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University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Arts Institute, and Chazen Museum of Art Present Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016

Folger Shakespeare Library Announces 52 Host Sites Across the Country for Traveling Exhibition to Mark the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare’s Death

(MADISON, WI)— The University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to announce the start of Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016. Selected as the Wisconsin host site for the First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare, a national traveling exhibition of William Shakespeare’s First Folio, the UW-Madison Libraries, Chazen Museum of Art, and the Arts Institute have partnered to organize a state-wide, year-long celebration of Shakespeare. In addition, the Wisconsin State Legislature issued a joint resolution formally honoring the contributions of Shakespeare to the world languages, literature, and the arts.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring a First Folio of Shakespeare in 2016 to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

“The UW-Madison Libraries, along with the Chazen Museum of Art and the Arts Institute, as well as our partners across the state, are honored to welcome the First Folio to Wisconsin,” said Ed Van Gemert, Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian at UW-Madison. “This is an
opportunity to showcase an important part of the world’s cultural heritage for Wisconsinites, and we are honored to join with our partners in leading this initiative."

The First Folio, published in 1623, is the first collected edition of Shakespeare’s plays, many of which were not published during his lifetime. Two of Shakespeare’s fellow actors compiled 36 of his plays to preserve them for future generations. Without their efforts, we may have never known 18 plays, including Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, Antony and Cleopatra, The Comedy of Errors, and As You Like It.

Kicking off the Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016 events in Madison, the Distinguished Lecture Series, UW-Madison Libraries, and the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries will host actress Anna Deavere Smith for an Evening of Shakespeare on April 20 at Shannon Hall (Memorial Union). Smith has starred in television hits such as The West Wing and Nurse Jackie and is currently University Professor at New York University where she teaches at the Tisch School of the Arts.

Main events in Madison throughout the year include:

- **April 14th – 21st**, Wisconsin Film Festival.
- **May 6th**, the UW-Madison Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Bibliomigrancy will present “Shakespeare and Digital Bibliomigrancy,” featuring Dr. Tom Cheesman of Swansea University and Professor Peter Donaldson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- **July 9th – 16th**, the Madison Early Music Festival will feature “Shakespeare 400 – An Elizabethan Celebration.”
- **October 21st**, the UW-Madison Arts Institute will host an original performance at Shannon Hall by luminaries Randall Duk Kim and Anne Occhiogosso, Founders of American Players Theatre.
- **November 3rd**, the highlight of Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016 will take place as the Chazen Museum of Art plays host to the First Folio (exhibition runs November 3rd – December 11th). The opening event will feature a presentation by UW-Madison Professor Josh Calhoun.

“The First Folio! exhibition offers a unique opportunity to explore Shakespeare’s influence on art in a range of media from painting to film and printmaking to photography,” said Russell Panczenko, Director of the Chazen Museum of Art. “It’s wonderful to bring great literature into the arena of the visual arts.”

In addition to events around Madison, everyone from theatre groups to schools around the state are getting involved with Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016.

“The Arts Institute is honored to be a partner in such an amazing project that brings campus and many institutions and organizations from across the state together to celebrate the Bard,”
said Norma Saldivar, Interim Executive Director of the UW-Madison Arts Institute. “What a terrific example of the Wisconsin Idea at work! This celebration will touch every region of our state and highlight the impact of Shakespeare.”

A growing list of events and opportunities, from performances and workshops, to festivals and scholarly discussions will be updated regularly on the Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016 website.

About Folger Shakespeare Library

The Folger Shakespeare Library, located in Washington, D.C., is a world-renowned center for scholarship, learning, culture, and the arts. It is home to the world’s largest Shakespeare collection and a primary repository for rare materials from the early modern period (1500-1750). Learn more at www.folger.edu

Learn more about Shakespeare in Wisconsin 2016 or get involved by visiting shakespeare.library.wisc.edu, or keep up on social media using #UWShakespeare2016 and #Shakesconsin.

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