

EMERITUS REX: SHAKESPEARE'S KING LEAR, A CAUTIONARY TALE FOR RETIREES

ABSTRACT:

Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts at UCSC Paul Whitworth reflects on his experience of rehearsing and playing King Lear, a role he performed for the first time in his career this summer at the Santa Cruz Shakespeare Festival. The talk might be more enjoyable if attendees refresh their familiarity with three texts: *King Lear* and *King Richard II* by Shakespeare, and that old bedside favourite: *The Book of Job*.

BIO:

Paul Whitworth studied Modern Languages at the Universities of St. Andrews and Oxford. His professional acting career began at the Royal Shakespeare Company (1976-1982). He has acted and directed in a wide range of theatres in the UK and the USA. In 1984, he joined Shakespeare Santa Cruz, serving as Artistic Director from 1996 to 2007. He was particularly proud to initiate the collaboration between UCSC and SSC to produce the Winter Holiday 'Pantos' by Kate Hawley.