



## Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival

# PRESS RELEASE

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**TICKETS:** Lobero Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0761, www.lobero.com

### **MACEDONIAN ACTRESSES UNABLE TO APPEAR AT FESTIVAL**

- Last Minute Visa Snag Keeps “Julius Caesar” Actresses and Designer From Coming to Santa Barbara
- Understudies to Take On Roles in All-Female Staging, Directed by Lit Moon Artistic Director John Blondell
- Macedonian Delegation Still to Give “Theatre in Macedonia” Talk on October 24

**October 15, 2008, Santa Barbara, CA** – Three Macedonian actresses from Skopje Drama Theatre who were to appear in a production of *Julius Caesar* at the Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival have had to cancel their trip to Santa Barbara due to a last minute visa complications in Macedonia. Their roles will be played by understudies from the Lit Moon Theatre Company and Westmont College who have been rehearsing the play in advance of the festival. Also unable to attend is Balgoj Micevski, who designed the costumes and sets for the new production, directed by John Blondell.

“This is the first time in ten years of bringing international artists to Santa Barbara that we’ve had just a last minute visa snag,” commented Blondell. “Fortunately, the show had been cast with understudies from the beginning so we could block and rehearse the show. What has changed is that the understudies are now playing the parts.”

This production of *Julius Caesar*, featuring a cast of fifteen women, grew out of Lit Moon’s performances at festivals in Montenegro and Macedonia last summer. Earlier this year, Blondell travelled to Macedonia again to meet with the designer and the actresses from the Skopje Drama Theatre.

A Macedonian delegation is coming to the Festival and will still lead the talk scheduled for October 25 on “Theatre in Macedonia.”

“We are planning future collaborations,” notes Blondell, “both in Macedonia and in Santa Barbara.”

Blondell's production of *Julius Caesar* will have its world premiere on Saturday, October 18 at 7 p.m. at Center Stage Theater and will be performed again on Sunday, October 19 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, October 25 at 9 p.m.

The new cast members for *Julius Caesar* are two Lit Moon Theatre Company members: Erin Brehm in the title role (replacing Maja Panovska) and Kate Paulsen as Marc Antony (replacing Biljana Dragikevik), as well as Heather Ostberg as Calphurnia (replacing Trajanka Ilieva).

## **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

The Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival, held October 16 through 26 at various Santa Barbara venues. The Festival is highlighted by fully-staged productions of Shakespeare's plays (many of them world premieres), including *Julius Caesar*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and adaptations of *Othello/Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest* (called *Blue Tempest*), and *King Lear* (called *Poor, Poor Lear*). The festival also includes related free panels and addresses, plus an art exhibit, music, and social events.

The 2008 Festival presents artists from Bulgaria, Finland, and the European Republic of Georgia, which marks the first time that that country's flagship theatre, the Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, has performed in the United States.

The festival also celebrates local, homegrown work from Santa Barbara, including area scholars and teachers, faculty and students from UCSB and Westmont College, and the Lit Moon Theatre Company.

It is the only festival of its kind in the United States, and one of only seven in the world. This festival celebrates the work of the world's greatest playwright, showcases some of the world's most exciting talents working with Shakespeare today, and provides exhilarating theatre for audiences. The hallmark of this festival are bold, original, nontraditional interpretations rooted in highly visual approaches to theatre.

Subscriptions, Festival Passes and single tickets are on sale at the Lobero Theatre Box Office, which is handling advance ticketing for all performances (regardless of venue), at [www.lobero.com](http://www.lobero.com), by phone at (805) 963-0761, or in person at 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101.

Visit [www.litmoon.com](http://www.litmoon.com) for more information.

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## 2008 LIT MOON WORLD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



### ***Othello/Measure For Measure* – World Premiere**

**Westmont College/Lit Moon Theatre Co-production**

*Center Stage Theater; In English*

*Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 19 at 2 p.m.*

*Thursday, October 23 at 9 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 25 at 7 p.m.*

She's back! Notorious Bulgarian director Lilia Abadjieva, whose *Romeo and Juliet* (above) rocked the Lobero (and inspired ten-minute standing ovations), is back with another wild spectacle – a fusion of not one but two Shakespearean masterpieces – *Othello* and *Measure for Measure*. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind, all-male production, staged by one of Eastern Europe's most adventurous directors.

*\$25 adults / \$19 students*



### ***The Winter's Tale* – New Production**

**UCSB Department of Theatre and Dance**

*Center Stage Theater; In English*

*Friday, October 17 at 7 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 18 at 9 p.m.*

*Monday, October 20 at 7 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 25 at 2 p.m.*

Irwin Appel (above, Indie Award winner, *Timon of Athens*, 2006 Festival) showcases some of Santa Barbara's finest young actors in this rich, late period Romance. Appel's staging features Shakespeare's marvelous language, his compelling characters, and the ingenuity of the performers in this beautiful, bittersweet story of love, longing, and redemption.

*\$16 adults / \$10 students*



### ***Julius Caesar* – World Premiere**

**Lit Moon Theatre Company/Drama Theatre of Skopje, Macedonia/Westmont College Co-production**

*Center Stage Theater; In English*

*Saturday, October 18 at 7 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 19 at 4 p.m.*

*Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 25 at 9 p.m.*

In a beguiling complement to Lilia Abadjieva's all-male *Othello/Measure for Measure* production, John Blondell's cast of a dozen women (Erin Brehm in the title role, shown) offers a potentially fresh vision of Shakespeare's great political tragedy.

*\$25 adults / \$19 students*

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***A Midsummer Night's Dream – U.S. Premiere***

**Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre; Tbilisi, European Republic of Georgia**

***Co-presented by UCSB Arts & Lectures & Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival***

*Lobero Theatre; In Georgian, with English subtitles*

*Tuesday, October 21 at 7 p.m.*

*Wednesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.*

In their 80-year history, the storied Georgian State Theatre has never visited the United States – until now. Shakespeare's wildly popular comic fantasy takes on tremendous resonance when Artistic Director Levan Tsuladze resets the play in a small Georgian town. Don't miss this rare and wonderful occasion – one of Europe's truly great companies in a warm, joyous staging of a truly great comedy.

*\$25 adults /\$19 students*



***Blue Tempest – New Production***

**Lit Moon Theatre Company**

*Porter Theater, Westmont College; In English*

*Friday, October 24 at 7 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 26 at 4 p.m.*

Lit Moon staged *The Tempest* for the 2006 festival and subsequently toured to festivals in Montenegro and Macedonia. In truly Lit Moon fashion, the company creates *an entirely new production* for 2008, inspired by banjo playing, silent movies, domestic squabbles, and the color blue.

*\$25 adults /\$19 students*



***Poor, Poor Lear – Santa Barbara Premiere***

**Nina Sallinen, Native of Finland**

*Porter Theater, Westmont College; In English*

*Friday, October 24 at 9 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 26 at 2 p.m.*

In this strikingly original dark comedy, Finnish actress Nina Sallinen portrays a 90 year-old theatrical *grande dame* who brazenly chooses *King Lear* for her farewell performance. The aging actress unintentionally highlights her own life story while gradually becoming cognizant of the parallels between her life and Lear's. A stunning *tour de force* performance!

*\$25 adults /\$19 students*

[\(more\)](#)



### **Special Concert!**

### **Big World Shakespeare Jam & Cabaret**

*Sunday, October 19, 7 p.m.*

*Center Stage Theater*

Artists from the Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, the Firebird Quartet (Los Angeles via Ukraine), the Drama Theatre of Skopje, the Gove County String Quartet and the Lit Moon Theatre Company in a fabulously eclectic evening of world music, past and present.

*\$16 adults/\$10 students*

## **FREE EVENTS**

### **Meet the Artists**

*Sunday, October 19, 3 p.m.*

*Center Stage Theater*

Refreshments, merriment, and conversation to welcome Festival special guests from Bulgaria, Finland, the Republic of Georgia, and Macedonia.

*Followed by performance of Julius Caesar. Free*

### ***Shaping Fantasies – Art Exhibit***

*Opening Reception Tuesday, October 21, 5 p.m.*

*Lobero Theatre Rehearsal Hall & Patio*

A fascinating peek into the visual cultures of Eastern Europe in this showcase of work by painters and theatre designers from Macedonia, Georgia, and Bulgaria. *Free*

### **New time & location: Theatre in the Republic of Georgia**

*Wednesday, October 22, 2 p.m.*

*UCSB Hatlen Theatre ; In Georgian and English, with English translation*

Levan Tsuladze, one of Eastern Europe's most esteemed directors and the artistic director of the Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre (Tbilisi), discusses traditional and contemporary theatre in the Georgian Republic. *Free*

### **The Theatre of Lilia Abadjieva**

*Thursday, October 23, 4 p.m.*

*Center Stage Theater; In English*

An informal discussion about the bold works and creative process of one of Eastern Europe's most provocative theatre artists, moderated by John Blondell. Features video clips from notable productions. *Free*

### **Theatre in Macedonia**

*Friday, October 24, 4:30 p.m.*

*Porter Theatre, Westmont College; In Macedonian & English, with English translation*  
Prevailing trends in Macedonian theatre, its rich theatrical heritage and varied past are discussed by artists from Skopje's Young Open Theatre Festival, Skopje Drama Theatre, and Bitola National Theatre. *Followed by light supper and conversation. Free*

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