

Orinda Salutes Cal Shakes

By **Andrea A. Firth**

The Bard is making his way to Theater Square once again. On Friday May 16th, California Shakespeare Theater will celebrate the opening of its 34th anniversary season with an evening of food, drink, music, and entertainment sponsored by the City of Orinda, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and the folks at Theater Square.

“Talented Cal Shakes actors, local student talent, great jazz, food and beverages, shops to browse through—the first annual ‘Orinda salutes Cal Shakes’ last year had it all,” states Mayor Victoria Smith. “This year we look forward to once again highlighting the Shakespeare in the Schools program and performers in an informal and celebratory Friday evening gathering.”

Lamorindans can make their way to Theater Square between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm on Friday to listen to the jazz sounds of Bob Athayde and Friends while grabbing a bite to eat from one of Orinda’s fine eateries such as Shelby’s, Lava Pit, or Subway. The emcee for the evening will be actor L. Peter Callender who has performed in numerous Cal Shakes productions. He will be joined by



Students at last year's kick-off event

Photo Tod Fierner

Cal Shakes Teaching Artist Clive Worsley who will work with students from Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) in the presentation of a scene from their most recent stage production of Beauty and the Beast.

And what evening would be complete without some fun and games? OIS students will compete with some Orinda dignitaries, including Mayor Smith and Council member Tom McCormick, in a 32-second Shakespeare competition. It will be interesting to see who the winner is to be...or not to be.

“As a season ticket holder for 32 years, I am thrilled to see Cal

Shakes become an active participant in the Orinda community,” adds Mayor Smith. Tickets for all of the upcoming California Shakespeare Theater productions will be available for purchase on Friday. Cal Shakes opens this season with Shakespeare’s wild fairy tale Pericles on May 28th.

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When: Friday, May 16th,
5:30-7:00 pm

Where: Theater Square

What: Food, drink, jazz music,
and entertainment
from Cal Shakes and
local students