Summer 7-9-2013

A Comedy of Errors Brings Winthrop Amphitheatre to Life

Winthrop University
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ROCK HILL, S.C. — For many theatre productions, the action is limited to the stage. But with Shakespeare Carolina's “A Comedy of Errors,” opening July 11, anywhere is fair game—including the audience space at Winthrop University’s Amphitheatre.

“A Comedy of Errors” is one of William Shakespeare’s earliest plays. It is also one of his shortest and silliest, and the Shakespeare Carolina actors will bring it to life through slapstick humor and creative setting. The Amphitheatre will be treated as an outdoor festival, with street performers and vendors, possibly even magic and juggling.

Shakespeare Carolina co-founder Chris O’Neill has described the production as what would happen if the Woodstock festival and the Montreaux Folk Festival got into a fight with each other. The play revolves around a world comprised of outdoor art festivals. Some of the festival communities are more natural—like the main setting Ephesus—while others are more technologically advanced, like the Syracuse community.

However, the hilarity ensues when the two communities collide in a drastic case of mistaken identity.

The production features numerous Shakespeare Carolina veterans—David Hensley, Katie Bearden, Nathan Rouse, Norman Burt, Ted Patterson, Amanda Liles, Megan York and Manu Barbe along with several newcomers: Heather Busch, Harold Skinner, Melissa Frierson, Loren Mixon and Sara Sopki.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. July 11-13 and 18-20 with matinees at 3 p.m. July 14 and 21. Tickets are $8 for adults. Children younger than 13 years old are free with an adult. It is a cultural event. Tickets can be ordered online.

Shakespeare Carolina is a culturally diverse organization that promotes color and gender blind casting. Shakespeare Carolina seeks to promote the universality of the classical canon to audiences that may not otherwise be exposed to the works of world’s greatest playwright. It is Shakespeare Carolina’s goal to grow into one of the region’s premiere cultural institutions, providing educational outreach as well as educational, technical and artistic opportunities for all segments of York County’s population.