

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2008

**CAPA TO PRODUCE AND PRESENT TIM SUPPLE'S
FANTASTICAL VISION OF SHAKESPEARE'S
*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM***

**"Exhilaratingly imaginative...a rare eye-opening and rewarding multicultural delight."
- *The San Francisco Chronicle***

**"Extraordinary...an experience that simply transcends language"
- *The San Francisco Examiner***

Columbus will be only the third city in the US to experience this once-in-a-lifetime production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Commissioned by the British Council and directed by Tim Supple, this international sensation is cast entirely with actors, dancers, martial arts experts, musicians, and street acrobats from India and Sri Lanka with the dialogue being delivered in English, Tamil, Malayalam, Sinhalese, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, and even Sanskrit (**supertitles will be provided**). As producer and tour manager, CAPA brings this sensual and physical reinterpretation of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays to the Southern Theatre. Supple's *Midsummer* casts aside familiar traditions of performing Shakespeare and replaces them with an epic and visceral power which has captivated audiences worldwide.

CAPA presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the **Southern Theatre** (21 E. Main St.) **Wednesday-Sunday, November 19-23**. Show times are Wednesday at 7 pm; Thursday at 11 am; Friday at 8 pm; Saturday at 8 pm; and Sunday at 2 pm. **Tickets** are \$40, \$35, \$30, and \$11 (Thurs. only) at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 431-3600 or (614) 469-0939. The Southern Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. Students between the ages of 13-19 can purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available.

Presented in association with CATCO.

In 2004, the British Council in India and Sri Lanka commissioned Tim Supple to create and direct a touring theatre production. After a trip to the area to meet with directors, performers, designers, venues, producers, and technicians, Supple decided that all the artists and production team would be Indian and Sri Lankan and chose *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as the text.

Over a year of travel, the actors, musicians, dancers, martial arts experts, and street performers were selected as were the designers, composer, and production team. Supple worked with hundreds of performers—both contemporary and those trained in classical and folk traditions—in Manipur, Kolkata, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kerala, Bangalore, Chennai, and Colombo.

The cast and crew rehearsed for seven weeks, living, eating, and working together around the clock. The performers learned from each other, seeking to understand not only each other's performance language but also each other's language of speech.

In March 2006, the group built their own temporary 750-seat auditorium in the garden of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts with bamboo, cloth, and simple rostra. This was repeated in Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, and in each city, audiences came and filled the theatre to bursting, even sitting on the floor and stairs.

By the end of April, the company had completed their first tour, and reunited in the UK to perform at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Complete Works Festival in Stratford-upon-Avon. The performances grew and matured at the Festival, and the response of the audiences was astonishing—12 standing ovations for each of the 12 performances.

The production returned to the UK in March 2007 for a triumphant six week engagement at London's Roundhouse. Having always played in open arena stages, the company had to adapt to proscenium arches, which ultimately made the show richer and more focused with greater nuance. A further run of Royal Shakespeare Company houses met with packed houses as enthusiastic as those of Stratford and London, and each performance managed to achieve connection and vitality.

The North American tour debuted in San Francisco in May 2008, followed by a two-week run in Toronto in June. CAPA managed both cities on the tour which the *San Francisco Chronicle* described as "...an exhilaratingly imaginative, polyglot staging of Shakespeare's great comedy, performed by a proficient, engaging and athletic cast in a manner it's probably safe to say has never before been seen on this continent."

CAPA is also touring *Midsummer* to New Haven, Ottawa, and Chicago.

About Director Tim Supple

Tim Supple has directed, adapted, and devised theatre, opera and film throughout the UK and in the US, Europe, India and the Middle and Far East. He has worked regularly at The National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. In the 1990s, he was Artistic Director of the Young Vic Theatre. Supple's work includes Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, *The Comedy of*

Errors and Twelfth Night; Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*; Carol Anne Duffy's *Grimm Tales and More Grimm Tales*; Kipling's *The Jungle Book*; Lorca's *Blood Wedding*; Wedekind's *Spring Awakening*; Ted Hughes' *Tales from Ovid*; Goldoni's *A Servant to Two Masters*; Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* and *Midnight's Children* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Supple launched Dash Arts with Josephine Burton in 2005 and is an Associate Artist of the Roundhouse. In October 2007, Supple was awarded the prestigious Theatrical Management Association Award for Best Director of a touring production and nominated for the London Evening Standard Awards for Best Director, both for the current touring production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The **Ohio Arts Council** helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of the **Robert Bartels, Virginia Hall Beale, and Barbara Clement Memorial Funds of The Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex (Columbus) and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), **CAPA** is an award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

CALENDAR LISTING

CAPA presents *A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM*

November 19-23

Wednesday, November 19, 7 pm

Thursday, November 20, 11 am

Friday, November 21, 8 pm

Saturday, November 22, 8 pm

Sunday, November 23, 2 pm

Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)

Commissioned by the British Council and directed by Tim Supple, this once-in-a-lifetime production is cast entirely with actors, dancers, martial arts experts, musicians, and street acrobats from India and Sri Lanka with the dialogue being delivered in English, Tamil, Malayalam, Sinhalese, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, and even Sanskrit. This sensual and physical re-interpretation of the play casts aside familiar traditions of performing Shakespeare and replaces them with an epic and visceral power which has captivated audiences worldwide. **Presented in association with CATCO.** Tickets are \$40, \$35, \$30, and \$11 (Thurs. only) at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 431-3600 or (614) 469-0939. The Southern Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. Students between the ages of 13-19 may purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available. www.capa.com

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