

2015-J1973

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Shakespeare in Delaware Park upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary season

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Shakespeare in Delaware Park upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary season; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1976, Shakespeare in Delaware Park began as a summer apprenticeship program for students from SUNY Buffalo wanting to work alongside professional actors; its high quality productions were so well received by the public that the program expanded and grew into the beloved Western New York summer tradition it is today; and

WHEREAS, The mission of this remarkable theatre company is to provide free, high-quality public theatre to the widest possible audience; its members continually strive to enrich, inspire and entertain diverse groups of people through performance and educational programming, with a focus on the works of William Shakespeare; and

WHEREAS, Each summer, Shakespeare in Delaware Park presents two works of William Shakespeare, one tragedy or history and one comedy; these performances run six nights per week for three and a half weeks for a total of 44 performances; and

WHEREAS, Over the past four decades, Shakespeare in Delaware Park has

mounted over 80 productions, with approximately 3,000 presentations which have entertained over 1.5 million guests; and

WHEREAS, Today, Shakespeare in Delaware Park is one of the largest outdoor Shakespeare festivals in the country, playing each year to over 40,000 people from across the state, nation, and beyond; it continues to uphold a tradition of high quality programming and outstanding artistry which has resonated with audiences year after year; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its summer productions, Shakespeare in Delaware Park offers education and outreach programs to schools and public venues throughout the Buffalo/Niagara region; these programs seek to both inspire and enrich students, while helping them to express themselves in positive ways; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Shakespeare in Delaware Park has been nominated as a "Best Cultural Asset" by readers of ARTVOICE, named the No. 2 "must do summer event" by the BUFFALO NEWS, and was one of only seven New York State theatres listed in the NEW YORK TIMES "Summer Stages" article; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, Shakespeare in Delaware Park can look back with great pride upon its humble beginnings; taking just satisfaction in its purposeful growth, it will continue its mission, devoting its talent and unique services to enriching the cultural spirit of the public it has served so faithfully for 40 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Shakespeare in Delaware Park upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary season; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shakespeare in Delaware Park.