

Shakespeare IN CLARK PARK

About Shakespeare in Clark Park

Shakespeare in Clark Park is a theatre company committed to presenting free, outdoor productions of Shakespeare's plays, creating a cultural event accessible to the Clark Park neighborhood and the greater Philadelphia area. While engaging the community and expanding Philadelphia's summertime cultural scene, Shakespeare in Clark Park re-imagines the world of the park through the works of Shakespeare.

Shakespeare in Clark Park was formed in the fall of 2005 by Marla Burkholder, Maria Möller, Tom Reing and Whitney Estrin. In our inaugural season, Shakespeare in Clark Park presented four performances of *Twelfth Night*, drawing an audience of over 2,000 people. Toby Zinman of The Philadelphia Inquirer said of the production:

"Clark Park is not just a venue, but a real place, where a perfectly shaped, immense tree provides a set of real theatricality. The actors come down the hill into their next scene, and darkness falls just as the plot turns grim. The company has cobbled together, with borrowed footlights and generosity of talent, a real treat for a summer evening."

We've grown since that first summer. A single Saturday night performance in "the Bowl" can find over 1,000 people coming out with their picnics. Free Shakespeare in the vibrant green space of Clark Park has become a much-anticipated annual event in Philadelphia. And J. Cooper Robb of The Philadelphia Weekly observed in 2009:

"It's an impressive achievement for any theater company to last four years. It's even more impressive when you consider the unique troupe Shakespeare in Clark Park has never charged so much as a penny for their performances."

We hold a core value that public art is both important and necessary, and are committed to continuing to provide access to free and surprising performance in a community-based environment. We believe in the continuing value of presenting Shakespeare's work to as wide as possible an audience, and that participating in this cultural tradition allows for an extraordinary level of self-recognition and personal fulfillment for audiences and artists alike.

Who We Are

Marla Burkholder (Co-Artistic Director) received her MFA in Acting from Temple University. A member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional stage actors, Marla has acted locally with People's Light and Theatre Company, the Lantern Theater Company, Brat Productions, Gretna Theatre, and PlayPenn, among others. She has performed in Shakespeare in Clark Park's productions of *Twelfth Night* (Viola), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *The Comedy of Errors* (Adriana) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero). Marla is an associate teacher of Fitzmaurice

Shakespeare IN CLARK PARK

Voicework and does dialect coaching for various Philadelphia theater companies, along with being an adjunct faculty member in the theater departments at Temple University and Muhlenberg College. She and her husband are proud West Philadelphians.

Maria Möller (Co-Artistic Director) is an actor, director and writer. In Philadelphia, she has performed with companies such as Interact Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre Collective, Workshop for Potential Movement, and the Leah Stein Dance Company. Directorial work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It* (SCP), *Mango Chutney* on Mesa Street (Asian Arts Initiative/Swarthmore College), *Schiller's Mary Stuart* (Clothmother Productions, Chicago), *Vaclav Havel's Protest* (Tinfoil Theatre, Chicago) and *Sakuntala*, an ensemble-developed adaptation of a story from *The Mahabharata* (Bailiwick Directors' Festival and the Chicago Actors Ensemble). Her original solo work includes *House to House*, *The Tourist Police*, *Puja at Nako* and *How Do I Disappear?* and has been presented by the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe, the CEC, the University City Arts League, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, and Chicago's Rhinoceros Theatre Festival.

Board of Directors

David Bradley, President
Marla Burkholder, Treasurer
John Frisbee
Michael Froelich, Secretary
Maria Möller
Wendy Staton
Imanni Wilkes

Shakespeare in Clark Park Production History

2011

Much Ado About Nothing
directed by Alex Torra

2010

A Midsummer Night's Dream
directed by Maria Möller

2009

The Comedy of Errors
directed by Alex Torra

2008

Shakespeare IN CLARK PARK

As You Like It
directed by Maria Möller

2007
Romeo and Juliet
directed by Tom Reing

2006
Twelfth Night
directed by Tom Reing

Location and Information

Weather permitting, performances take place in Clark Park. A nine-acre park in the heart of West Philadelphia's University City neighborhood, Clark Park is bounded by Baltimore Avenue, 43rd Street, Woodland Avenue and 45th Street. Shakespeare in Clark Park performs in "The Bowl" area of the park, near the intersection of Chester Avenue and 43rd Street.

If it rains the day of a performance, we move the show to the Curio Theatre, located in the Calvary Center at 47th and Baltimore, just a few blocks from the park. If the skies are threatening but it is not raining by 5pm, members of the press should call the production's press contact on their cell phone (listed on the press release) or call 215-462-2115.

Public Transportation

From Center City, any "green line" subway-surface trolley except the #10 will take you to Clark Park.

If taking the #13 or #34 trolley, get off at 43rd Street. The #13 will drop you off at Chester Avenue. Look to your left --- there we are. The #34 will drop you off at Baltimore Avenue; walk a block south through the park or along 43rd Street to "The Bowl."

If taking the #36 or the #11, get off at 45th Street and Woodland Avenue; walk north along 43rd Street or 45th Street to "The Bowl."

If you are coming into the city via regional rail, you can connect to the trolley at Suburban Station or 30th Street Station. Clark Park is also just a short cab ride from 30th Street Station.

Shakespeare IN CLARK PARK

Driving

Clark Park is located just west of the University of Pennsylvania. There is ample street parking around Clark Park.

What should I bring to Clark Park?

Bring a blanket or a chair. We ask that audience members with chairs sit towards the back so as not to block the view of those on the ground. You are also welcome to bring a picnic, your dog and the whole family! (And don't forget the bug spray.)

What else is in Clark Park? What's in the neighborhood?

In addition to over 300 trees, Clark Park has a state-of-the-art playground and a unique life-size statue of author Charles Dickens and one of his most beloved characters, Little Nell of The Old Curiosity Shop. For more information about Clark Park, visit the Friends of Clark Park website. Baltimore Avenue, the main thoroughfare running along the north edge of the park, is home to numerous cafes and restaurants. For more information, visit the University City District website.

Do I need to reserve tickets? How much do tickets cost?

There is no need to reserve tickets. Shows are general admission and you must bring your own blanket or chair. Come early to get the best seats -- but there is always room for more in the park! Shakespeare in Clark Park productions are always free, though donations are accepted.

How long is the show? Is there an intermission?

Our productions run under two hours. There is no intermission.

Are SCP productions accessible to people with disabilities?

Clark Park is accessible to people with disabilities and we will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Please contact us at info@shakespeareinclarkpark.org or call 215-462-2115 for more information.

At this point in time, we are not able to provide ASL interpreters or audio description services, but we are working on it! Please contact us at info@shakespeareinclarkpark.org or call 215-462-2115 for more information.

Shakespeare IN CLARK PARK

Contact SCP

Marla Burkholder, Co-Artistic Director
marla@shakespeareinclarkpark.org

Maria Möller, Co-Artistic Director
maria@shakespeareinclarkpark.org

Education and Outreach
education@shakespeareinclarkpark.org

Telephone: 215-462-2115

Shakespeare in Clark Park
PO Box 30734
Philadelphia, PA 19104