



OpenStage Theatre & Company
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OpenStage Returns to Outdoor Shakespeare with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Kate Austin-Gröen Celebrates Shakespeare's Clever Women and Comic Mischief

FORT COLLINS –OpenStage invites audiences to spend the summer experiencing the upcoming production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* written by William Shakespeare. Directed by Kate Austin-Gröen, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* promises an evening of laughter and mischief at The Center for Creativity from June 7th through July 11th, 2026.

Kate Austin-Groen's work spans directing, writing, improvisation, and new play development. She currently serves as Resident Intimacy Director at OpenStage Theatre & Company. Beyond the stage, Kate has been deeply involved in community arts leadership and advocacy. Kate's mission with *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is to highlight the comedic and farcical edge of William Shakespeare.

The stumbling and bumbling Sir John Falstaff has a plan: Seduce two wealthy housewives and make off with their fortunes. But these "merry wives" are far more clever than he, and are ready to play some tricks of their own. Shakespeare's satire pokes fun at the audacious and overly confident "Falstaffs" of the world, while celebrating brilliant women and the nuance of everyone in between. Walk in, bike in, or drive in for a magical night under the stars!.

The Merry Wives of Windsor plays from June 7 through July 11. All performances start at 7:00 pm. Visit www.openstage.com/the-merry-wives-of-windsor/ for a complete list of performances, including a free student/educator performance (June 4), a pay-what-you-can performance (June 11), and FAB Friday (June 12), which includes a free beer compliments of Odell Brewing Company.

Tickets for *The Cottage* are \$18-\$42. Tickets are available online at openstage.com/the-merry-wives-of-windsor or by calling The Lincoln Center Box Office at 970.221.6730. The box office is open 1pm-6 pm Tuesday-Saturday.

OpenStage's Red Carpet Sponsors are KRFC 88.9 FM, the Odell Family Fund, and Ellen & Todd Wikowski. Season Sponsors are Avogadro's Number, John & Anne Blair, FoCo Food Trucks, Odell Brewing Company, Mike & Marsha Marberry, Poudre Pet and Feed Supply, and Ken & Carol Severson. Grant support is provided by The Thornton Family Foundation, the Downtown Development Authority, City of Fort Collins Fort Fund, Colorado Creative Industries, The National Endowment for the Art Works, OTTERCARES Foundation, and the AWE Fund.

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Performance Dates

Thursday @ 7:00 pm June 4 (Student/Educator), June 11 (Pay-What-You-Can), June 18, July 2

Friday @ 7:00 pm: June 12 (FAB Friday), June 19, June 26, July 3, July 10

Saturday @ 7:00 pm: June 13, June 27, July 11 (Closing Night)

Sunday @ 7:00 pm: June 7 (Opening Night), June 21, June 28, July 5

Performance Location

The Center for Creativity

200 Mathews Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Cast

Mistress Alice Ford

Staci York

Frank Ford

David Austin-Groën

Mistress Margaret Page

Kim Lancaster

George Page

Akolotu Moeloa

Sir John Falstaff

Ryan Fleming

Pistol / Robert

Sarah J. Baker

Bardolph / Simple

Jaya Schane

Nym / John

Matthias Bolon

Robin

Henry Blake

Mistress Quickly

Rebecca Pollyea

Master Quickly / Host

Andrew Brimhall

Sir Hugh Evans

Steven P. Sickles

Anne Page

Annabeth Lofton

Fenton

Robin Rader

Abraham Slender

Darren Cull

Justice Shallow

Tom Cudmore

Direction and Design Team

Director

Kate Austin-Gröen

Assistant Director

Jennifer R. Bray

Stage Manager
Co-Set Designer / Master Carpenter / Technical Director
Properties Designer / Co-Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Costume Designer
Composer
Choreographer
Sound Design
Production Assistant
Production Manager/Producing Artistic Director

Anna Epstein
Ivan Andrade
Libby Shelstad
David Grinnell
Rebecca Evans
Ivan Austin-Gröen
Marissa J. Dienstag
Victoria Villalobos
Molly McGuire
Jacob Offen