

13 April 2017

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## **Drama at Deepdene - Live Shakespeare 17 and 18 June 2017**

This summer, The Deepdene Trail welcomes live performance for your delight with four al fresco performances of scenes from Shakespeare's most celebrated plays, set in the atmospheric Deepdene Trail's gardens.

What better setting to conjure up the romance of Romeo and Juliet, the heroism of Henry V and the magic and mystery of A Midsummer Night's Dream played against the backdrop of the Deepdene's newly restored gardens, embattled tower and restored grotto.

On both the 17 and 18, the audience is invited to pack a picnic and come along from 10am to enjoy the unique experience of live, wandering Shakespearian actors in a variety of roles set within the garden's magnificent features.

A ticketed event, performances will begin at 10.30am and 2.30 pm, with a craft area for children and refreshments on sale throughout the day. Shakespeare's most famous characters will be found around every corner. Who will you meet next?

Tickets are on sale *now* from Dorking Halls Box Office.

Paul Anderson, Corporate Head of Service said, "This special weekend is a real treat for Mole Valley with the low cost tickets designed to allow as many people as possible to experience outdoor Shakespeare."

"With over 8,000 people visiting in its first six months of opening, The Trail has been a fantastic addition to Dorking's cultural and historical features. It is a pleasure to see it now being used as the setting for Shakespearian productions and I hope many people will go along to support The Trail and enjoy the experience in June."

The Rough Mechanicals Theatre Company is running the performances and has been performing Shakespeare annually since 2005. The company was formed to perform the works of Shakespeare in a clear, fresh and unpretentious manner. The hope is to demystify Shakespeare for audiences and performers alike.

Shaun Hughes, Director and Founder said, "The company is greatly honoured to be invited to perform at The Deepdene Trail this year. We are keen to celebrate the history of the gardens and truly prove that "all the worlds a stage."

Children are invited to dress up as knights or fairies, or wherever their imagination takes them to join the cavalcade of characters to celebrate the day in true Shakespearean style. Those dressed up can take

part in a fun costume parade leading from Coady's statue in the centre of the gardens around the parterre at 1pm.

Want to know more about The Deepdene Trail? A short talk about The Trail will begin at 1.30pm each day.

For more information see [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk)

**-ENDS-**

## **Notes**

### **The Rough Mechanicals Theatre Company**

The company has performed Twelfth Night, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard III, As You Like It, Henry IV Parts I & II, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Winters Tale, Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice.

The company participated in the Royal Shakespeare Companies (RSC) 'Open Stages' project with The Merry Wives of Windsor. This was a nationwide project that aimed to forge new links between amateur theatre companies and the World's premier producers of Shakespeare. The project linked up with the World Shakespeare Festival in 2012, as part of London's Olympic celebrations. The company attended RSC workshops and were duly invited to perform part of Merry Wives at the London project hub in front of the RSC professionals and other invited companies.

For more details on The Rough Mechanicals contact - [shaun.hughes61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shaun.hughes61@hotmail.co.uk) .

## **Tickets**

Tickets are priced at £3.00 for the day, under 5's are free of charge. Numbers are limited so we do advise you book in advance.

Car parking tickets are priced at £2.00 per vehicle. Car park entrance with pre-paid ticket will be at the Kuoni site (RH5 4AZ), just off the A24 on the left as you exit Dorking in a southerly direction from the Deepdene roundabout.

Tickets will not be refundable once purchased.

## **Accessibility**

For details on accessibility for this event please contact us at [thedeepdenetrail@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:thedeepdenetrail@molevalley.gov.uk) or on 01306 885001. For details on accessibility to the Trail in general please see our downloadable Access statement at [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk).

## **Facilities**

For this special weekend, we are providing toilets and refreshment facilities in the gardens.

## **Weather concerns**

We retain the right to cancel these two days at any point before or on the actual day if the weather will make it dangerous to go ahead.

In case of cancellation, we will in the first instance post details on our social media sites and put physical signs up on the site.

Media contact for further information and images:

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