

Cal Shakes Day Draws a Crowd to Theater Square

By Lee Borrowman



Cal Shakes actors perform at Theater Square



OIS students delight the crowd

Photo by Tod Fierner

Theater Square was the place to be last Thursday, May 24, as fans of the California Shakespeare Theater joined a large cadre of officials from the City of Orinda and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce to welcome Cal Shakes and its new satellite ticket office and theater store to Orinda. Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone addressed the crowd, Cal Shakes staff mingled with guests, and actors treated the audience to a lively short performance. The event kicked off the new partnership between Cal Shakes and the City of Orinda, as part of an effort to revitalize the area.

Mayor Steve Glazer invited Orinda Intermediate School students and principal Michael Randall on stage as he recognized OIS and the Cal Shakes Artistic Learning Program.

This spring, artistic residencies were held in all of the OIS 7th grade core classrooms. On June 5th, the entire 7th grade will attend a Student Matinee performance of Richard III, and will receive in-class visits from Teaching Artists to prepare them for seeing the show. Student performers were rewarded with a big round of applause from appreciative spectators.

As visitors milled around on the warm spring evening listening to a live performance by Bob Athayde and Friends and enjoying beverages and hors d'oeuvres provided by some of the Square's restaurants, many were struck by the suitability of the Square for such events. Chris Quiett, representing GLL Properties,

Inc., which acquired Theater Square last year, commented, "We're planning a weekly summer performance series, possibly on Thursday nights, that would start in June and run through September or October."

The Cal Shakes season starts this week with Richard III. Opening night is Saturday, June 2, following preview performances on Wed/Thur/Fri. To view this summer's calendar of Cal Shakes performances at the Bruns Amphitheater, including special events such as "Meet the Artists," "Behind the Scenes," and "Tasting Night," go to http://www.calshakes.org/v4/tickets/calendar_r3.html. Tickets can be purchased on-line or at the new Theater Square outlet.



Cal Shakes Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone

Cal Shakes wants you to know that kids can enjoy Shakespeare, too! Cal Shakes summer camp moves from its former home at the Bentley School to the Orinda Community Center this year. Cal Shakes Artistic Learning Coordinator Emily Morrison described the camp; "The kids spend the morning in acting classes, which include fun things like physical comedy and stage fighting, and get to participate in Masters Classes taught by our actors. In the afternoon, they rehearse and later perform a shortened version of a Shakespeare play." Campers will also receive a free ticket for each of the four Cal Shakes main stage productions this summer. Moscone thinks the camp is a great opportunity for kids because, "They acquire so much confidence when they find out that they can do it – they can understand Shakespeare!" For Cal Shakes summer camp information go to <http://www.calshakes.org/v4/educ/camps.html>.

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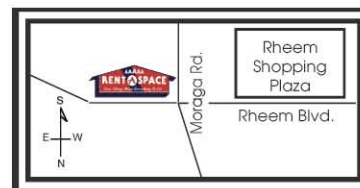


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