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TONY WINNING ACTRESS
TREZANA BEVERLEY STARS AS KING LEAR
IN SOUTHWEST SHAKESPEARE’S SEASON OPENER
OCTOBER 14 – 29 AT MESA ARTS CENTER

(Phoenix, Ariz) Southwest Shakespeare announces The Tony Award Winning Actress, Trezana Beverley*, will take the title role of KING LEAR, making her first appearance in Arizona in this iconic role.

Beverley, who will perform KING LEAR as a man, was the first African-American actress to receive a Tony Award when she won in 1977 for “Best Featured Actress in a Play” for her role in For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf.

She first took on the role of Lear for Take Wing and Soar Productions at the National Black Theatre in 2009, which was received with great audience and critical acclaim.

The gender-bending casting is part of Debra Ann Byrd, Artistic Director’s expanded vision for Southwest Shakespeare, now in its 29th season. Elizabeth Swain, nationally known for her insightful interpretations of Shakespeare’s works will direct.

Performances of KING LEAR are October 14 - 29 at Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St. Tickets start at $55 and are on sale at mesaartscenter.com

For more information, visit swshakespeare.org or mesaartscenter.com to purchase.
Three Daughters. Two Liars.
And a King grown old but not wise.

Southwest Shakespeare Company proudly presents one of the greatest plays in world drama, The Tragedy of KING LEAR by William Shakespeare. Can a man of power, give away that which makes him powerful, and still expect to rule? Join us as Shakespearean actor and director Elizabeth Swain leads a diverse company of Classically trained actors as they join Tony Award winning Actress Trezana Beverley* as she takes on the role of a King gone mad.

Flachmann Seminar
Saturday October 22 at 9:00 am
Tickets: $62

Join Dr. Susan Willis, dramaturg of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and observer for the BBC while it produced The BBC Shakespeare Plays: Making the Televised Canon for an in-depth seminar on KING LEAR. The Flachmann Seminars are designed for audiences to delve deeper into the Bard’s works and give a greater understanding of the play.

Rounding out the cast are classical actors Cynnita Agent, Robert Altizer, Brady Anderson, Aaron Angello, Kenneth Chambers, Jim “Doc” Coates*, Rachelle Dart, Joui Fletcher, Gustavo A Flores, Adam Guinn, Sam McInerney, Jayden O'Farrel, Isaac Ramsey, Monica Sampson and Tyler Sines. Stage Manager is Emmy Antillon*.

KING LEAR is designed by a creative team featuring Scenic Design by Tiana Torrilhon-Wood, Lighting Design and Technical Direction by Stacey Walston, Sound Design by Peter Bish, Costume Design by Maci Hosler, Hair and Makeup Design by Elise Selah, Fight Choreography by Keath Hall, Intimacy Coach is Rachel Finley, with Jeff Blake as Master Carpenter and Property Design by Beau Heckman. The Stage management team comprises Production Stage Manager Emmy Antillon* and Dylan Prentis as Assistant Stage Manager. The Producing team for KING LEAR is Artistic Director Debra Ann Byrd and Producing Director Stacey Walston.

* Member of Actors & Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Manager in the United States.

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