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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Conference of Shakespeare Scholars To be Held at Mark Twain House and Museum

NATIONAL - An annual gathering of top Shakespeare researchers, scholars, and published authors from around the globe will take place Oct. 17 – 20 at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Conn. Members of the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship from the US, Canada, and parts of Europe will converge to share their recent research and findings on the Shakespeare Authorship Question during the four-day conference. The conference will also feature a schedule of presentations available to the public, including a performance of “Is Shakespeare Dead?” by actor Keir Cutler 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

In 2012, the Mark Twain House was named one of the Ten Best Historic Homes in the world in “The Ten Best of Everything,” a National Geographic Books publication. Conference presentations will take place in the 175-seat auditorium in the modern Mark Twain Museum, located next to the Mark Twain House. Twain (Samuel Clemens) lived in the house for 17 years. It is the location where he wrote such classics as “Huckleberry Finn,” “Tom Sawyer,” and “The Prince and the Pauper,” among other great works.

Twain’s importance to the Shakespeare Authorship Question cannot be overstated, as he is perhaps the most prominent writer to express open doubts that William Shakspeare of Stratford was the author of the works of “William Shake-Speare.” The lack of any substantial historical evidence pointing to the man from Stratford, and Twain’s own familiarity with the use of a pseudonymous pen name, had him believing the Stratford story was a myth.

“So far as anybody actually knows and can prove, Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon never wrote a play in his life,” wrote Twain in his publication “Is Shakespeare Dead?” rejecting the myth outright.

The Mark Twain House and Museum is at 351 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT. Additional information is available at www.ShakespeareOxfordFellowship.org.

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Conference Admission

The full conference registration fee is \$270 for SOF members, and \$285 for non-members. Full conference registration includes all conference presentations, three lunches, one dinner, admission to Keir Cutler's performance, and a tour of the Mark Twain House. Daily admission is available ranging from \$45 – \$100. Tickets for "Is Shakespeare Dead?" are available for \$20. Students with valid ID may attend conference presentations at no charge (meals not included).

Public Presentations

Members of the general public are invited to attend select presentations throughout the conference:

4:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, Emmy Award-Winning writer and published author Hank Whittemore will present "The Launch of the Pen Name: Who Knew What and When?" Free admission.

5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, Richard Waugaman, professor of psychology at Georgetown University, will present "Did Shakspere Write Shake-Speare? – Internal and External Meanings of Pen Names." Free admission.

4:45 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, James Norwood, PhD, retired humanities professor from the University of Minnesota, will present "Mark Twain and Shake-Speare: Soul Mates." Free admission.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, actor Keir Cutler presents his one-man show, "Is Shakespeare Dead?" Tickets are \$20.

9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, published author Bonner Miller Cutting presents "Connecting the Dots: How a man who could scarcely write his name became revered as the greatest writer of the English language." Free admission.

11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, Robert Meyers, retired journalist from the Washington Post, presents "Was It Really William? – an overview of the Shakespeare Authorship Question." Free admission.

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