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Nashville Shakespeare Festival presents 'Henry V' at Centennial Park
Production brings Shakespeare to Civil War battlefield

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Nashville Shakespeare Festival wraps the historical drama *Henry V* within a Tennessee Civil War story for its 28th annual Shakespeare in the Park production Aug. 13 through Sept. 13 at Centennial Park.

"Toward the end of the Civil War, on the eve of battle, enemies come together on a Tennessee battlefield to enact Shakespeare's play about the young king of England who leads his nation into a war against France," said Denice Hicks, executive artistic director for the festival. "We are excited to juxtapose these two important historical periods in this unique production."

Performances begin at 7:30 Thursday through Sunday evenings, with pre-show entertainment starting at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a special Labor Day performance Sept. 7. [Food and drink](#) can be purchased at the park.

The show is free and open to the public with a \$10 suggested donation. For a very special experience, a limited number of reserved ringside seats and gourmet picnic dinners are available through the [Royal and Noble Packages](#). Tickets purchased for Royal and Noble seating benefit Nashville Shakespeare Festival education programs. They are partially tax deductible.

[Nat McIntyre](#), who played major roles in three previous Nashville Shakespeare Festival productions, including Iago in *Othello* last year, will direct *Henry V*. He noted that Shakespeare was performed and read all over the United States during the time of the Civil War. "Politicians quoted Shakespeare in their speeches, generals in their orders, and soldiers in their letters mailed home," he said. "In addition, slaves and former slaves turned to Shakespeare to educate and inspire. We plan to use the language of *Henry V* to reflect on the American Civil War and the challenges of reconciliation long past the last battle."

Author and historical preservationist Robert Hicks, whose *New York Times* best-selling books include *The Widow of the South* and *A Separate Country*, is serving as an adviser and consultant to the production. For a list of cast members, several of whom have performed in previous Nashville Shakespeare Festival productions, click [here](#). In addition, [The Princely Players](#), an African American a cappella group that was founded in 1967, will be an integral part of the production.

The set, designed to look like a Civil War battlefield, will be designed by Morgan Matens. Costume design is by June Kingsbury and light design is by Anne Willingham.

2015 season supporters are the Tennessee Arts Commission, Metro Arts Commission, and Patterson Intellectual Property Law. Other support for Shakespeare in the Park has been provided by Metro Parks, National Endowment for the Arts, and Bradfield Stage Lighting. Advance Financial is an education sponsor of the festival.

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The Nashville Shakespeare Festival relies heavily on the generosity of corporations, foundations, individuals and government agencies as it continues to educate and entertain the Mid-South community through professional Shakespearean experiences. Businesses and foundations receive excellent exposure and are granted myriad benefits in exchange for helping the festival give the gift of Shakespeare to the community. For more information, visit the festival's [Sponsorship web page](#) or call 615-255-2273.

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