



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

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### Jealousy Runs Rampant in TAM's *Othello*

**Monmouth, Maine** – Theater at Monmouth's 2017 Power, Passion, and Privilege Season continues with Shakespeare's greatest domestic tragedy, *Othello*, running Thursday, July 21st, through Saturday, August 19th. From start to finish *Othello* is packed with revenge, illusion, passion, mistrust, jealousy, and murder. If the malevolent Iago is Shakespeare's most compelling villain, then in *Othello* and Desdemona the Bard offers his most tragic and unforgettable lovers. Newly married and promoted, Othello finds himself the pawn in the manipulative games of his right-hand man, Iago. As his imagination is poisoned, Othello turns on his new bride Desdemona and loyal lieutenant Cassio, rapidly spiraling from hero to murderer in Shakespeare's tale of jealousy, duplicity, and destruction.

Harold Bloom, author of *The Invention of the Human*, begins his examination of *Othello* with a series of questions. "Why do we go to see tragedies in general?" he wonders. "Why do we always read the accounts in the newspapers of dreadful fires and shocking murders but for the same reason? Why do so many persons frequent executions and trial...but because there is a natural tendency in the mind to strong excitement, a desire to have its faculties roused and stimulated to the utmost?" This relentless tragedy, speaks to our contemporary, split-second news cycle and the persistent stream of of horrifying images of atrocities across the globe.

"But what's so thrilling—and so terrifying—is that everything that occurs is so irrevocably inevitable. And not because of capricious gods, or cruel coincidences. No, the cause—to use a word Othello memorably repeats—lies in the precisely defined personalities of everyone who inhabits the play's closed universe." Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

Director Catherine Weidner believes "This is a story of assumptions, misread signals, reputation, honor, and betrayal; a story of marriage, friendship, and loyalty." Weidner summates that, "Shakespeare's story leaves us thinking hard about assimilation, status, gender, and race in profound human ways. Like any good play, it doesn't provide easy answers."

*Othello* features Ryan Vincent Anderson as Iago; Josh Carpenter as Roderigo; Mark S. Cartier as Brabantio; Kelsey Burke as Desdemona; Wardell Julius Clark as Othello; James Noel Hoban as Duke of Venice; Brad Wilson as Cassio; Travis Johnson as Lodovico; Maggie Thompson as Emilia; Lucy Lavelly as Bianca; J.P. Guimont as Montano; Mackenzie Shaw as Ensemble; Emery Lawrence as Ensemble; Ben Shaw as Ensemble; CJ Stewart as Ensemble. Set design by Dan Bilodeau, costume design by Kathleen Payton Brown, lighting design by Matthew Adelson, sound design by Rew Tippin, and fight direction by Leighton Samuels.

Performance Calendar: OPENING 7/21 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 7/22, 8/2, 8/15 at 7:30 p.m, 7/22, 7/30, 8/9, 8/19 at 1:00 p.m, and 8/6 at 7:00 p.m with a Post-Show discussion.

### [Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save](#)

TAM Season Passes offer up to 25% off the single ticket price and exclusive benefits such as priority seating and free ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there's an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Show are \$32 for adults, \$28 for senior citizens, and \$20 for students (18 and under). Groups of 10 or more can enjoy TAM shows at up to a 22% discount. Groups may also schedule pre or post show discussions with tours of historic Cumston Hall. Contact the Box Office for more information and to book your group's event.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the single ticket price with a photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets: For patrons under 30, twenty \$10 Rush Tickets are available at each performance in the season. Sign up by contacting the Box Office, either by emailing [boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org](mailto:boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org) or calling 207.933.9999 the morning of the performance. Tickets will be released to the first 20 people on the list ten minutes before curtain.

For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org).

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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