

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIE

Sweet 'Merry Wives,' tragic 'Coriolanus' challenge the cast

The actors in a great repertory company transform themselves each night. They busy themselves in the playwright's imagination, one night a clown and the next a tragic prince.

ON STAGE

Midnight's Children: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, March 12-15, & 1:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 15-16

Shakespeare's last tragedy has only recently gained respect for its complex privilege and democracy.

The University Musical Society in Ann Arbor is presenting London's Royal Shakespeare Company in two of the Bard's plays that are polar opposites in character, tone and style.

This year the choice of two such different Shakespeare plays allows the audience a chance to see several outstanding actors in roles that test their range and offer audiences a fine contrast.

'MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR' In the early days of television, the sponsor decided what went on the air. Apparently that's the way it worked in Shakespeare's time as well.

Richard Cordery has a magnificent command of Shakespeare's English. When he speaks the lines, they flow as naturally as speech and each word is given its proper weight and meaning.

He moves his bulk with a self-satisfied swagger, seeing a charm in himself that eludes others.

The result is an early example of situation comedy. Though not one of Shakespeare's great comedies, it does have an amusing plot, fast word play (some lost to time) and several comic types that good actors can bring to life.

Director Rachel Kawanagh has chosen to set the characters more modern setting, post-WWII England. The inspiration for the setting being lines in the text about Falstaff and his entourage of now disengaged soldiers, a disolute lot if ever there was one.

The amusing, middle-aged Falstaff is plotting to enrich himself by seducing two married women and stealing from their husbands. The two women have different ideas and set about giving the old buffoon his comeuppance, not once but three times. In a side plot, three suitors pursue the young Mistress Page.

At the center of things is the great Richard Cordery as Falstaff. Cordery has a magnificent command of Shakespeare's English. When he speaks the lines, they flow as naturally as speech and each word is given its proper weight and meaning.

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Table with multiple columns listing movie titles, theaters, and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The Merry Wives of Windsor', 'Coriolanus', 'The Merchant of Venice', etc.

Concert showcases woodwinds

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings brings a collection of woodwind masterpieces to the historical Christ Church.

An encore presentation, will take place at Temple Shir Shalom on Sunday, March 30.

'Beethoven's Wind Music' with University of Michigan Musicology Professor Steven Whiting will be presented as a preview to the March 30 concert at 2:15 p.m.

Contributing student artists include: Jenne McCormick, Grace Karzewski of Livonia, Jennifer Lilley of Redford, and Magnolia Lake of Southfield.

The exhibit '9 Women' featuring works by seven artists at Madonna University.

Dodd of Waterford. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.