

NEWS RELEASE



CACHE VALLEY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Ellen Eccles Theatre • Bullen Center • Thatcher-Young Mansion

A Fresh Interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream is coming to Logan

CEDAR CITY, Utah — The Utah Shakespearean Festival's ever-expanding Shakespeare-in-the-Schools touring production of the beloved Shakespearean comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is on the road and coming to Cache Valley Center for the Arts, opportunity for families to understand and experience Shakespeare.

Performances will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ellen Eccles Theatre. Tickets start at \$12 and are available at the CVCA Ticket office or online at www.CenterForTheArts.us. This event is sponsored in part by Utah Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"This is an innovative production of a Shakespeare classic. If you have see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before, you'll want to see their fresh interpretation," said Wally Bloss, executive director of the Cache Valley Center for the Arts. "It's only public performances in Northern Utah are at the Ellen Eccles Theatre."

The tour, recognized for its excellence by the National Endowment for the Arts, is part of the NEA's *Shakespeare in American Communities: Shakespeare for a New Generation* and includes over 60 performances, over a period of 12 weeks. The 2007 tour extends from January 28 until April 13 and will entertain and educate audiences who may otherwise never see a live theatre production of any kind. Tour stops range from as far north as Driggs, Idaho, as far south as Tucson, Arizona, as far east as Moab, Utah, and as far west as Virginia City, Nevada.

This tour takes Shakespeare to thousands of students every year, said Festival Education Director Michael Bahr. In many cases it is the first exposure these students will have to live theatre, and it helps them to understand and think more deeply about this confusing world around them.

The seventy-five minute production features a follow-up discussion, allowing the audience to ask questions of the actors and technicians. This discussion will start in the theatre and wrap up the Citrus & Sage coffee & gift shop, a block away from the theatre (130 North 100 East). Bring your Ellen Eccles Theatre ticket and receive 20% off your beverage of choice. Come share in the magic of this *PLAYFUL CONVERSATION* and cap off the evening and our season. Their residency also includes two student matinees and a lecture demonstration. To find out more about this education & outreach opportunity, contact 753-6518 ext. 11 or visit www.CenterForTheArts.us.

Professionals from across the country make up the cast of the play. They include George Walker from Arroyo Grande, California as Theseus and Oberon; Megan C. C. Walker from Rancho Cucamonga, California as Hippolyta and Titania; Benjamin Campana, a native of Lorain, Ohio, as Egeus and Puck; Barrett Ogden, originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, as Demetrius and Bottom; Matthew Humphrey from Austin, Texas as Lysander; Mary C. Milner from Morgan, Utah as Helena; and Cristina Panfilio from Milwaukee, Wisconsin as Hermia. As usual, each of these highly talented actors will assume multiple other roles in the play.

“I’m thrilled with this show,” said Bahr, “particularly because there’s magic in this script, magic that students everywhere we go will love. I’m especially excited for this touring production because we have chosen to tell Shakespeare’s story in an imaginative and engaging style. From the foibles of human nature to the comedy and hilarity of the rustics, students will witness the great theatrical magic through the words of Shakespeare.”

“I think the play is about personal awakening and discovering the true definition of love,” said director Brian Vaughn. “Through the language of the play and the words that Shakespeare’s given us we’ve tried to create a landscape that is theatrical as well as magical-to celebrate both the magic of the theatre itself as well as the potential of our dreams.”

The Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival, now in its 46th year, is hosted on the campus of Southern Utah University and is committed to the entertainment, enrichment and education of its patrons.

Tickets for *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* range from \$12 to \$24 and may be purchased at the CVCA Ticket Office. A 50% child discount and 25% USU student discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.CenterForTheArts.us or at the CVCA Ticket Office Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The Ellen Eccles Theatre Presents 2007-2008 Season will also be announced this June. The Ellen Eccles Theatre, Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion are owned by the City of Logan and managed by the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that operates the performing arts complex.

For more information on future performances or Cache Valley arts information, contact CVCA at 752-0026, or visit them at 43 S. Main.

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