

# ST·LOUIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

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**ST. LOUIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL'S  
TOURCO PRESENTS AN AFRO-FUTURIST**

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

**AUGUST 2 - 27, 2022**

**FREE IN 24 PARKS ACROSS METRO AREA**

**St. Louis, MO** (July 11, 2022) -- On Tuesday, August 2, the **St. Louis Shakespeare Festival** (Tom Ridgely, Producing Artistic Director) will continue its summer of Free Shakespeare with a family-friendly regional tour of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" directed by **Tre'von Griffith** (known locally as musician and composer Tre G). The 90-minute production will visit 24 locations from August 2 - 27 on Tuesday-Sunday nights and begin at 6:30 p.m.

"Shakespeare in the park has always been free, and always will be." says producing artistic director **Tom Ridgely**. "But we knew that for these plays to truly belong to everyone they had to be seen and enjoyed not only in St. Louis's biggest and most beautiful park, but in the smaller neighborhood parks that are the heart and hub of so many of our communities. TourCo is weaving Shakespeare's wit and wisdom into the fabric of our daily lives, where it belongs. And Tre's enchanting vision is making more people feel welcome in that world than ever before."

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of Shakespeare's most joyful and beloved comedies. The central characters fall in and out of love while lost in the magical fairy forest where mischief and meddling run wild. But despite all the enchantments and fun - there is a story of self-love and exploration which is the focus of this afro-futurist production.

"I am so excited to bring *Midsummer* to all of St. Louis." says Griffith. "Much like the characters in our play we are enchanted by the setting: 24 parks across the St. Louis metro area that largely remain untapped by the performing arts community. This production will be full of joy, magic, color and most of all love. We are bringing you a wonderful ode to self-expression where all are welcome and we certainly hope you find your way to one of the free shows whether it's in your own neighborhood or a new one."

While this is only the second public parks tour for the Festival, **TourCo** is a continuation of a 20-year history of traveling productions that previously visited upwards of 50 schools each Spring. This year's tour will kick-off at Kiener Plaza in Downtown St. Louis on Tuesday, August 2nd and continue on to Tower Grove Park, 9 Mile Garden in Affton, Trojan Park in Wellston, Bellevue Park in Belleville and Fairground Park in North St. Louis to round week one. The remainder of the 24 dates includes multiple stops in Illinois - Edwardsville, Brussels and East St. Louis - and all across the City of St. Louis, North County, South County and surrounding municipalities.

## FULL SCHEDULE

- TUE AUG 2 – Kiener Plaza (500 Chestnut St., St. Louis, MO 63101)
- WED AUG 3 – Tower Grove Park (4378 Northwest Dr, St. Louis, MO 63110) [Audio Description]
- THU AUG 4 – 9 Mile Garden (9355 Gravois Ave, Affton, MO 63123)
- FRI AUG 5 – Etzel Heights Subdivision (1220 Robert L Powell Pl, St. Louis, MO 63133)
- SAT AUG 6 – Bellevue Park (401 Bellevue Park Dr, Belleville, IL 62226)
- SUN AUG 7 – Fairground Park (3715 Natural Bridge Ave, St Louis, MO 63107)
- TUE AUG 9 – 14th and St. Louis Ave. (1400 St. Louis Ave, St. Louis, MO 63106)
- WED AUG 10 – O'Day Park Amphitheater (1000 O'Day Park Dr, O'Fallon, MO 63368)
- THU AUG 11 – Schroeder Park (359 Old Meramec Station Rd, Manchester, MO 63021)
- FRI AUG 12 – Love Bank Park (2851 Cherokee St, St Louis, MO 63118)
- SAT AUG 13 – The Harney Mansion Grounds (332 S Mansion St, Sullivan, MO 63080)
- SUN AUG 14 – Pomme Park (1 Golfview Dr, Arnold, MO 63010)
- TUE AUG 16 – Schlafly Bottleworks (7260 Southwest Ave, Maplewood, MO 63143)
- WED AUG 17 – Carondelet Park (3900 Holly Hills Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63116)
- THU AUG 18 – Chesterfield Amphitheater (631 Veterans Pl Dr, Chesterfield, MO 63017)
- FRI AUG 19 – City Park (101 S Buchanan, Edwardsville, IL 62025)
- SAT AUG 20 – January-Wabash Park (501 N Florissant Rd, Ferguson, MO 63135)
- SUN AUG 21 – Heritage Park (131 Illinois River Rd, Brussels, IL 62013)
- TUE AUG 23 – Fountain Park (Fountain Ave & N. Euclid Ave. St. Louis, MO 63113)
- WED AUG 24 – Jones Water Park (2600 Caseyville Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62205)
- THU AUG 25 – Shaw Park (27 S Brentwood Blvd, Clayton, MO 63105)
- FRI AUG 26 – Chroma Plaza (4041 Chouteau Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110) [ASL Interpretation]
- SAT AUG 27 – Hermann Farm (526 E 1st St Hermann, MO 65041)

The all-Black company of local actors includes **Tiélere Cheatem** of Painted Black STL whose work was featured in “A Late Summer Night’s Stroll” and “A Walking X-mas Carol” as Helena/Hippolyta/Quince; **Ricki Franklin** returning for her second TourCo appearance as Bottom/Demetrius; and **Christina Yancy** from the St. Louis Black Rep, most recently seen on stage with the Festival in *King Lear*, as Puck/Egeus/Snug. Making their Festival stage debuts are **Rae Davis** as Hermia/Titania, **Asha Futterman** as Theseus/Oberon and **Mel McCray** as Lysander/Flute.

The creative team includes Cherokee Street fashion designer **Brandin Vaughn** (Costume Design), **Laura Skroska** (Production Design) and the Festival’s tour stage manager, **Brittney Henry**.

These events are free and open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday from August 2-27. The performance is 90 minutes long and includes a "Living Study Guide", a helpful 10-minute introduction to the cast and themes of the play. All ages are welcome. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. Visit [www.stlshakes.org](http://www.stlshakes.org) for more information and to find a park near you.

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## ABOUT

Since 2001, the **St. Louis Shakespeare Festival** has grown from producing a single production of Shakespeare in the Park at Forest Park to a year-round season of impactful programming in exciting and accessible venues throughout the bi-state area including a public parks tour, TourCO; the internationally acclaimed community engagement program Shakespeare in the Streets and more. Artistic and education programs reach over 50,000 patrons each season and have served over one million since 2001. Since 2020, the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Bloomberg News* have featured the Festival's stand-out programs.

**Tre'von Griffith (Director)** St Louis native, **Tre'von Griffith** (better known by stage name Tre G) is an independent artist, creative and music director. He has been a part of the creative team of productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, COCA, St. Louis Black Rep, Metro Theater Company, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, TLT Productions and companies in Europe and China. In 2020, Tre G formed WerQFest, an annual arts & culture festival celebrating and highlighting black queerness. GO! Magazine by St. Louis Post-Dispatch named Tre G "2016 Rising Star" and has also landed a spot in DELUX Magazine's Emerging 30 Under 30. Tre G received his master's degree in Global Entertainment and Music Business from Berklee College of Music campus in Valencia, Spain. @treg\_music

**Brandin Vaughn (Costume Design)** With seven years of experience under his belt and a desire to revitalize fashion in a new area with his own brand, Brandin decided to move back to St. Louis from Chicago to jump-start the fashion scene. After 3 years, he successfully became a sought out designer in the city and opened his boutique in February 2018, the Brandin Vaughn Collection (BVC). BVC has been featured in a number of articles and magazines including *Alive Magazine*, *St. Louis American* and most notably on the cover of *Upscale Magazine* with a 3-page editorial spread. The collection was modeled by celebrity actress and entrepreneur Vivica A. Fox. Brandin's recent endeavors include working with the Isley Brothers on their 60th-anniversary documentary and costume design for the St. Louis Black Rep and the Center of Creative Arts (COCA).