

## For Immediate Release:

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Summer Fantasy Theatre in the Park featuring Greco Allusion and Squonk Opera

Saturday, July 29, 2017, on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront

**Norfolk, Virginia (July 24, 2017)** –Norfolk Festevents is proud to present an interactive performance art event that will emerge in Town Point Park, along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront Saturday, July 29, 2017. The performance will explore a meditation of Greco themes and allusions with visual and performance artists, musicians and event designers. This exuberant one-day event is free and open to the public of all ages.

Core Theatre Ensemble brings to life Deborah Wallace’s Niobe – humor, magic, and revenge intermingle in the Greek myth of Niobe, a tale of hubris and the consequences of pride. Patrick Mullins, director of the performance related, “it’s much like American Gods meet House of Cards with a heap of spectacle.”

Audiences are invited to wear a toga, bring a lawn chair or blanket, and wait to become part of the story to create their own unique experience. Discover modern experiential theater magical environments, experience art and become a part of the imaginative tales within the beautiful Town Point Park. Majestic Greek characters such as, Zeus, Achilles, Atlas, Poseidon, and hero gladiators will be roaming throughout the park engaging with the audience and encouraging the audience to participate in the festival activities.

According to legend, Achilles was extraordinarily strong, courageous and loyal, but he had one vulnerability–his “Achilles heel.” Homer’s epic poem, The Iliad, tells the story of his adventures during the last year of the Trojan War. To honor Zeus, Achilles has planned a Midsummer Olympiad. Test your strength as a gladiator, challenge another Olympian in disc throwing, offer your own gift of artistry and skill through archery.

The constellations, as described in Greek mythology, were mostly god-favored heroes and beasts who received a place amongst the stars as a memorial of their deeds. They were regarded as semi-divine spirits-living, conscious entities which strode across the heavens. Every symbol has a story and this is true for the different signs of the zodiac as well. Join us for stargazing and to learn more about your symbol and sign through the Greek Zodiac.



In addition to the stage performance, the Cycle Sonic **Squonk Opera** from Pittsburg, PA will be performing as part of the program. In the tradition of presenting unusual and interactive performance art at the Mid-Summer Fantasy Theatre in the Park, combined with Norfolk's new focus on the Elizabeth River Trail and its Bik-ability Program, **Squonk Opera** will bring to the waterfront open air theatre experience a new outdoor spectacle exploding with human-powered cycles, propelled by their original chamber rock music...and their own legs!

Sounding a joyful music, these parade floats sprout bulb-horns and banners, percussion and whirligigs and become instruments of music - the swirl and thump of wheel and pedal, whistle and bell. A pageant of double-decker bike-stages creates a merry Cycle Sonic ruckus.

Giant, animated bikers circle the audience, with backdrops of undulating flags and 20-foot legs pumping with the rhythm of sustainable power. Forgoing a carbon footprint, this traveling event combines the thrill of live performance with the uncelebrated world of the everyday. The event celebrates the resurgence of bicycles as urban transportation, and includes Squonk's multivalent combination of original music and image that can thrill young audiences, and seduce and bemuse adults, and create communities of imagination.

Cycle Sonic is an extension of Squonk's singular spectacles in public settings, starting with their first show in a Homestead junkyard more than 20 years ago. Squonk has toured to Asia and Europe, played on and off Broadway, received 7 NEA awards, and The New York Times has called them "a multimedia troupe of infinite jest with an imagination to match."

"The 2017 season of the Mid-Summer Fantasy Theatre will be an exciting and truly entertaining collaboration of local actors and musicians with this amazing group of **Squonk Opera** performers," says Norfolk Festevents CEO Karen Scherberger.



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To get a better sense of this amazing moving marvel, visit: <http://squonkopera.org/cycle-sonic>

The festival will feature a variety of unique entertainment, children's activities, craft brews, wines and ciders, as well as gourmet specialty food selection

**Festival hours:** Saturday, July 29, 2017, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

**\*This is a rain or shine event\***

The **Mid-Summer Fantasy Festival** is produced by Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. and The Limbic System, Inc., Patrick Mullins and Janelle Burchfield, sponsored by the City of Norfolk with special support from the Virginia Stage Company, Norfolk State University Theatre Company and Old Dominion University. For more information visit [www.Festevents.org](http://www.Festevents.org) or call 757-441-2345.

**Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.**, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10-month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments; Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk's official event marketing agency since the city's downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun and livable waterfront communities in the country. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2017 season!

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