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City of Beverly Hills, British Stars Honor Shakespeare Anniversary

Press Conference Heralds BritWeek Event at The Wallis

Beverly Hills, Calif. – Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch and Bob Peirce of BritWeek will host a press conference March 24 recognizing the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death and the start of the 10th annual BritWeek in Southern California.

Famed Shakespearian Scholar Louis Fantasia and British actors Michael York, Neil Dickson, Judy Geeson, Jane Carr, Jimmy Akingbola, Joan Van Ark, Jack Lowe and Lexie Helgerstrom will be on hand to accept a proclamation from Mayor Mirisch, declaring Shakespeare 400 Day in Beverly Hills. The actors are members of the cast of Shakespeare's "Murder, Lust & Madness," being performed at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on April 23, the opening night of BritWeek10.

"So much of life's wisdom is found in Shakespeare," Mayor Mirisch said. "We are forever enriched because he saw the world as 'this great stage of fools' with all its humor, sadness and desire."

"To paraphrase the Bard himself 'we come to praise Shakespeare, not to bury him!'" said Fantasia, who is directing the production at the Wallis. "Even though this is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, we are actually celebrating the life and works of the greatest playwright and poet in the English language."

When: March 24, 2015, at 3 p.m.

Where: Beverly Hills Municipal Gallery, 455 N Rexford Dr. 2nd Floor, Beverly Hills. Free parking is available across the street in the Civic Center Parking Structure, 450 N. Rexford Dr.

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