Entertainment



Classic actor explores bard's life

Brian Bedford will present "The Lanatic, the Lover and the Poet" on the American Artists Series at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Cranbrook's Kingswood audito-rium in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets at \$25 are available by calling 851-5044.

By Cathle Breidenbach special writer

ILLIAM SHAKESPEARE went through
a mid-life crisis centuries before the poppsych term was even invented, and a

distrust of women accompanied his middle-aged discrehantment. In Brian Bedford's two-hour festival of Shakespera called "The Lanatic, the Lover and the Poet," the acclaimed actor — who is a percand al box office fayorite at Ontario's Strafford Pestival — reveals his insights into the mind of Shakespeare. In a phone interview from Washington, D.C. Bedford said he is surprised how many sophisticated people don't know the facts of the bard's life. "Shakespeare's father was mayor "Shakespeare's father was mayor

bard's life.
"Shakespeare's father was mayor of Strafford," Bedford said. "William was married at 18. Before he was 21 he had a wife and three children. He had a middle-aged decline similar to what his father experienced."

enced."

Bedford's show ties in documented biographical facts about Stake-speare with the sonnets and speeches from the plays to create "a dramatic portrait of Shakespeare using his own words."

BEDFORD EXPLAINED the show is "not just Shakespeare's greatest hits. What I'm trying to do is create the character of Shake-speare. Everything works to that end. Lots of people see him as a high-fallutini, oracular, god-like man. I see him as a very hunian being who experiences love, bate, ecstasy, despair."

To, illustrate the beginnings of what Bedford calls the bard's 'mid-dle-aged decline,' he quined the happy country song from "As You Like It." May be a fine of the standard of the sta BEDFORD EXPLAINED the

DANCING

Music performed by The Billy Prince Quartet Every Thursday - Saturday Trening 4222 Second Ave. Detroit MI (313) 833 • 9425



Brian Bedford stars in one-man show about Shake-

speeches and of the hitter exite, Timon. He included some of those
speeches in "The Lunalic, the Lover
and the feet and said the hitter langoars." In Shore upchack, It's Shake
speaker, It's Shake
speaker, It's Shake
speaker in the speaker in the speaker
before domins it was a challenge
to find the real man beneath the approximately 1,200 characters the
bord created. "Shakespeare successfully masks his own personality. He
wasn't interested in psychological
therapy. He wanted to write wonderfully enthralling theater."
Bedford read the sonnets and the
plays over- and over to find the
charks through which he could
climic the playeright, to find "what
might be straight from the horse's
month." He cited Hamlet's instruction to the actors who have come to
Elsanore castle as such a chirk. "It
has no narrative value, and it was

SELECTIONS IN the show include

own artistic mandate."

SELECTIONS IN the show include a gallery of Shakespeare's male characters. With only the actor's art (no costumes or sets) and Shakespeare's infinitable language, Beddespeare's language, Beddespeare

murders."
In more than 31 years as a classical actor, Bedford has become intimately acquainted with Shakespeare's plays, having played most lead male roles at one time or another. He said, "The sonnets (which he Smiley Brothers 1

includes in the show) were a comparatively new discovery for me. They comprise an enigrantic documentary of part of Shakespeares Bife, and I got on intimate terms with them. They weren't published until Shakespeare was 45, except for two which were leaked out when he was 35.

which were leaked out when he was 35."

LAST WINTER Bedford took "The Lunatite, the Lover and the Poet" on a surcessful "20-25 city" international tour that included Canada and Moxico This winter the timerary includes 26 cities. Later this month, Bedford will perform his one-man show at Wayne State University's fullburry Theorier in Berrott.

On tour, every performance is different. The acoustics of the houses are considered to the state of the control of the control



- Hiller

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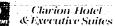
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