

## Michigan Shakespeare Festival

What: Presents *Macbeth* and *Comedy of Errors*  
 When: Opens with a *Macbeth* preview Tuesday, July 17, and continues Thursday-Sunday through Aug. 5  
 Where: Ella Sharp Park, Jackson. For directions, call (517) 787-8200, ext. 3244  
 Tickets: \$14, \$8 children ages 12 and under, \$12 preview, \$12 afterglow July 19 and 20. Call (517) 782-3221 or visit the Web site at [www.michiganshakespeare.org](http://www.michiganshakespeare.org)  
 Family show  
 ■ *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?* 5:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 21-22, 28-29 and Aug. 4-5. Tickets \$6, children under age 12 free

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drow actors from Detroit, Chicago and Toledo for auditions; New York actors submitted resumes.

"I'm particularly excited about the juxtaposition of two plays and that Gillian Eaton is back directing, and the equity actors are particularly gifted," said Neville-Andrews.

Eaton returns to the festival for a second year, this time to direct *Comedy of Errors*. The Plymouth actress founded her own touring company, *Shakespeare*, just as she could produce the Bard's words. An actress with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the early 1970s, Eaton thinks more audiences and actors would enjoy Shakespeare if they were able to watch or work with the plays as she and *Shakespeare* did when performing a spoof at the Plymouth Community Arts Council last October. *Shakespeare* co-founder Terry Heck and her husband, John Seiber, both equity actors, appear in *Comedy of Errors*.

Set in the 1950s in Syracuse and Ephesus, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival production remains true to the text, which spins a tale about mistaken identities, but updates the Bard's words by adding music.

"We're using music of 1950s hoping people will come out and have a Twist contest," said Eaton, who moved to the U.S. six years ago from London. Since then she's directed *Shakespeare* and taught at the Hilberry Theatre in Detroit. After the Michigan Shakespeare Festival closes, Eaton directs *Dear Liar* at the Center Repertory Theatre in San Francisco then *Romeo and Juliet* at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in October. In January, she performs in *Elizabeth Rex* at the Performance Network in Ann Arbor.

"I wanted to contrast *Macbeth*," said Eaton. "I thought we would make it fun and light. One of the reasons I chose to set it in the 1950s is because dealing with heat is a problem. The attire of the 1950s is less cum-

bersome than Elizabethan frocks.

"Even though we began rehearsing in mid-June in the same hall as the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, the challenge doesn't begin until we get outdoors. Performing in an outdoor venue is much different because there are no boundaries. It requires more projection by actors, more commitment on the audience's part because of distractions. You can't create a mood by lighting."

## Children's theater

As if offering two Shakespeare productions back to back weren't enough to attract the attention of theater goers, Neville-Andrews plays to children by offering free admission for ages 12 and under to *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?*

"Adults as well as children will be interested in *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?*," said director Timm Richardson. "I think it will be a hoot for the kids but it

doesn't patronize them. It's a piece of wonderful children's theater with lots of audience participation. It breaks the fourth wall all over the place.

"This is one hungry wolf who doesn't care what he eats. It's a combination, *Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood* all in one story. It's very fun stuff for children. I don't believe in trying to scare children. We have a 5-foot-four wolf - Cornelius B. Wolf. We used B.B. King music instead of the theme from *Jaws* called for in the story. We've got a French woodsman who's a leftover 1950s Beatnik and Red is a Valley girl."

The eight cast members should help ease the fears of children as well. Richardson, drum director at Lumen Christi High School in Jackson, chose high school and college students to play the parts.

"We wanted the local young people involved to be getting an extremely professional experience," said Richardson. "When they get contracts in the mail they were surprised. I told them we take care of everything else. All you have to worry about is your role."

Jeffrey Stringer isn't as worried about his roles as the weather. Last year's production of *Richard III* proved to be rather surreal when a torrential rain storm set the mood for the final act.

Stringer plays, the porter and Caliban in *Macbeth* and bit parts in *Comedy of Errors*.

"It's been fun, a nice group of people, easy to work with but it has its moments. The biggest adjustment is the volume," said Stringer, a writer and copy editor for Border's headquarters in Ann Arbor. "My favorite performance was *Richard III*. There was a rain storm for one of the night shows and by the final sword fight it was pouring rain but we finished and it was an amazing experience."

"Performing outside is such a neat experience. I describe it as a lot like being at camp. It's this peaceful, beautiful environment."

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Movies to open Friday, July 13

## THE CLOSET

Forty-year-old Francois Pignon is a guy who nobody ever notices. He leads a dull and uninteresting life. He is a quiet accountant whose wife has left him and whose son ignores him. Then he accidentally discovers he is about to be fired. Desperate to save his job, Pignon looks to his neighbor, a retired corporate psychologist, for help. His neighbor devises an outrageous scheme to solve his problem. Pignon will come out of a closet he never went into when his neighbor spreads the rumor that will

have his entire company thinking he's gay. Stars Daniel Auteuil, Gerard Depardieu and Thierry Lhermitte.

## LEGALLY BLONDE

The story centers on Elle, a blonde who is dumped by her boyfriend and decides to attend Stanford Law School so she can meet a better class of men. Despite not being taken seriously at first, she becomes a lawyer and ends up representing a murder suspect in Beverly Hills. Featured players include Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Matthew Davis, Linda Cardellini and Selma Blair.

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WATER WEEKEND

Fee:  
 \$2 Adult/ Teen  
 \$1 Under 12  
 \$4 Family of 3+

EVENTS:

Friday • July 27  
 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Family Pool Party  
 Lake Orion High School

Saturday • July 28  
 9 - 10:30 AM  
 11:00 AM  
 6:00 PM

Water Events Orion Oaks County Park  
 Fishing Derby @ Lake 16/Orion Oaks Joslyn Rd. Entrance  
 Paddle Boat Races @ Lake 16/Orion Oaks Joslyn Rd. Entrance

Beach Party • Civic Center Park • 2525 Joslyn Rd.  
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