
SHAKESPEARE

IN NEW MEXICO AND THE WEST



Saturday, February 20 · 1:00 – 4:00 PM

1:00 PM

The Graveyard and the Frontier: Hamlet Among the Buffaloes

Heather James *Associate Professor of English, University of Southern California*

It is a truism in art criticism that 19th-century Western art celebrates the westward passage as a triumph of “manifest destiny” and the “translation of empire.” This lecture, by contrast, traces the opposite story of the doubts, scruples, and premonitions that many artists experienced as they recorded scenes of the conquest of the West.

James will discuss William Jacob Hays’ (1830–1875), *A Herd of Buffaloes on the Bed of the River Missouri*, (painting on view in the exhibition *Stage, Setting, Mood*). Hays intriguingly represents one of his bison in the posture of Shakespeare’s Hamlet—gazing at a skull—perhaps meditating on the extinction of his species.

2:00 PM

The Very Large Shakespeare Array

Marissa Greenberg *Associate Professor of English, University of New Mexico*

Greenberg examines Ramón Flores and Lynn Butler’s “The Merchant of Santa Fe,” a radical New Mexican adaptation of Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice,” set in colonial New Spain. This play was written and performed in the early 1990s amidst a flurry of interest in New Mexico’s “hidden Jews,” the descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jews who fled to this northern outpost of the Spanish empire to evade the Inquisition. Flores and Butler’s use of a regional dialect of Spanish and references to local history invites inquiry into the community-building function of local theater.

3:00 PM

Panel Discussion

Bruce Smith *Dean’s Professor of English, University of Southern California*

Smith will be joined by: **Martin Andrews**, Working Theater Group, Santa Fe; **Ariana Karp**, London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art; and **Robin Williams**, International Shakespeare Center, Santa Fe, to discuss working with Shakespeare’s First Folio as actors and directors.

These free public programs are made possible by a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council.

New Mexico Museum of Art

107 West Palace Avenue on the Plaza in Santa Fe
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