

## 2015-J5062

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending New York Classical Theatre upon the occasion of celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Life and Works of William Shakespeare, to be feted with a year-long celebration

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend New York Classical Theatre in New York City upon the occasion of celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Life and Works of William Shakespeare, to be celebrated with a myriad of events and celebrations planned throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, April 21, 2016, New York Classical Theatre kicked off the year-long celebration of the 400th Anniversary of William Shakespeare at a benefit featuring a Royal Tribute to Board Chair Emeritus, Jon Lukomnik; the event included pop-up performances and an Elizabethan Feast which offered historic foods curated for the modern palate; and

WHEREAS, New York Classical Theatre presents free productions of popular classics and forgotten masterpieces that pop-up in non-traditional public spaces throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, For more than 16 years, New York Classical Theatre has presented approximately 550 free performances for over 165,000 New Yorkers; its productions occur both outdoors in Central Park, Prospect Park,

Battery Park, Governors Island, Battery Park City and Brooklyn Bridge Park, and indoors in Brookfield Place, One Liberty Plaza and various other venues; and

WHEREAS, New York Classical Theatre also plays an important role in revitalizing neighborhoods through its productions; in 2006, it presented Schiller's "Mary Stuart" in Castle Clinton, the first play to be performed there in 100 years, and three years later, its production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" re-opened Castle Clinton after the flooding of Hurricane Sandy; and

WHEREAS, This summer, in celebration of the Bard's life and work, New York Classical Theatre will present two of his most beloved plays, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Winter's Tale"; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the visionary guidance of Board Chair Emeritus, Jon Lukomnik, New York Classical Theatre stands proud and prominent, always looking to the future and the needs of those it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend New York Classical Theatre upon the occasion of celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Life and Works of William Shakespeare, to be celebrated with a myriad of events and celebrations planned throughout the year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Board Chair Emeritus, Jon Lukomnik, New York Classical Theatre.