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## Shakespeare at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art

### Pop-Up Performance Kicks Off Shakespeare@400.SantaBarbara Celebration

Thursday, November 17, 5 – 7:45 pm

November 1, 2016—In celebration of the 400th-anniversary year of Shakespeare's death, Lit Moon Theatre Company, the Bitola (Macedonia) National Theatre, Westmont College, and Shakespeare's Globe London have partnered to present a weekend long festival showcasing the Bard's achievements on stage, page, and screen. **The festival, Shakespeare@400.SantaBarbara, kicks off with a takeover of both the interior and exterior of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art including the galleries, Mary Craig Auditorium, and the façade of the Museum's building.** Featured are new short plays and performance pieces inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets—interpreted by the "Santa Bitola Theatre Company," a combined group comprised of artists from Lit Moon and Bitola formed in 2015; and selected films from *The Complete Walk*—a project presented by Shakespeare's Globe in London in April of this year that included 37 films, each exploring one of Shakespeare's plays, on screens spanning the iconic 2.5 mile stretch from Westminster Bridge to Tower Bridge over the course of two days. The screenings at SBMA represent the U.S. premiere of this extraordinary venture. In Santa Barbara, the Shakespeare@400.SantaBarbara festival continues through November 20 with live performances, talks, and films at Westmont College and the Sunken Gardens at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse (see full schedule below).



#### About the Performance Partners and Artists:

**Lit Moon** is a collective of Santa Barbara theatre artists founded in 1991. Long regarded as Santa Barbara's most innovative theatre company, Lit Moon is recognized both here and abroad for its visual, image-oriented brand of theatre. The company is an independent, laboratory theatre company that integrates aesthetic experimentation with cross-cultural interaction and understanding. Since 1992, Lit Moon has created 35 new theatrical projects, produced twelve international theater festivals, developed numerous residencies with artists from seven European countries, and toured to Poland, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Scotland, Canada, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania.

Bitola, Macedonia, is situated in southern Macedonia, and is one of the Republic's major cultural and artistic centers. Theatre life in Bitola began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE, in the ancient Roman town of Heraclea, not from the city center of present-day Bitola. The first theatre in Bitola proper was built during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the **Bitola National Theatre** was founded in 1944, with the

premiere of Gjore Magareski, which was the first play written in the contemporary Macedonian language. Since then, the theatre has produced 500 plays, which have been performed over 10,000 times for nearly 4 million spectators. The theatre employs 75 people, including 30 actors. The theatre performs an active repertory of domestic, classical, and modern plays, and has performed at festivals throughout Europe, Canada, and Australia.



**Shakespeare's Globe London** is a theatre complex and producing company that includes a reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, an Elizabethan playhouse on the South Bank of the Thames, originally built in 1599 and reopened to the public in 1996; the new Sam Wanamaker playhouse, which opened in 2014; and numerous educational, gallery, and retail spaces. The Globe presents full seasons of Shakespearean and new plays in a year-round producing season, tours its work around the world, and creates special projects with international partners. "The Complete Walk" was the brainchild and last major project of former artistic director Dominic Dromgoole, who held the post from 2006-2016, and features some of England's finest actors.

### **Shakespeare@400.SantaBarbara Events:**

**November 17, 5 – 7:45 pm**  
**Pop-Up Shakespeare**  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art

**November 18, 7:30 pm**  
**As You Like It**  
Shakespeare's lyrical romantic comedy played by Westmont's regionally and nationally recognized theatre program. Westmont College Festival Theatre  
Porter Theatre at Westmont College

**November 19, 10 am – 5 pm**  
**"The Complete Walk:" Films from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London**  
As part of London's Globe Theatre's celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, thirty-seven 10-minute films of major moments from his plays were created, using both archival and new material shot on location in the places Shakespeare might have imagined when he wrote the plays.  
Westmont College

**November 19, 7:30 pm**  
**Julius Caesar**  
Shakespeare's gripping and timely political tragedy played by the internationally acclaimed Lit Moon—U.S. premiere  
Lit Moon Theatre Company  
Porter Theatre at Westmont College

**November 20, 5 pm**  
**Antony and Cleopatra**  
Shakespeare's magnificent romantic tragedy completes the story Julius Caesar begins, played by one of the most significant theatres in the Balkans.  
Bitola National Theatre  
Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Gardens

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

**Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.**  
**Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm**  
**805.963.4364 [www.sbma.net](http://www.sbma.net)**