

# Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park produces CNY's *first live theatrical show* since March 2020: ***Much Ado...***



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Syracuse, NY—Much like an Elizabethan theater reopening its doors after a plague-induced hiatus, **Syracuse Shakespeare In-The-Park (SSITP)** returned home to the **Thornden Park Amphitheater** from August 7-16 for its production of ***Much Ado About Nothing***. Mounting this show to finish its eighteenth summer season, **SSITP** became the first and only theatrical company performing live in **CNY** since the pandemic began.

Executive director, producer and safety director for this show, **Ronnie Bell**, wants to thank all those who contributed, especially our Board members and volunteers, to our unprecedented, sold-out, six show success enjoyed by at least 1,200 eager audience members.

In addition to our fantastic acting company that earned more than \$6,000 in audience donations during the run, we want to thank all our sponsors for their continually supportive and encouraging contributions, both monetarily and in-kind, that enabled us to maintain our traditionally high production values cherished by our audiences. They are: **City of Syracuse, Syracuse University, CNY Arts, Onondaga County, Geddes Federal Saving, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Gannon's Isle, Price Chopper, Beer Belly Deli, Penguin Random House Books, Loretto, Colonial Laundromat and Onondaga County Public Library.**

We were also honored to be featured in a beautiful photo essay/story by **Scott Schild** on the [syracuse.com](https://www.syracuse.com) platform and in the **Post-Standard**, the insightful and compelling web posting and TV segment by **Monica Manney**, multimedia photojournalist for **Spectrum News** and the fabulous performance photos by **Royce Burgess** that helped us bring the message of our show to the public.

All of this kind of support has helped us keep **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park** summer shows a free CNY tradition for eighteen years. Kudos to the production team of director **Ken Walling**, assistant director **Katherine Gaurnier** and stage manager **Dominic Dicaprio** for guiding us and the fabulous marketing team led by marketing coordinator **Ashley O'Mara** for getting the word out to the public through social media, website, print and digital ads. **Huzzah!** Here are a few of the audience reviews posted on our Google business page:

*" It was lovely to be able to experience live theater again! SSITP did a great job of making us feel safe and comfortable. Thank you!- L.D."*

*" My wife K. and I have enjoyed performances by SSITP at Thornden Park many times over the past decade or more but we found this year's show more special than usual. For us it was the celebration of "Live Theater Amidst a Pandemic;"-- need I say more? Thank you Ronnie Bell and for all who participated in bringing joy to the people of Syracuse through the shared experience of Shakespeare performed.- PM"*

*" Highly recommend! We watched **Much Ado About Nothing** and it was absolutely fabulous. Lots of laughs and brilliant acting. The amphitheater in Thornden Park is a gorgeous setting and truly perfect for a production of Shakespeare. We sat at the back-center of the amphitheater and had no trouble hearing or seeing the play. We took our own snacks and a blanket to sit on, and we were perfectly comfortable. Social-distancing measures were carefully observed and abided by.- SM"*