



## PRESS RELEASE

### **THE RUDE MECHANICALS**

Wildhorse Foundation Makes Generous Grant to  
Free Shakespeare in the Park - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

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Rehearsal photos or interviews with production staff available upon request.

**Richland** - With new and generous support from The Wildhorse Foundation, The Rude Mechanicals proudly kicks off its 2023-2024 season with its **signature presentation of Free Shakespeare in the Park - a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.**

Shows will be held on **Friday, September 8th at 7:00 PM; Saturday, September 9th at 7:00 PM; and Sunday, September 10th at 2:00 PM at The Fingernail Stage at Howard Amon Park in Richland, WA.** Run time 90 minutes with no intermission.

The production is **free of charge and open to the public thanks to a grant from The Wildhorse Foundation.**

Liz Fenstermaker, Interim Executive Director, says of The Wildhorse Foundation gift, "This support helps us to take care of the artists who make the production possible. We might not be able to sustain our work and offer it to the public free of charge were it not for the generosity of charitable organizations. It is particularly meaningful to us to receive this support from The Wildhorse Foundation."

The Rude Mechanicals' **new Artistic Director, Cyndi Kimmel, a respected actor, Shakespeare scholar, and educator with an MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University,** writes of our production: "Feuds, feelings, and fairies-oh my! *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a romantic comedy about young hearts who flee into the woods and unknowingly encounter the fairy world. Meanwhile, a group of tradespeople rehearse a play for a royal wedding. Worlds collide, affections are manipulated, and someone may, or may not, turn into a donkey. Shakespeare's language in *Midsummer* crafts three different (yet connected) circles of royalty, common folk, and fairies, creating a theatrical experience unlike any other. Our production, set against the backdrop of 1935 West Virginia, mixes Appalachian history and folklore with Shakespeare's text to form a magical, family-friendly show." To add to the production's setting, original music is being written and performed by area musician and educator Ronn Campbell.

Emily Richman, the production's director, has also adapted this fast-paced version of the original text with Adam Critchlow. A veteran Tri-Cities director with over 10 productions to her credit at The Rude Mechanicals, Richland Players, Academy of Children's Theatre, and more, Emily

comes to this project immediately following her directorial debut with University of Wyoming's Snowy Range Summer Theatre. Emily is also a performer, speaker, and Licensed Mental Health Counselor with deep ties to Tri-Cities.

**About The Wildhorse Foundation:** The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is a modern tribal government representing the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla people, who have lived in this region for thousands of years. Each year the Wildhorse Foundation makes grants to eligible organizations in that homeland area – Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties in Oregon, and Benton, Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington – along with Oregon tribes and Native American organizations. The Wildhorse Foundation donates over \$1 million every year to local programs and services that benefit their giving area. They fund projects in the areas of the Arts, Cultural Activities, Education, Environmental Protection, Gambling Addiction Prevention, Education and Treatment, Historic Preservation, Public Health, Public Safety and Salmon Restoration. Over 1500 organizations have received project funding from the Wildhorse Foundation.

## WILDHORSE FOUNDATION

### **About The Rude Mechanicals (English/español):**

The Rude Mechanicals is a 501(c)3 nonprofit performing arts organization with a mission to enhance, educate, elevate, and entertain. We enhance our community through the performing arts, educate the public on the value and impact of live theatre, elevate the quality of live theatre locally, and entertain the community by delivering high-quality Shakespeare-inspired theatre produced by our ensemble cast and crew.

The Rude Mechanicals es una organización 501(c)3 sin fines de lucro con un misión de aumentar, educar, elevar, y divertir. Aumentamos nuestra comunidad por las artes escénicas, educamos el público de la importancia y efecto de teatro en vivo, elevamos la calidad de teatro en vivo localmente, y divertimos la comunidad con obras de teatro por Shakespeare y otros producido por nuestras actores y equipo técnico.

