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### **Geneva Cultural Arts Commission hosts free Shakespeare in the Park event July 18**

Geneva, Ill. — Shakespeare is back at Island Park in Geneva.

The Midsummer Theatre Troupe will present a free production of “Taming of the Shrew” at 6 p.m. at the park. Before the play begins, the junior and senior performing company of State Street Dance Studio in Geneva will dance.

Seating will be Ravinia-style; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and picnics. Food will be available for purchase from Mill Race Inn and Graham’s.

“Taming of the Shrew” is about love and marriage, and those wanting to attain that perfect union. Two sisters, one fair and one shrewish, are being courted by various suitors. How and why these men approach the task is brought out in this story. Director, Toni Hix, says that everyone who takes on this play offers a different interpretation of these colorful characters and their schemes to attain that perfect match. She believes the relevance of this play, written in 1592, can still be found everywhere, especially in the “reality” television of today. In 1999, an updated teen version of the story was put on film in “10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU”, starring Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger.

“This is the third year the arts commission is presenting a Shakespeare play as a gift to the community,” said event chair Vic Portincaso.

“Last year we had attendance of 600: this year we expect 1200 people to attend.”

In addition, “2009 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> season of taking our troupe on the road to bring Shakespeare to as many people as possible,” Hix said. The troupe performs in several venues in Kane and DuPage counties each summer. Performers fill their cars with tents, set pieces, costume and a stellar sound system.

Admission is free; a \$5 donation is suggested. Free parking is available at the government center on First Street. It’s just a short walk across the covered bridge across the Fox River to Island Park.

The Geneva Cultural Arts Commission was formed in February 2007. Its mission is to create diverse cultural experiences that engage the community by collaborating with the art community, government, business and education; make the arts accessible to the community and develop new cultural initiatives that encourage economic growth.