city, and in venues around the world, Chicago Shakespeare is a multifaceted theater—inviting audiences, artists, and community members to share powerful stories that illuminate the complexities, ambiguities, and wonders of our world.

www.chicagoshakes.com

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY (RSC)

The Royal Shakespeare Company's mission is to bring people together to experience stories that deepen our understanding of ourselves, each other and the world around us, and that bring joy. Shakespeare's restless exploration of all of human nature is our inspiration and touchstone.

The Company's roots lie in the bold vision of a local brewer, Edward Fordham Flower, who in 1879 established a theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon with his son Charles. The RSC as we know it today was formed by Sir Peter Hall, whose ambition was to produce new plays alongside those of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. We continue this today across our three permanent theatres in Stratford – the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the Swan Theatre and The Other Place – and indeed online and around the globe. We believe everybody's life can be enriched by culture and creativity. Our transformative Creative Learning and Engagement programmes reach over half a million young people and adults each year. We have collaborated with generations of the very best theatre makers and we continue to nurture the talent of the future.

Co-Artistic Directors

Daniel Evans & Tamara Harvey

Executive Director

Andrew Leveson

www.rsc.org.uk

@thersc

Registered charity no. 212481

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk.

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund, of which we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

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