



NEWS RELEASE

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EL RIO THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS: *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR* BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The El Rio Theatre Project will present its seventh annual Shakespeare in the Park with William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Himmel Park Outdoor Amphitheatre, 1000 N. Tucson Blvd. Performances are scheduled for September 20-22, 26-29 and October 3-6. Curtain time is 7 p.m. for all performances; the event is free to the public, with a suggested donation of \$5. Bring a blanket, a picnic basket and the whole family, and enjoy an evening of Theatre in the park.

According to legend, Queen Elizabeth I was so delighted with the character of Sir John Falstaff in Shakespeare's history plays, that she commanded Shakespeare to create a romantic comedy depicting the old rogue in love. The obedient playwright responded with a lively farce, in which Falstaff allows greed and vanity to overwhelm his good sense, as he determines to seduce a pair of well-to-do country housewives. The portly knight meets his match among the gentlewomen of Windsor, who counter his every stratagem with witty maneuvers of their own that expose Sir John's tomfoolery to public mirth. The familiar Shakespearean themes and devices of romance, jealousy, disguise and mistaken identity enrich the plot, along with a sparkling cast of supporting characters, including rival wooers, informers and witty go-betweens.

For additional information call 791-4353 or visit our website at <http://tucsonshakespeareinthepark.org/>



If participants require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for any event, please call Tucson Parks and Recreation, 791-4873, at least five business days in advance