



## **LiFT- Little Falls Theater Company**

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**SUBJECT:** LiFT's Summer Shakespeare Expands its Reach  
**SOURCE:** Laura Powers

Little Falls, NY – Huzzah! Now in its fourth year of Shakespeare in the Park style performances, LiFT (Little Falls Theater) is bringing 'Much Ado About Nothing' to a new stage this summer. In addition to their Little Falls performances during the city's annual Canal Celebration, the troupe is scheduled to perform at the Utica Zoo.

This comedic play, written toward the middle of Shakespeare's career, is often revered as one of his best comedies given its blend of hearty merriment and reflections on integrity and humiliation. This is a lively play involving gossip, rumors and trickery that all commence in marriage celebrations complete with dance and is performed by a cast of 16 talented performers stretching from Utica to Albany.

Matt Powers, Director of LiFT, explained, "Last year, we agreed to take our show on the road, holding two performances at Caroga Lake which worked well. Knowing that we can successfully put on a show that requires a little bit more traveling, we began to explore additional venue options." It didn't take too long for inspiration to strike, according to Powers. "I have always been a supporter of the Utica Zoo and often commented to my wife about what a fun performance space it would be. Then it hit me – Much Ado at the Zoo!"

Powers proposed his idea to Utica Zoo Executive Director, Andria De Lisle-Heath, who met him with great support. "Andria is a creative person and always thinking about how the zoo can do something a little fresh and different which has really shown in her 5 years there," explained Powers. "I just knew she would welcome LiFT." 'Much Ado' kicks off Monday August 1 at 6pm at the Utica Zoo and is free with admission to the zoo.

LiFT will return to 120 London Bridge Road (the old Jammers) at Caroga Lake again as well on Friday August 5 at 7pm. "It's a fun outdoor venue and a lively crowd," shared LiFT member, Rob Richard. "We're excited to get out there again."

For those looking forward to more revelry with LiFT in Little Falls, or interested in seeing live Shakespeare for the first time, you can catch LiFT's free performances of 'Much Ado About Nothing' during the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Canal Celebration. The merriment is scheduled Thursday August 11 at 6pm at Benton's Landing, and at Sterzinar Park on Saturday August 13 at 4pm and Sunday August 14 at 3pm.

Powers explained “We offer several shows to make our summer Shakespeare available to as many people as possible. This particular type of live theater is so enriching. We want to be able to share that with the community and showcase yet another unique offering rooted in Little Falls.” For more information, please email [liftheater@gmail.com](mailto:liftheater@gmail.com) or like the “LiFT Theater Company” Facebook page.



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