

NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
2014 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



ROMEO AND JULIET

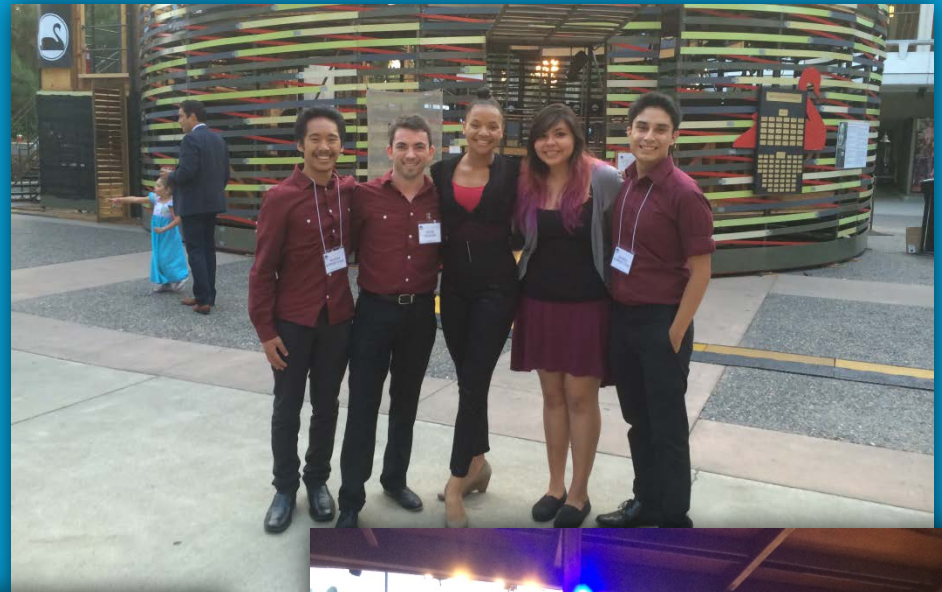


DIRECTED BY CAL MCLEAN

TWELFTH NIGHT



DIRECTED BY ELI SIMON



BEHIND THE SCENES



Above: Shakespeare at UC's New Swan Theater. Right: Shakespeare OC actors Amanda Torr and Miguel Paredo rehearse "Midsummer Night's Dream"



Shakespeare by the Sea's production of Hamlet and A Midsummer Night's Dream were a hit in Newport's Bonita Cal Sports Park in July and the same at Irvine Valley College August 1-3 in Seal Beach August 3. If you miss you can see Dana Point Theater Co's free show of Shakespearean scenes Larston Bay Park August 21 and the most anticipated and ambitious production is South Coast Repertory's production of Hamlet at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Long Beach August 21-23.

SoCal's summer of Shakespeare is well under way, and isn't it wonderful? The idea that we can see masterpieces from the canon of world culture performed in parks, playhouses and under the stars every year is sort of amazing.

UC Irvine's New Swan Shakespeare Festival is ongoing through August 30, with productions of Twelfth Night and Romeo and Juliet performed outdoors and in the round at the cool New Swan Theater on campus.

August 1 is the final show of Shakespeare OC's innovative production of A Midsummer Night's Dream that's set in Polynesia during the 1700s and was co-produced by and features dancers and musicians from Garden Grove's Polynesian dance group, Hula O'le Ila.

Shakespeare OC's production of Romeo and Juliet, scheduled for September, has been pushed back to 2015 because of the popularity of the group's non-Shakespeare productions in The Garden Grove Amphitheater.

A Tale of Two Shakespeares

A worthy pair of plays spans Orange County's vast production chasm

By Joel Beers Thursday, Aug 7 2014



Comments (0) A A A 8+1

A tale of two Shakespeare companies is in a relationship with the well-funded, respected UC Irvine theater department and the more modest performance venues you will ever see; the other a gypsy troupe that stages its plays on passes a collection basket during intermission—after you've already paid for a ticket.

But while the New Swan Shakespeare Festival and the Alchemy Theatre may differ in financial support, physical place and, some could argue, dignity (a collection basket, in fact that each pulls off an enjoyable production proves that as long as you have a corner and space for people to stand, sit or lie down, theater can be produced anywhere.

...have to work a lot harder outside to make it work.



P. Kennedy

Is that you or thou?

This is the third year the New Swan Shakespeare Festival has taken court in Irvine. Though a professional production, it is closely affiliated with UCI, the director Eli Simon being a theater professor at the university. Its New Swan Theater is a 19-foot-tall, portable, open-roofed mini-Elizabethan theater, basically a three-level cylinder made of wood that can seat up to 130. With tiered seating areas, from on the floor to the balcony,

Coast Magazine

"The production of Twelfth Night was one of the handful of Shakespeare plays I have ever seen in Orange County that really stood out. I've seen so much, and so much of it is mediocre at best. There are always a few rusty links in the ensemble chain, but not this one. Very, very enjoyable."

— Joel Beers, OC Weekly

New Swan Shakespeare Festival returns to UC Irvine

Plays will be performed over seven weeks in Elizabethan-style theater.

BY SHANE NEWELL
STAFF WRITER

Eli Simon knows a thing or two about giving William Shakespeare's plays a breath of fresh air.

Simon serves as the artistic director for the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, a seven-week-long event to be hosted at UC Irvine from Thursday through Aug. 30.

The third annual festival features performances of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Twelfth Night" in an authentic 125-seat theater-in-the-round. The theater - which weighs 30,000 pounds and sits in the center of campus - sits in storage for most of the year. It has two seating tiers and is modeled in Elizabethan-style.

Simon, a UC Irvine professor who has been involved in the festival since its inception, worked to make a Roaring '20s adaptation of "Twelfth Night" for this year's festival. He said the characters in the plays are based on iconic figures of the decade, including Greta Garbo and comedy-duo Laurel and Hardy.

Simon said it was a challenge balancing the comedic and romantic aspects in "Twelfth Night."

"I'm always hoping that we'll strive to find a perfect balance and it's hard to find



VICTOR M. POSADAS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alex White, Benji Coelho and Vinny Tangherlini, from left, rehearse a scene from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" on Saturday at the New Swan Theater.

New Swan Shakespeare Festival

What: Third annual festival celebrating Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and "Romeo and Juliet."

When: Thursday to Aug. 30

Where: UC Irvine's Gateway Plaza

Cost: Prices start at \$25 per person

Information: news.wanshakespeare.com; www.arts.ucl.edu/tickets

Simon said being in a theater-in-the-round is "mirvana" for both the actors and audience members. He said the theater is optimal for the audience, since no one sits further than 10 feet from where the actors perform.

Adam Schroeder, who portrays Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet," is familiar with the famous play after working on multiple productions of it since 2008. He said he especially enjoyed working under "Romeo and Juliet"

we present the play to the audience in its purest form then they can be moved the story itself."

Unlike its adapted counterpart "Twelfth Night" and "Romeo and Juliet," is set Elizabethan-era

Simon, who has traveled across the globe for various stage productions, said he noticed Shakespeare's ability to connect with world audiences. He thinks the theater has the ability to unite everyone.

"I've found that the really are universal truths that bind us as people as performers," Simon said. "Part of that is the love coming together and using in the spirit of theater participate in the ritual of telling stories and revealing in them."

In conjunction with the play performances, UC Irvine will host a seminar series on topics ranging from masculinity in "Romeo and Juliet" to love and "loves-

examiner.com

Exclusive: Daniel Radcliffe and cast talk 'What If' at New York premiere

'Twelfth Night' and 'Hyperbole: bard' at UCI's New Swan, 'Tempest' brewing



Jordian Young
LA/OCS Examiner

August 5, 2014

After seeing a production of "Twelfth Night" last year, I decided it wasn't one of Shakespeare's better plays. New Swan's current production (running through Aug. 30 at the New Swan Theater) is a much better production than I thought. It's also a much funnier play than I realized, at least in the director Eli Simon, who's cleverly reimaged the Bard's world of Illyria as Hollywood of the 1920s to take charge of the zany goings-on.

Studio mogul Duke Orsino (David Novell) is ostensibly in command, and his tangled love triangle with Olivia (Samantha Aneson) and shipwreck survivor Viola (Rosemary Brownlow), who's disguised as a man, is the central plot. But vaudevillian Feste (Joshua Blair), Olivia's uncle Sir Toby Belch (Sean Spann) and the mad doctor Andrew Ageuchek (Greg Ungar) are the lunatics running the asylum and making a mockery of



Rose Brownlow, middle, plays the role of Viola, the twin sister of Sebastian, in William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" during the 3rd Annual New Swan Shakespeare Festival on Saturday at the New Swan Theater on the campus of UC Irvine. Hayley Rose, right, plays the role of Olivia. Photo by Victor M. Posadas.

OC WEEKLY Calendar

- NEWS CALENDAR MUSIC RESTAURANTS ARTS FILM VIDEO BEST OF PROM
- OC EVENTS | TOP PICKS | SUBMIT AN EVENT | EVENTS NEWSLETTER | GET MOBILE | ENTERTAINMENT ADS | TICKETS

OC WEEKLY Summer Concert SWEEPSTAKES ENTER HERE

New Swan Shakespeare Festival's Twelfth Night

Claire Trevor School of Arts, UC Irvine

By ANDREW TOMKOVICH Thursday, Jul 10 2014

Comments (0) A A A

- Like Share 0 Tweet 0 Submit Pocket 0 +1 0



You'll understand the "no late seating" warning if you first take in the amazing New Swan Shakespeare Festival's sustainable, portable outdoor mini-Elizabethan theatre in daylight hours, a reproduction built adjacent the Langson Library which is gorgeous even without the actors and audience. Constructed seasonally on the UC Irvine campus, this ultimate, intimate



Riviera Magazine

[ART & CULTURE]

CALENDAR

JULY 2014



Directed at UCI, the model after the Row (Down Elizabeth's Row at Chamberlain's (Finnish Seating). The Groundlings and more info: [shakespeare.com](http://www.shakespeare.com).

drawings and paintings made of wood, a paper used for origami. Free. Alachua Cultural Center, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, 714.738.6195. thecook.org

JULY 11-13
O.C. Brew Hee How
Love exploring new brews! Then you won't want to miss this craft-beer roundup. You'll taste 40-plus selections from the region's top breweries.

JULY 10-AUG. 29
Romeo and Juliet As part of the New Swan Shakespeare Fest, you can experience the playwright's most beloved tragedy in the round.

mission to find a cure for the life-threatening disease. 60m. Tickets from \$350, VIP tickets \$500. Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa, 21500 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach, 714.938.1393. julesintore.com

JULY 19-20
Dubla Show & Contest
Calling all green thumbs! Diverse of

5 Worth the Drive Westaways

Butterfly Pavilion

Through September—Get a close-up look at the spectacular fireworks display. While you wait for the 9 p.m. show, you can listen to live music, or explore the interactive Ty Warner Sea Center. You can also peruse vendors selling jewelry, hats, arts and crafts, shells, fossils, and fishing supplies. Santa Barbara Water Taxi's kid-friendly Lil' Toot tugboat takes passengers around the wharf. Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara. stearnswharf.org.

4th of July at Stearns Wharf

July 4—Come early and snag a spot for the spectacular fireworks display. While you wait for the 9 p.m. show, you can listen to live music, or explore the interactive Ty Warner Sea Center. You can also peruse vendors selling jewelry, hats, arts and crafts, shells, fossils, and fishing supplies. Santa Barbara Water Taxi's kid-friendly Lil' Toot tugboat takes passengers around the wharf. Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara. stearnswharf.org.

New Swan Shakespeare Festival

July 10-August 30—Professional actors share the stage with UC Irvine drama professors, students, and alumni to put on two Shakespeare productions at the portable New Swan Theater near the university's Aldrich Park. There are no bad seats in the circular, open-air Elizabethan-style theater, where audiences will be treated to performances of Romeo and Juliet and Twelfth Night. Gateway Commons on UC Irvine campus. Irvine. (949) 824-2787. www.news.wanshakespeare.com



Search by keyword: (advanced search)

Search by date: Start date End date

Search by date range: Today/Tomorrow/Next: 71430 Days

Romeo and Juliet

Presented by New Swan Shakespeare Festival at University of California, Irvine
July 10 - August 29, 2014

But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. The fatal ennui houses sets the scene for this classic tragedy of thwarted love (read more ...)

TOP 10 PERFORMING ARTS