



For Immediate Release

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Folger Theatre Announces Lineup of Events for Third Annual Reading Room Festival

Single tickets for all events go on sale today and all-access passes still available

(Washington, DC) —Today, **Folger Theatre** announces its full lineup of events and the complete roster of artists, scholars, and critics participating in the third annual **Reading Room Festival**, a 4-day public convening that invites theatre makers and the public to explore how Shakespeare is adapted, translated, and reimaged for the stage today. The Reading Room Festival will be held at the **Folger Shakespeare Library** January 30–February 2, 2025.

“In our third year, we’re stepping back and examining the broader field,” shares Director of Programming and Performance and Artistic Director of Folger Theatre **Karen Ann Daniels**, “We’ve noticed artists are exploring the impact of Shakespeare in unexpected ways. Many adaptations are exploring specific cultures and languages, which enable the works to center a variety of perspectives. We think the plays we are showcasing this year will engrain a deeper connection and appreciation of Shakespeare today and tomorrow with communities and audiences of all kinds.”

This year’s playwrights and adaptors of Shakespeare’s works include Barry Edelstein, Emily Lyon, Reynaldo Piniella, and Whitney White. Staged readings of their works will be accompanied throughout the festival by post-show conversations facilitated by critics and scholars, workshops led by scholars and artists, panel discussions with artistic leaders and scholars, and community celebrations.

Other highlights of the Reading Room Festival 2025 include:



- The free opening night discussion “Shakespeare as a Starting Point,” which explores how Shakespeare’s works act as a catalyst for contemporary theater-making and connecting to today’s audiences and local communities
- An open rehearsal for “The Beatrice Project,” a nascent work that explores the character Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing* through text and music, and will be co-devised during the festival with playwright Karen Ann Daniels, dramaturg Faedra Chatard Carpenter, and MC Miki Vale
- Interactive workshops that lead participants through writing, revising, and adapting exercises and prompts responding to Shakespeare’s works
- Community-building opportunities, inviting attendees to connect with fellow theater professionals and supporters in a welcoming and festive environment

Single tickets for staged readings, panels, talks, and workshops go on sale today at 12pm for \$20 each, and free student rush tickets are available 30 minutes before each reading with a valid student ID. There are still a limited number of All-Access Passes available for \$150, which include access to all four staged readings, invitations to Reading Room Festival parties, and the full lineup of events detailed in the schedule below. Reading Room Festival All-Access Passes and tickets for individual staged readings are available at [folger.edu/readingroom](https://www.folger.edu/readingroom) or by contacting the Folger box office at (202) 544-7077.

Please visit our press kit for a complete schedule of the Reading Room Festival 2025: www.folger.edu/readingroom-presskit/.

About the Folger Shakespeare Library

The Folger Shakespeare Library makes Shakespeare’s stories and the world in which he lived accessible. Anchored by the world’s largest Shakespeare collection, the Folger is a cultural center where curiosity and creativity are embraced, and conversation is always encouraged. Visitors to the Folger can choose how they want to experience the arts and humanities, from interactive exhibitions to captivating performances, and from path-breaking research to transformative educational programming. The Folger welcomes everyone to connect in their own way—from communities throughout Washington, DC, to communities across the globe. Learn more at www.folger.edu.

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