



TOWN OF VERNON

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FREE Shakespeare Performances Coming to Rockville Public Library in Downtown Vernon

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Shakespeare is coming to downtown Vernon with a one-hour adaptation of “Henry V” that will be performed at the Rockville Public Library on August 7th and 8th.

The performances are FREE and open to all. A crowdfunding campaign is now under way to help cover the cost of the performances. If \$7,500 is raised by August 4th, 2021 a matching grant will be provided by Sustainable CT’s Community Match Fund. To donate to the crowdfunding campaign, please visit:

https://www.patronicity.com/project/shakespeares_henry_v

“Bringing a strong arts presence to downtown Vernon is part of my vision for our community’s future and something I’ve been focused on,” Mayor Dan Champagne said. “The arts enrich us in so many ways, including by fostering a sense of community.”

The performances are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 7th, 2021, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 8th, 2021 and will be outside in the area behind the library. In case of rain, the performances will be moved inside the library.

“Just like fiscally sound government and good schools, arts and culture are essential parts of thriving and sustainable communities,” said Vernon Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro.

“Henry V” tells the story of King Henry V of England and focuses on events before and after the Battle of Agincourt, fought in 1415 during the Hundred Years’ War.

“This will be a great opportunity for anyone who has never seen Shakespeare before or who has only read it in high school,” said Jennifer Johnston-Marius, Director of the Rockville Public Library. “The idea is to make Shakespeare relatable and fun for the whole family.”

The adaptation, which will be performed by the theater troupe “Fool in the Forest,” is set on the battlefield at Agincourt as a few sick and famished English soldiers take on the vast French army.

“It’s a coming of age story that focuses on Prince Hal and his journey to find his identity as a king and overcome the shadows of his youth,” said Terence LaCasse, the executive producer and leader of the Fool in the Forest troupe.

Matt Chiorini, who is directing the play, said “Henry V” is accessible for audiences not familiar with Shakespeare because it has a narrator who describes everything that is happening on and off stage.

“The narrator calls on the audience to use their imagination right from the beginning,” he said. “It’s as if Shakespeare is telling us not to worry about extravagant costumes, special effects or realism, but to enjoy the ride and embrace and enjoy the play.”

Parking is available behind Vernon Town Hall and on nearby streets. People can bring a picnic or visit one of downtown Vernon’s restaurants.

“Not only do we want to provide our community with a great arts experience, we want to create a more welcoming identity for downtown Vernon and to generate economic development,” said Shaun Gately, Vernon’s Economic Development Coordinator.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England’s Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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