



NATIONAL TRUST

WATSON ROAD
OBSERVATORY HILL

GPO Box 518
SYDNEY NSW 2001

www.nationaltrust.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 25 November 2009

First Open Air Leura Shakespeare Festival

An open air Shakespeare Festival will be one of the highlight events next January for the National Trust's Everglades House and Gardens in Leura in the Blue Mountains.

The National Trust of Australia and Sport for Jove Theatre today announced the inaugural Leura Shakespeare Festival, an annual outdoor event starting in 2010.

The festival will take place in the Everglades Gardens, utilising Australia's only purpose built outdoor Shakespeare venue. The company will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet* in repertory over two weekends from 9 January 2010.

Nicholas Crook, Regional Manager for the National Trust said: "Everglades is thrilled to be hosting the very first Leura Shakespeare Festival. The stunning setting of the gardens makes it the perfect venue to bring a picnic and a bottle of wine and sit beneath the moon to watch Shakespeare's romantic masterpieces brought to life."

Director Damien Ryan said: "We're hugely excited to create a new cultural event for the local community and beyond."

"Summer outdoor Shakespeare festivals are iconic and significant events to so many communities throughout the world. This festival will celebrate Shakespeare's incomparable storytelling in the extraordinary setting of Everglades," he continued.

Ryan brings a wealth of experience to the Festival. As one of the country's foremost practitioners and educators in Shakespeare, he has performed in or directed over 30 of the Bard's plays, and has worked as an actor and director with The Bell Shakespeare Company since 2001, touring nationally and internationally.

Romeo and Juliet - Saturday 9, Sunday 10, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 January, 7:30pm

Midsummer Night's Dream – Sunday 10, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 January, 3:00pm

Location: 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 concession, \$45 family of four, \$30 individual combined ticket for both shows

Enquires and sales: Everglades, 02 4784 1938

Media enquiries:

Hansni Bhagani – National Trust

02 9258 0131

0416 446 276

Oliver Burton – Sport for Jove Producer

0413 274 451