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Shakespeare's Gone Wild at the Lake Worth Playhouse

*The Playhouse presents **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**, the fastest, funniest, fiercest comedy Shakespeare never intended... but wishes he had.*



LAKE WORTH, Florida (April 18, 2010)

The Lake Worth Playhouse is abuzz with the irreverent sounds of Shakespeare gone wild as it prepares to mount **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)**. The show runs September 2-11, 2010 at the Lake Worth Playhouse, located at 713 Lake Avenue in downtown Lake Worth.

Written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, founding members of the Reduced Shakespeare Company, **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** premiered in 1987 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and later played at London's Criterion theatre, where it ran for nine record-breaking years. Today, it is known as one of the world's most popular stage shows, boasting a record-setting shortest-ever performance of Hamlet, clocking in at 43 seconds.

The show is a highly physical, improv-induced, comedic parody of all 37 of the bard's plays performed by three gutsy, high-spirited actors. The Playhouse production is directed by Stephanie Haber, who returns to the Playhouse after her award-winning performance as Kate in last season's **Brighton Beach Memoirs**. "This show is insanely fabulous," said Haber, "and the cast is pure joy."

The trio of Playhouse veterans that make up the cast are: Todd “Canker Blossom” Caster, J. Paul “Saucy Knave” Heiner and Calvin “Punkin’ Bloomers” Bankert.

Mr. Caster has played a vast array of historical characters throughout his lengthy stage career. Audiences will recognize him from previous Playhouse shows, *The Woman in Black* and *Leading Ladies*, in which he skillfully portrayed nine different characters between the two shows. When the overachieving actor’s uncle’s housekeeper’s cousin, who happens to be a cashier at the Publix where director Stephanie Haber shops, gave Mr. Caster notice of the Shakespeare audition, he jumped at the opportunity to beat his own record. “Stephanie asked me if I would possibly agree to play 14 different characters,” Caster said. “My reply was simply ‘only 14?’”

Mr. Heiner has played numerous roles on the Playhouse stage which he describes in words almost as elegant as those of the bard himself: “I have morphed from a drunken deadbeat well-meaning daddy (*Hollywood Arms*) to a Manischewitz-quaffing (offstage) CEO hell-bent on finding the perfect rock of engagement (*Modern Orthodox*), unto the able curse of a Pulitzer-prized play of terrifying proportions (*The Crucible*), to a greased radio jockey in the biggest, most fabulous high school musical ever (*Grease*), to a seriously damaged cereal-starved killer mouse of a man trapped in a winter storm (*The Mousetrap*).” Mr. Heiner uses his broad acting range to bring Shakespeare’s many, diverse characters to life.

Mr. Bankert, the youngest of the cast and the one known affectionately as “Punkin’ Bloomers,” has performed many times at the Playhouse but, until now, has never been forced to wear “a chick’s costume.” He is toughing it out, however, just happy to be in a play that offers him a sideline diversion from his academics and keeps him off the streets of Lake Worth where he is known by the locals as “that strange boy who hears music inside his head.”

ABOUT LAKE WORTH PLAYHOUSE

Lake Worth Playhouse is a non-profit community theatre with a diverse array of offerings, including award-winning dramas, comedies, musicals, area premieres, Broadway favorites, children’s shows, ballets and operas on film, live concerts, improv comedy and alternative programming. In addition to its main stage theatrical fare, the Playhouse presents year-round independent and foreign films in the Stonzek Theatre, an intimate black-box style theatre equipped with a large viewing screen and high-definition projection. The Playhouse is proud to offer a variety of educational programs for adults and children, as well as community outreach initiatives that bring cultural programs into the neighborhoods of underserved youth and also make theatre available free of charge for disadvantaged citizens in the community.

The Lake Worth Playhouse 58th season opens in October 2010 with **Guys & Dolls** (October 8-24),

and is followed by **Steel Magnolias** (November 19 – December 5, 2010), **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** (January 21 – February 6, 2011), **Biloxi Blues** (March 4-20, 2011) and **Annie** (April 15 – May 1)

SCHEDULE

- **Evening Performances** are on September 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 at 8:00 p.m.
- **Matinee Performances** are September 4 and 11 at 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS

- **Individual** show tickets are \$25 and \$29 for opening night and all regular performances.
- **Student Discount** tickets are \$15.
- **Subscriptions** for Season 2010-2011 are still available.

All tickets and subscriptions can be purchased through the Lake Worth Playhouse Box Office at **561-586-6410** or online at lakeworthplayhouse.org.

LOCATION

Lake Worth Playhouse is located at 713 Lake Avenue in Downtown Lake Worth. It is situated on the south side of Lake Avenue two blocks east of Dixie Highway. Free, well-lighted parking is available on Lake Avenue and surrounding side streets, with free parking lots located behind the Playhouse.

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