

Stage set this summer on Chicago's Navy Pier

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Besides being known as "The Windy City," Chicago is gaining a reputation for outstanding Shakespearean Theatre.

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, founded in 1980 as Shakespeare Repertory, opened a \$24 million, seven-story theater facility on Navy Pier in October. It was an instant success with many sold-out performances.

"Chicago has embraced the theater," said Criss Henderson, executive director of the theater. "Shakespeare has become one of the hottest tickets in Chicago, and no one imagined that."

Summer is the pier's on season, but the theater's off season. Henderson believed it was a fact the theater couldn't ignore.

Summer on Stage at Navy Pier opening Wednesday, June 21, and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 20, offers a musical, comedy and introduction to Shakespeare for the whole family.

If you go

What? Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier, call (312) 595-5600 for tickets and information or visit online at www.chicagoshaakes.com.

Summer season: June 22-Aug. 20

- Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet - 11 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, beginning June 29. Tickets \$15 adults, children age 12 and younger \$10
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, beginning June 21. Audiences at the Wednesday and Saturday shows are invited to enjoy the Navy Pier's evening fireworks displays from the theater's lobbies. Tickets \$38 adults, \$28 children, ages 12 and under.
- Hamlet: The Musical - 8 a.m. Thursday, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday, beginning June 22. All seats \$20.

2000-2001 Season

- Two Gentlemen of Verona - Sept. 8-Nov. 5
- The School for Scandal - Nov. 21-Jan. 14
- King Lear - Feb. 9-April 15
- Peter Brook's Hamlet - Opens in May 2001
- The Herbal Bed - Oct. 11-Dec. 10

Three play subscription tickets \$114 for weekend series, \$81 for weekday series, and \$59 for preview series. Single tickets \$45 for weekends, \$32 for weekdays and \$28 for previews. Tickets for Hamlet are \$75, and not included in the subscription series. Tickets for The Herbal Bed, presented in the Studio Theatre, \$28-\$32.

The season begins with Marriotti Theatre in Lincolnshire's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. "It's a really exciting Broadway style musical," said Henderson. "It's wonderful musical theater and should be delightful presented in this intimate setting."

The Second City, a Chicago tradition, is presenting Hamlet the Musical, a funny reworking of the bard's popular work that incorporates pop culture and original '60s-style tunes, Thursday-Friday beginning June 22. Families visiting the pier during the day can learn about Shakespeare's most famous couple - Romeo and Juliet - while enjoying Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet. A 15-minute discussion with cast members follows each 11 a.m. performance presented Thursday-Sunday beginning June 29.



Title role: Bernie Yvon stars in the title role of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," part of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's "Summer on Stage at Navy Pier."

Navy Pier offers the best views of Lake Michigan, and that's another reason to visit.

It's not too early to begin thinking about fall and making reservations for the theater's 2000-2001 subscription season.

It opens Sept. 8 with The Two Gentlemen of Verona, a "wonderful but seldom produced comedy," said Henderson.

The School for Scandal, based on the Stratford Festival of Canada's production, opens Nov. 21, followed by King Lear on

Feb. 9. Peter Brooks will direct award-winning actor Adrian Lester in the title role of Hamlet in a production scheduled to open in May 2001.

The Herbal Bed, written by British playwright Peter Whelan, which tells the story of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, who was publicly accused of adultery and later sued for slander, opens Oct. 11 in the Studio Theatre. Whether you make plans visit in the summer, fall, winter or spring, Henderson says you won't be disappointed.

Stratford and Shaw festivals feature works by Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde is the featured attraction this summer at Ontario's Stratford and Shaw festivals.

The caustic wit whose comedies and life shocked Victorian and Edwardian England has been enjoying a revival on London and New York stages in recent years. Both his controversial life and his hilarious plays will be front and center at the two theater festivals, which are now in early previews.

The Stratford Festival is holding a Wilde lovefest this summer. They will present a staging of Wilde's most popular play The Importance of Being Earnest, through Nov. 4 at the Avon Theatre. Wilde's life and his controversial trial for being a homosex-

ual will be examined in Maxim Mazumdar's Oscar Remembered, which will be staged Sept. 8-29 at the Tom Patterson Theatre. In addition, there will be a series of programs on Wilde's influence and works in August.

At the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wilde is a regular attraction as a contemporary of Bernard Shaw. This year he is represented by A Woman of No Importance, through Sept. 24 at the Court House Theatre.

Official opening week at the Stratford Festival begins May 29.

The Festival Theatre will feature: Hamlet, by William Shakespeare with Paul Gross as Hamlet, through Nov. 5.

The Three Musketeers, by Peter Raby from Alexandre Dumas' novel, through Nov. 4. Fiddler on the Roof, book by Joseph Stein from Sholom Aleichem stories, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, through Nov. 4.

Turquoise, by Mollers translated by Richard Wilbur with Brian Bedford in the title role, Aug. 1 to Nov. 3

The Avon Theatre will feature: As You Like It, by William Shakespeare, through to Nov. 4.

The Diary of Anne Frank, by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman, through Nov. 5. The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde,

through Nov. 4. Patience in concert by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, July 11 to Oct. 13.

At the Tom Patterson Theatre: Titus Adonicus, by William Shakespeare, June 8 to Sept. 30. Medea by Euripides, adapted by Robinson Jeffers, June 6 to Oct. 1.

Elizabeth Rex, by Timothy Findley with Paul Thompson, with Diane D'Aquila as Elizabeth I, June 21 to Sept. 30.

Collected Stories, by Donald Margulies, featuring Uta Hagen, July 21 to Sept. 2.

Oscar Remembered, by Maxim Mazumdar, Sept. 8-29. For ticket information, call 1-(800)687-1800. You can also

reach Stratford at its Web site, www.stratford-festival.on.ca.

Shaw Festival

The Shaw Festival officially opened the week of May 21.

At the Festival Theatre: The Doctor's Dilemma, by Bernard Shaw, through Oct. 29.

Easy Virtue, by Noel Coward, through July 21.

Lord of the Flies, by Nigel Williams from the novel by William Golding, July 5 to Oct. 29.

The Matchmaker, by Thornton Wilder, Aug. 12 to Nov. 11.

At the Court House Theatre: A Woman of No Importance, by Oscar Wilde, through Sept. 24. The Apple Cart, by Bernard Shaw, June 9 to Sept. 23.

A Room of One's Own, by Patrick Garland from the essay by Virginia Woolf, June 27 to Sept. 22.

Six Characters in Search of an Author, by Luigi Pirandello, Aug. 11 to Sept. 23.

At the Royal George Theatre: Time and the Conways, by J.B. Priestly, through Oct. 28.

She Loves Me, book by Joe Masteroff, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, through Oct. 29.

Still Life, by Noel Coward, June 17 to Sept. 10.

For ticket information, call 1-(800)611-SHAW. You can also reach the festival at its Web site, www.shawfestival.com.

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Festival Lineup

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Tim Bowman
Alexander Zanjic & Friends
Roger Smith • Dave Koz
George Benson • Alex Bugnon

Sunday, June 4
Gates open at 12 noon
Modern Tribe • Ken Navarro
Brian Culbertson
with Special Guest Lori Parry
Doc Powell • Rick Braun
Boney James

Tickets available at all TicketMaster locations and the Southfield Civic Center. Charge by Phone at (248) 645-6666. Tickets for Friday, \$15 each; Saturday & Sunday \$25 per ticket/day. Prices at the gate: Friday, \$20; Saturday/Sunday \$30.

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