

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LISA COFFI
Producing Artistic Director
ljca@shakespearebythesea.org

SUZANNE DEAN
Development Director
suzanne@shakespearebythesea.org

Board of Directors

AARON AALCIDES
Malaga Bank

MARIE AALCIDES
Wachovia Bank

ELIZABETH BRAZIL
Project & Event Coordination

BRET BRUNS
Sam's Club

KATHLEEN CADIEN
Bubulubu Creations

DEBORAH A. RUIZ
Salud! Communications

MARGARET SULLIVAN
Retired City of Los Angeles

RAY WOLFE
Consultant, GMAC

Mission Statement:

Shakespeare by the Sea's mission is to bring new, contemporary and classical works to underserved, culturally diverse audiences in order to ignite imagination, promote literacy and encourage artistic expression.

Non Profit ID:
95-4785457

Contact: Jenny Hutchen
jenny@shakespearebythesea.org
312-342-0770

A Man of Many Talents

Actor Matthew Brenher –Antony in Shakespeare by the Sea's Antony and Cleopatra -- Prepares for Opening Night

June 18, 2008 - SAN PEDRO, CA. – Cleopatra has met her match this summer, actor Matthew Brenher who plays Antony in Shakespeare by the Sea's *Antony and Cleopatra* opening tomorrow. A talented newcomer to Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS), Brenher looks forward to taking on Antony for the first time in his prosperous career.

"I feel very excited to be playing Antony with SBTS," said Brenher. "It's definitely a big challenge!"

Originally from London, England, Brenher moved to Los Angeles two years ago to pursue acting and has achieved an extensive list of acting credits from both cities including theatre, film, television and as a voice-over artist. Aside from Shakespeare, Brenher has performed in stage productions of *Wuthering Heights*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Seagull*, and *Dracula*, among others. His television credits include *Rules of Engagement* (CBS) opposite David Spade, *The Grid* (HBO), *Brookside* (UK), *Starhunter* (Sci-Fi Channel), and *EastEnders* (BBC1.)

A shy child, Brenher first knew he wanted to be an actor at age 15 after performing in his first skit where he dressed up as a female character named "Toe-Jo." Being on stage just felt right. After that, Brenher's first part was Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, a role he's played three times in total, and since then he has performed in 17 Shakespearian productions.

Some highlights of his Shakespearian resume include Claudius in *Hamlet* (HFC) and Cassio in *Othello* (LASC). In London, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*; Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*, Aaron in *Titus Andronicus*; Banquo in *Macbeth*; Cassius in *Julius Caesar*;

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA

FREE MIDSUMMER MERRIMENT

Jacques in *As You Like It* and Henry in *Henry V*. His favorite role to date was Henry V and his dream is to play Hamlet.

When he's not acting, Matthew enjoys watching movies and sports, sight seeing and reading and is inspired by good acting and genuine talent. In addition to SBTS, Brenher is currently working on *Comedy of Errors* and a filmed version of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

The biggest challenge Brenher faces as an actor? "Keeping it real and being in the moment."

Antony and Cleopatra opens June 19th and will run in repertory with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for five weeks at Point Fermin Park (807 Paseo del Mar, 90731) in San Pedro every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8pm until July 12. SBTS will then begin its tour from July 15 – August 9, performing in Irvine, Lomita, South Pasadena, Manhattan Beach, Glendale, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Lakewood, Laguna Niguel and Newport Beach. SBTS returns to Point Fermin Park for its grand finale performances on Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9 at 8pm. There is a pre-show beginning one half hour prior to curtain at every performance.

For more information on Shakespeare by the Sea and our schedule of performances please visit www.shakespearebythesea.org.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

*Lisa Coffi – Producing Artistic Director for SBTS and Little Fish Theatre: 310.619.0599 or lisa@shakespearebythesea.org

*Matthew Brenher – :310-801-9269 or matthewbrenher@hotmail.com

*David Graham, Director of *Antony and Cleopatra*– 310.343.9378 or onlylivingheartdonor@hotmail.com

#