

PRESS RELEASE:

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE: THE STORY OF VANCOUVER'S BARD ON THE BEACH

A celebration of the twenty-eight-year history of Western Canada's most illustrious Shakespeare festival.

Over the summer of 1990, six thousand Vancouverites flocked into a rented tent at Vanier Park to watch *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was the inaugural production of what would become one of the city's most popular and enduring yearly cultural events, the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. Twenty-eight years after Bard's debut, the company has an operating budget of over \$6 million, and attendance has ballooned to over 100,000 each season. Today it is undoubtedly one of the most successful theatre companies in the country.

In a new book, bestselling author and long-time Bard aficionado Jayne Seagrave goes behind the scenes to discover what makes the Festival tick. Says Jayne: "I have attended Bard every year since first arriving in Vancouver in 1991 and have watched it grow and develop. I love going, seeing the amazing set designs against the mountain backdrop, the stunning costumes and of course the fascinating interpretations of Shakespeare's work. I wanted to learn more, so suggested to Rodger Touchie, the Publisher of Heritage House a book on Bard and he enthusiastically agreed."

Says Bard's Founding Artistic Director Christopher Gaze, "Jayne Seagrave pursued this project with true dedication and enthusiasm. We're excited that she has produced the first ever written chronical of our Festival, showcasing its people, its rich trove of stories and its key role in western Canada's cultural history."

Complete with prologue, epilogue and numerous Shakespearean quotes, the Story of Bard on the Beach unfolds in five "acts" highlighting the people, history, growth, and future of this unique theatre company and featuring dozens of full-colour photographs of sumptuous sets, elaborate costumes, tireless volunteers, actors in mid-soliloquy, and more. Information for the work was obtained from personal interviews with those involved in its success. *All the World's a Stage* is a stunning, informative, and entertaining keepsake for Bard on the Beach fans new and old.

Release date: April 23rd, 2017 (Shakespeare's Birthday)

Price: C\$29.99. 224 pages. Foreword by Jim Bovard

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