

**THE TRANSCRIPT of the video announcement from Shakespeare Theatre
Company Artistic Director Michael Kahn**

The last 30 years that I've been privileged to be the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company here in Washington, DC have certainly been the most fulfilling years of the 50 years that I've spent as part of the American theatre. I'm very proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished in that time. We brought the Shakespeare Theatre to national and international prominence, we have a history of exciting, innovative productions, looking at the great plays of the past, especially our resident playwright William Shakespeare. We've done a lot of Shakespeare's plays that had never been seen in this city before, we've also brought a lot of new plays, new adaptations of plays by great authors that have never been seen in America, had them join the repertory of American theatre, and we've also brought a new generation of directors and actors to this material. I'm also very proud of the extraordinary efforts in education that we've done, we have reached so many, many children and have offered over 600,000 people free Shakespeare at Free For All over the years.

I have thought for a couple of years now though that it actually was time for the theatre and for me to move on. I love this theatre it's my home but I'm also very aware that it's time for another generation to come in with new ideas, the same energy, the same vision that I had when I got here and to take this wonderful institution into the future.

I've always felt that it was very important that my successor have a chance to be able to plan their own first season which means that they needed to be engaged at least a year before that season and to be ready to present the 2019-2020 Season as their own. So, I will be resigning in July of 2019.

I'm very grateful to you, not only those of you who have donated your time and your money to the work of this theatre but also to those of you who supported us by your attendance, by your faith in us. And I'm very, very grateful to the city of Washington, D.C. for its huge support not only in my work but in all the work of the Shakespeare Theatre Company. I look forward to the future of the Shakespeare Theatre Company, it's bright, it's exciting, and it is going to be a tremendous future for all of us.

For the original video and for more information, please visit:

www.ShakespeareTheatre.org/MichaelKahn