

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Wengert, SH&G
kwengert@salisburyhouse.org
(515) 274-1777

**Salisbury House Foundation announces
2013 Shakespeare on the Lawn Program**

Des Moines, IA (November 29, 2012) — The Salisbury House Foundation is pleased to announce the return of *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House* in summer 2013. Repertory Theater of Iowa (RTI) will offer William Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on June 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2013 at Des Moines' most beloved Shakespearean setting, Salisbury House & Gardens. Rain dates are scheduled for June 24th and 25th. The dates for this delightful summer play were chosen specifically to include both the Summer Solstice and June's Full Moon, adding an extra dose of magic to an already spectacular offering.

"I am delighted to once again partner with Repertory Theater of Iowa to present *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House* next summer," says Salisbury House Foundation Executive Director J. Eric Smith. "I am proud to claim these experienced Central Iowa artists as creative partners, and can think of no better venue to see Shakespeare than Salisbury House. Our grounds are shaded by ancient oaks, and lined with flower beds evoking the English gardens of Shakespeare's era. Our actors and sets will be framed by the House's distinctive English Tudor stone work, Gothic arches and Carolean brickwork. Our furnishings, library and archives contain many, many items from Shakespeare's time, including a complete second folio edition of the Bard's plays from 1632, along with wooden ceiling beams and wall panels that adorned English homes while Shakespeare's career was in its heyday."

The Salisbury House Foundation is grateful for the lead gift awarded by Principal Financial Group for *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House*, which will also support a Shakespeare Summer Camp for children, and two additional special "one night only" RTI performances at Salisbury House in February and May 2013. Tickets for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are \$25 for adults, \$20 for Salisbury House members and \$5 for students aged 12-18; admission for children 11 and under is free. Lawn chair seating will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring blankets for picnic style seating. Advance ticket purchases may be made at www.salisburyhouse.org or (515) 274-1777. For additional information on the relationship between Salisbury House and William Shakespeare, see the attached point paper: "Why Shakespeare Belongs at Salisbury House." J. Eric Smith is available for interviews on this topic.

Salisbury House & Gardens is a 42-room historic house museum owned and operated by the Salisbury House Foundation. Built by cosmetics magnate Carl Weeks and his wife, Edith, between 1923 and 1928, the estate was modeled after King's House in Salisbury, England, and still houses the Weeks family's historic and significant collection of paintings, sculpture, rare books and documents, antique furniture, and decorative arts.

Repertory Theater of Iowa is a 501(c)3 resident theater ensemble based in and serving Central Iowa. Utilizing a talented cast and crew of local artists, Repertory Theater of Iowa is dedicated to producing high quality theater performances that educate and inspire with their emphasis on language and artistic excellence in their presentations of the classics.

