

'King Lear' coming for Luna fundraisers

Stars Andre Braugher, Ami Brabson, Suzanne Douglas, and Frankie Faison will be among the performers in a staged reading of "King Lear" in two fundraisers for Luna Stage.

The reading, a benefit for Luna Stage, is scheduled for Jan. 7 and 8 at its Valley Road theater. Luna Stage, at 555 Valley Rd. in Orange, is part of the Valley Arts District of Orange and West Orange.

"King Lear," by William Shakespeare, will feature an African-American cast which will be directed by internationally acclaimed Shakespearean director, Rob Clare.

Clare is an internationally known Shakespeare specialist. He was staff director at the British National Theatre, where he first worked

on "King Lear," with Anthony Hopkins in the title role, associate artistic director of the British-touring Compass Theatre, and led the classical acting master's program at the Central School on London.

Unaware of what the consequences will be for his family, King Lear divides his kingdom's land among his daughters. Ultimately he loses a child and places his kingdom in peril. The notion of making choices for political gain, instead of the stability of a family or nation, could hardly be more relevant.

• A member of Luna Stage's board of directors, Frankie Faison received a Tony Award and Drama Desk nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the brain-dam-

aged Gabriel to James Earl Jones' Troy Maxon in August Wilson's "Fences," and has performed in films and the television drama, "The Wire."

• Andre Braugher is best known for his roles in the television series, "Homicide: Life on the Street" and "Men of a Certain Age."

• NAACP Image Award-winning actress Suzanne Douglas has performed on Broadway, in "The Three Penny Opera," film, starring opposite Angela Bassett in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," and television, in WB's "The Parent' Hood" starring Robert Townsend.

Tickets are available by calling 973-395-5551 or on the Luna Stage website: www.lunastage.org.