

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
Through December 7 in the Courtyard Theater



Chicago—October 25, 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 of love, hope, and miracles 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 the 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 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*, *Timestalker*, 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** (Antiochus/Pander), **Kel Matsena** (Lysimachus), **Miriam O'Brien** (Ensemble), **Emmanuel Olusanya** (Ensemble), **Chukwuma Omambala** (Cleon), **Sam Parks** (Escanes, Leonine), **Christian Patterson** (Simonides) and **Gabby Wong** (Dionya).

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.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*no matinee 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 performance at 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.**
- **Open captioned performance – Wednesday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**
- **Projected Spanish translated performance – Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **ASL interpreted performance – Friday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

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 Marilynn 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 creates exceptional theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, London and around the world, performing plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries, as well as commissioning a wide range of original work from contemporary writers. Our purpose is to ensure that Shakespeare – and theatre as a whole – is for everyone, and we do that by unlocking the power of his plays and live performance, and with our learning and education work throughout the UK and across the world. www.rsc.org.uk

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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.