NEWS RELEASE

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Love and Community Take Root in Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT, Opening Ten Thousand Things' 2026-2027 season

Show tours September 30 – November 8, 2026

(Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN – September 8, 2026) – Ten Thousand Things (TTT) launches its 2026-2027 season with Shakespeare's **AS YOU LIKE IT** September 30 – November 8, directed by Artistic Director **Caitlin Lowans** in TTT's signature style.

To escape death, our heroine, her best friend, and one of Shakespeare's iconic fools flee to the forest, where outside conventions, they encounter earnest shepherds and ironic aristocrats alike. This comedy considers how we choose to live in community, with one another and with the natural world, as love– both romantic and familial– transforms us each in turn.

The cast features **Nubia Monks** as Rosalind**, Darius Dotch** as Orlando and **Isa Condo-Olvera** as Celia**,** with **Katie Bradley**, **Dustin Bronson, Bill McCallum** and **Greg Watanabe**. Original music by **Joni Griffith**; design by **Sarah Bahr**; text coaching by **Will Sturdivant** and wrestling choreography by **Annie Enneking**.

The tour includes free performances at correctional facilities, low-income elder centers, centers for people with disabilities, adult English language learning centers, schools and shelters, as well as paid public performances in Minneapolis at **Open Book** and **Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**, and in St. Paul at the **Playwrights' Center** and **825 Arts**.

Says Lowans: "*As You Like It* is full of Shakespearean delight in how foolish we can be in pursuit of romance. But even as we follow the twists and turns of eight different lovers, the play's heart investigates love in all forms: not only romance, but family, deep friendship, and community; as well as love of society and love of nature; love that has been wronged; love strengthened through forgiveness; and love of self that needs untangling as we learn to live fully together."

Tickets for **AS YOU LIKE IT** are available at www.tenthousandthings.org; suggested price is $40, with pay-as-you-are starting at $15.

ABOUT TEN THOUSAND THINGS

Ten Thousand Things awakens the creative spirit of audiences and artists by bringing essential and exceptional theater to people from **all backgrounds and life experiences**. Theater-goers experience performances in close proximity and with minimal visual elements, actors distilling the story to its essence. Half of our award-winning shows are performed for paying public audiences and the other **half are performed for free** in locations where people may not have opportunities to see live, professional theater.

PAID, TTT-HOSTED PERFORMANCES

- Thursday & Friday shows at 7:30 pm; Saturdays at 2 pm and 7:30 pm; Sundays at 2 pm
- Tickets are $40 suggested and Pay-As-You-Are from $15
- Pre-Show Readings from the Loft Literary Center, Cow Tipping Press and ReEntry Lab on Thursdays
- Pre-Show Matches from Wrestle Yr Friends on Fridays

Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415
Thursday, Oct 15 (all tickets $15)
Friday, Oct 16 (post-show reception)
Saturday, Oct 17
Sunday, Oct 18

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403
Thursday, Oct 22
Friday, Oct 23 (post-show conversation)
Saturday, Oct 24 (open-captioned)
Sunday, Oct 25

Playwrights' Center, 710 Raymond Ave, St Paul, MN 55114
Thursday, Oct 29
Friday, Oct 30 (post-show conversation, ASL-Interpreted)
Saturday, Oct 31 (matinee only)
Sunday, Nov 1

825 Arts, 825 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, Nov 5
Friday, Nov 6
Saturday, Nov 7
Sunday, Nov 8

FREE, COMMUNITY-HOSTED PERFORMANCES (reservations required)

- Wed, Sep 30, 6:30 pm at Gustavus Adolphus College (800 W College Ave, St. Peter)
- Thu, Oct 1, 2 pm at Episcopal Homes – Carty Heights (412 N Dunlap St, St Paul)
- Fri, Oct 2, 10 am at MSS (900 Ocean St, St Paul) (Audio-Described)
- Mon, Oct 5, 9:45 am at Harmony Learning Center (1961 County Rd C E, Maplewood)
- Wed, Oct 14, 1 pm at Dellwood Gardens (753 E 7th St, St Paul)
- Tue, Oct 20, 9:45 am at Adult Options in Education (6300 Walker St, St Louis Park)
- Tue, Oct 27, 1:15 pm, St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists (16 W 5th St, St Paul)
- Thu, Oct 29, Time TBD, OWL at Humboldt High School (30 Baker St E, St Paul)
- Thu, Nov 5, 12 pm at Interact Center (1860 W Minnehaha Ave, St Paul)

CLOSED PERFORMANCES *(Not open to public)*
MSOP- St Peter and Moose Lake; Northeast Contemporary Services; Federal Prison Camp – Duluth; Federal Correctional Institutes - Waseca; Ramsey County Correctional Facility; TREC at Minneapolis Community & Technical College

WHY DO THEATER? and ARTIST BIOS

KATIE BRADLEY (Jacques / LeBeau / Phoebe) she/her – “Theater gives us a chance to experience another person's story. It can also make us feel seen and validated if the story is similar to our own. We need theater to bridge these differences in our community and to help us reflect on our own humanity.” Ten Thousand Things: *This Girl Laughs, Twelfth Night, The Spitfire Grill, The Comedy of Errors, Mlima's Tale.* Guthrie Theater: *Come From Away, Murder on the Orient Express, Guys and Dolls, A Christmas Carol (four seasons), South Pacific.* Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *The Cocoanuts, Into the Woods.* Children's Theatre Company: *Disney's Mulan Jr., Drawing Lessons*. Open Eye Theatre: *The Chinese Lady*. Theater Mu: Several productions since 2006, including *Kung Fu Zombies Saga* and *The Korean Drama Addict's Guide*. Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Pacific Conservatory Theatre. History Theatre, Full Circle Theater. @katielynnebradley (IG)

DUSTIN BRONSON (Oliver / Amiens) he/him – “I do theater because it demands connection. Connection between me and my character, connection between me and the other actors, and most importantly connection between me and the audience.”
Guthrie: *Private Lives, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The History Plays, Hamlet, To Kill a Mockingbird, Juno and the Paycock*; Latté Da: *The Glass Menagerie*; Mixed Blood: *Pussy Valley, The Song of Summer, Hair*; Jungle: *The Courtroom, Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*; Yellow Tree; Artistry; Gremlin; Park Square; Illusion; Theatreworks; Creede Repertory Theatre: more than ten shows including *Hazardous Materials, Pride and Prejudice, Little Shop of Horrors, Barefoot in the Park, Miss Holmes*. FILM/TELEVISION *I Was There* (History Channel). TRAINING University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Acting Program. UPCOMING Latté Da: *Spring Awakening*. @dustinbronson (IG)

ISA CONDO-OLVERA (Celia / Adam / Audrey) she/her/ella – “We can’t not do theatre. It fulfills our collective need for community, stories and empathy. Theatre has the power to unite, delight and transform us in a way that nothing else can.” Isa is thrilled to be working with TTT for a fourth time, after playing Iphigenia in *Iphigenia at Aulis* and dialect coaching *The Most Happy Fella* and Ten Thousand Voices Youth. Originally from Costa Rica, she moved to the Twin Cities to pursue her training at the UMN Guthrie BFA Acting Program and has since worked as an actor with the Guthrie Theater, Theater Latté Da, Playwrights’ Center, An Opera Theatre, Frank Theater, Wonderlust Productions, Artistry Theater, Exposed Brick Theater, Yellow Tree Theatre, and History Theatre.

DARUS DOTCH (Orlando) he/him – “It is my calling to use the engine of theatre to impact lives.” Ivey award winning Darius Dotch is excited to be back at Ten Thousand things for a second time. He starred in his first production in the role of George in *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage. Dotch has been a professional actor for over 15 years and has worked at several renowned theatres such as Penumbra Theatre, Arena Stages and Guthrie Theatre.

BILL MCCALLUM – (Touchstone / Duke Frederick / Silvius) he/him – “I believe theater is important and necessary work. The ritual of people gathering in real time and space to take notice, through story, of our common humanity, is central to the evolution of humans as a social species. The stories we tell shape the world we live in. I love being a part of that. It is my calling.” Bill has been making theater in the twin cities for over 3 decades. He has worked at Penumbra Theater, Pillsbury House theater, Park Square Theater, Illusion Theater, Yellow Tree Theater, Dark & Stormy Productions (Associate Artistic Director) and more than 60 productions at the Guthrie Theater. Bill played Menaleus in *Helen*, and is thrilled to be returning to TTT for *As You Like It*.

NUBIA MONKS (Rosalind) she/her – “Theatre saves lives. As its vessel, I can’t think of a greater gift to give the world than theatre.” REGIONAL THEATRE: *Hairspray, How to Catch Creation, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Wild Goose Dreams* (La Jolla Playhouse); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (The Old Globe); *Othello* (Women's Theatre Festival); *Comedy of Errors* (Ten Thousand Things); *A Raisin in the Sun*; *The Nacirema Society; Primary Trust* (The Guthrie Theater); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Folger Theater); *Wine in the Wilderness*; *Paradise Blue*; *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone* (Penumbra Theater); *The Color Purple* (Theatre Latte Da/Geva Theater); *A Walless Church* (Pillsbury House + Theatre); *The Ally, Love Mikey* (Mixed

Blood Theater); *The Piano Lesson* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre/Cincinnati Playhouse) EDUCATION: MFA from University of California San Diego. INSTAGRAM: _onlynubia

GREG WATANABE (Duke Senior / Charles/Corin / William) he/him – “To tell stories. Stories are a way of understanding the people around us and what may have happened/be happening to them. To create empathy. To save the world.” Theater Credits: On Broadway he appeared in *Allegiance.* Off-Broadway appearances include *Ballad Of Yachiyo* (Public Theater) and *Golden Child* (Signature Theater). Regionally, he performed in *Cambodian Rock Band (*Victory Gardens, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep.), *Romeo and Juliet* (OSF), *The Summer* Moon (A Contemporary Theater, South Coast Rep), *Extraordinary Chambers* (The Geffen Playhouse), *The Happy Ones* (South Coast Rep), *Hold These Truths* (Virginia Stage Company), and *Our Town,* and *The Great Leap* at Asolo Rep.

RAYYAN KHAN (Understudy) he/him – “I do theatre because of its power to turn language into something living when it passes between audiences and performers. It makes us listen more closely- to the words, to one another and to experiences beyond our own. I'm drawn to work that asks us questions we might not like to answer and helps us recognize ourselves in other, sometimes ancient, stories.” Rayyan is grateful to join Ten Thousand Things and its commitment to make theatre accessible across communities. A recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Acting BFA, Rayyan was born and raised in Mumbai, India. Outside the theater you can find him on a squash or pickleball court, or trying his hand on a new recipe. Recent credits: Hamlet in *Hamlet* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Gray Mallard Theater; Theseus in *Welcome to Thebes*, Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* at the University of Minnesota.

LAILA SAHIR (Understudy) she/her – “I think theater is valuable because it provides us a space to play together, empathize with each other, and imagine new worlds with one another. Social change relies on being in community with one another and engaging in collective visioning, and theater can be an incredible tool to achieve both these things.” Previous credits: Theater Latté Da: *My Ántonia*; Mixed Blood: *Upstream*; Theater Mu: *Maybe You Could Love Me*; The Gray Mallard Theater: *Much Ado About Nothing*; New Arab American Theater Works: *Rosette*; Frank Theatre: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *Cabal*; Full Circle Theater: *Antigonick*; The Birth Play Project: *Mary’s Wondrous Body*. Training: B.A. in Theatre and Psychology, Minor in Music, Luther College; Guthrie Actors Lab (Inaugural Cohort); NAATW Decolonized Performance Cohort (Inaugural Cohort). IG: @laila.sahir

CAITLIN LOWANS (Director) they/she – "I do theatre because it is the chance to create the world I hope to live in, one room at a time." Previous Ten Thousand Things directing includes last season's *Two Gents* and *The Most Happy Fella*. Before coming to TTT, Caitlin served as Artistic Director of Theatreworks Colorado Springs, where they built deep community relationships, directed twelve productions, and created a TTT-inspired community Shakespeare touring program. Prior to Colorado, Caitlin pursued an MFA in directing at Northwestern University and spent the twelve years before that as a director, dramaturg, and theatre educator in Boston's theatre community.

JONI GRIFFITH (Music Director) she/her – “I believe that we as humans depend on stories. The stories we tell shape our world view, our self-identity, our history, and ultimately our future. Not every story is profound, deep, or life changing, but they all offer us an opportunity to practice empathy, imagination, and the simple act of sharing an experience with someone else. To me that's what theater is and that is what it offers all of us.” Joni is a musician and movement artist residing in Minneapolis, MN. Some of her favorite companies to collaborate with include Mixed Precipitation, The Birth Play Project and physical theater group Combustible Company. In addition to performing, Joni has written, recorded, and performed original music for multiple shows in the Midwest and New York. When not working on music you can find her gleefully riding her bike through the city or across the country! www.jonigriffith.com

MATTHEW MEEKS (Stage Manager) he/him – “I do theatre to observe, participate in, and support the creative process of watching a group of artists create something that hasn’t been done before in that exact way. It’s a thrilling experience to watch unfold and then share that with an audience.” Matthew is a Twin Cities based AEA Stage Manager. He returns to TTT after having worked on *Mlima’s Tale* and *The Hatmaker’s Wife*, and has

worked with the Guthrie Theater, American Players Theater, South Coast Repertory, Barrington Stage, Artistry, Illusion, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

SARAH BAHR (Costume, Scenic & Props Design) she/her – “Theatre creates and reinforces my community, expands world views, and gives us an opportunity to collectively experience stories that connect us.” Sarah's TTT credits include *Men on Boats, Violet, This Girl..., Emilia, Iphigenia at Aulis, Thunder Knocking on the Door, and Sins of Sor Juana*. As a costume and scenic designer for theatre, opera, and dance she has worked with companies including the Minnesota Opera, Jungle Theater, History Theatre, Theater Mu, Theater Latte Da, Trademark Theater, and BRKFST Dance Company. She is a committed advocate for supporting designers and technicians, along with creating meaningful mentorship opportunities for emerging theatre artists. Sarah is a 2026-27 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 serving as a Central Region Board Member. Website: sarahbahr.com, Instagram: @sarahbahrdesign

WILLIAM STURDIVANT (Text Coaching) he/him – “I am a 2026 McKnight Fellow, actor, poet, and champion of this extraordinary medium of theater. To be in community and share the most ancient of traditions of human expression, storytelling, is to be aligned with the divine. I believe in language, in kindness, in vulnerability and empathy, in courage and compassion, all of which are necessary for a storyteller to speak to the heart and soul of an audience. Why do theater? Because it makes you a better human, period.”

EMMA GUSTAFSON (Scenic&Prop Design Assistant) she/her – “Theater is art, storytelling, and expression for and with community. The work we create is raw, live, unedited, real, and human. And in a world dominated by screens and filters, being a part of and experiencing theater is more important than ever.” Emma is a freelance theater designer, wig builder, hair stylist, and makeup artist based in rural Minnesota, working with companies throughout the state and across the country, including Minnesota Opera, Geva Theatre, Theatre Latté Da, History Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company, Lakes Area Music Festival, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Guthrie Theatre, LOON, Wolf Trap Opera, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Utah Opera, among others. This is her third show with TTT, and her debut as a scenic and props artisan. She holds a cosmetology license from Aveda Institute Minneapolis, apprenticed in wig-building at Santa Fe Opera, and earned a BA in Theatrical Design from Augsburg University.

CAROLINE A. ZALTRON (Costume Design Assistant) she/her – “I love that theatre allows us to connect with each other in person and that is exactly what we need right now. Art is what makes life worth living.” Caroline is a Brazilian costume designer and technician based in the Twin Cities. She last worked as a costume designer for *Abuelita* (Prime Productions), *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (Stages Theatre Company), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Teatro del Pueblo), *Mamma Mia* (Lyric Arts) and as Costume Design Assistant of *Men on Boats* (TTT). She is thrilled to be part of the creative team of *As You Like It*.