

It's all online!
www.lamorindaweekly.com

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR FURNACE DOWN!

CA APPLIANCE REBATE - ADDITIONAL \$1,300 UNTIL FUNDS EXHAUSTED - DON'T MISS OUT!



\$85
A/C MAINTENANCE SPECIAL
Call for details. Expires 10/15/2010.

UP TO \$4,675
IN REBATES AND TAX CREDITS!
ON SELECT CARRIER SYSTEMS
See dealer for complete details. Limited time only.

WE DO
READY SOLAR
SYSTEMS, TOO

FREE
ESTIMATES ON
INSTALLATIONS

ACS Air Conditioning Systems

www.ACSystemsInc.com • License# 632329
SERVING LAMORINDA FOR 40 YEARS



(925) 676-2103

Much Ado about Much Ado

By Lou Fancher



Emily Kitchens (Hero), Dan Hiatt (Leonato) and Andrew Hurteau (Friar) in rehearsal for Much Ado About Nothing Photo Ohlen Alexander

Cal Shakes' final Inside Scoop was a wild affair, with Artistic Director John Moscone and two actors from the cast of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* zig-zagging from esoteric lecture to quoted lines with little foreshadowing. Perhaps because Philippa Kelly, the company's dramaturg, was far away in Australia, the informal hour spun into action without the historical references and linear logic she contributes.

Lacking a road map, the nearly-full Orinda library audience dropped their collective hands from the wheel and left the steering to the three men gathered on the stage.

Joining Moscone to share insights into the production were Dan Hiatt, who plays *Leonato*,

and Nick Childress, who will appear as *Claudio*.

Moscone, after a mock self-deprecating comment about his resorting to Wikipedia in Kelly's absence, described the play as a romantic comedy. "It throws everyone into a kind of blender of love. And everyone acts insanely," he said.

The next few minutes were a jumble, with Moscone, Hiatt and Childress filling in details of the plot while fielding a phone call from a missing actor, who was stuck at the BART station. "She's from Georgia, so she probably got lost," Moscone quipped. His off-hand remark is exactly why Inside Scoop is fun: everyone eats ice cream, everyone laughs, and no one

worries about doing too much of either activity.

A common question Moscone hears about *Much Ado* is, "How can this play work?" Stocked with twists and incongruent behavior, the play's a quagmire of feuding and egotistical posturing. "I say to them: 'That's exactly how love works. Emotional turn-arounds are very quick.'" He paused, then added, "And it's a very Italian play."

The audience waited for explanation, at which point, Moscone delivered his comic *tha-thump*: "We've just hit the limit of what I know about Shakespeare..."

Hiatt chimed in, saying, "It helps so much—that Italian thing..." He left the thought floating, digressing to describe the struggle he has had with the character's fierce outbursts. "I tried for three weeks to find a way with Leonato. Finally, I figured, that's just who the father is."

Shifting to a discussion of the role of the Friar in the production, Moscone called *Much Ado* "very New Testament." He said directing the play hasn't made him want to return to church, "but it convinced me of the belief in redemption."

And with this deeper subject, the second payback for attending Inside Scoop began. The three men spoke of pride, and how it drives everything in the play. They talked of men, burdened with the respon-

sibility to "fix" situations, and women, equally weighted by a society that prevented them from taking action. "I cannot be a man for wishing," Moscone said, quoting a line the character *Beatrice* speaks in the play.

Moscone is clearly fond of *Much Ado*, comparing it to screwball comedies of the 1930's. "I love adults acting insanely ridiculous," he said. "It's about men who don't know how to behave outside of war." He used the words "succulent, stylish, witty," before lapsing into silence.

An introduction of the costume and set designs led to a confession: "[People ask,] why are you changing the words?" Moscone said, "Well, because I'd be run out of town!" The racial and ethnic terminology, unremarkable in Shakespeare's day, is no longer overlooked by today's audiences.

The closing Q and A was brief. The audience was assured that favorite actors will appear, Hiatt's new beard was grown for a single line, and *Dogberry* is in. Moscone said it's fascinating that "Dogberry, the one who's most witless, gets his job done."

Much Ado About Nothing, the final production in the outdoor theater company's 2010 season, runs September 22 through October 17. For more information go to www.calshakes.org.

Free Measuring & Installation



HunterDouglas Hunter Douglas lets you control light. Beautifully.

Save \$100 off your next Hunter Douglas purchase of \$1000 or more!

Hunter Douglas window fashions offer a variety of choices in privacy and light control, along with endless decorating possibilities in fabric, texture, color, style and specialty hardware systems. We pride ourselves on the exceptional quality of our window fashions as well as their durability, incredibly easy maintenance and superior energy efficiency.

We also offer:

Custom Draperies Re-Upholstery Bedding Sets Wallpaper Window Film

BLINDMOBILE

A Plum Designs Company Walnut Creek CA

CALL US TODAY! FREE HOME CONSULTATIONS
925-935-2161 | plumdesigns.hdsdpd.com



HunterDouglas

©2008 Hunter Douglas Inc. ® and TM are trademarks of Hunter Douglas Inc. 17223



Don't Let Aching Joints Slow You Down!



Alta Bates Summit Medical Center

A Sutter Health Affiliate

If joint problems are keeping you out of the game, then come and learn about the wide spectrum of options for treating rotator cuff and ACL tears, arthritis in your hips and repetitive stress injuries.

Come and hear about the latest surgical and non-surgical techniques from orthopedic specialists Brad Zwahlen, MD and Kenneth Caldwell, MD.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010
6:30 to 8:00 pm

Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Hors d'Oeuvres and lively discussion.

Call (510) 869-6737
to reserve your seat.